



JUDGE WARNS TRUMP AGAINST 'INFLAMMATORY' REMARKS BEFORE TRIAL



Former President Donald Trump has been warned by Judge Tanya Chutkan against making "inflammatory" statements which could taint the jury pool ahead of his trial for conspiring to overturn the result of the 2020 election.

File photo / Library of Congress

normal.

"He is a criminal defendant. He is going to have restrictions like every single other defendant," she said.

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AUGUST 11, 2023 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A federal judge has warned former US President Donald Trump against making "inflammatory" statements which could taint the jury pool ahead of his trial for conspiring to overturn the result of the 2020 election.

But Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled that Mr Trump can publicly share some of the non-sensitive evidence which prosecutors disclose to his legal team.

Friday's ruling was a blow to the special counsel who had expressed concern Mr Trump might reveal secret material and intimidate witnesses.

At a 90-minute hearing in Washington DC, the judge said the historic case was proceeding as

India has zero-tolerance policy against corruption: PM Modi at G-20 meeting

SAYS HIGHEST IMPACT OF CORRUPTION IS BORNE BY POOR, MARGINALIZED

AUGUST 12, 2023 NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, August 12, said the highest impact of corruption is borne by the poor and the marginalized and asserted it (corruption) affects resource utilization, distorts markets, impacts service delivery and ultimately diminishes people's quality of life.

Addressing the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet here via video-conferencing, the PM cautioned against greed as it

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India has zero-tolerance policy against corruption: PM Modi at G-20 meeting. A video grab of Narendra Modi addressing the G-20 meeting

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BJP weaponizing parliamentary privilege: Opposition

In this session, investigations were opened against five MPs - two from Lok Sabha and three from Rajya Sabha



Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and others during a protest of Opposition MPs at Parliament House complex on August 11, 2023. Photo Credit/ PTI

AUGUST 11, 2023 NEW DELHI (TIP): The Opposition held a protest in Parliament accusing the government of weaponizing parliamentary privilege. In this session, investigations were opened against five MPs - two from the Lok Sabha and three from the Rajya Sabha.

Leading the protest, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the Constitution was being shredded to pieces as the BJP government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in particular, did not want to run the Parliament according to the Constitution.

Talking to reporters in front of the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, surrounded by other INDIA bloc members, Mr. Kharge said, "All rules and regulations were being set aside and the government was trying to threaten and intimidate every Opposition MP and even suspend them." Referring to Congress's Lok Sabha floor leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's suspension, Mr. Kharge said it was perhaps for the first time that a

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Eiffel Tower evacuated after bomb threat: French police



A view shows the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

Photo credit / Jack Moreh

AUGUST 12, 2023 PARIS (TIP): The Eiffel Tower in Paris, among the most visited tourist sites in the world, was closed to the public on Saturday, August 12, after being evacuated as a precautionary measure following a bomb threat, a French police source said. Le Parisien said Bomb disposals experts were dispatched there. It is a developing story.

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COMMENT

Thoughts on the 77th Independence Day of India



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

As Indian Americans celebrate the 77th Independence Day of India with parades and festivities, my thoughts go back to the days when India was struggling for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, who the world recognizes as an apostle of peace and non-violence. Throughout my life, I have admired the great freedom fighters who sacrificed the comfort of their homes and struggled to free the people of India from the foreign yoke.

When India got freedom and the

leaders at the helm of affairs of the nascent democracy plunged themselves into bringing India out of penury, ignorance and backwardness, I was filled with admiration for their work of resurrecting the nation.

With liberalization in 1991, India began to make great leaps forward, and steadily but surely the wheels of economy started moving. Embracing science and technology, India made rapid strides in various fields. India came to be recognized as one of the fastest developing nations. I felt very proud of the achievements of India, and the numerous Indians in India, and, more importantly, abroad who made a mark for themselves, and brought joy to both their country of adoption and their country of origin.

India has a great future, going by the

economic growth of the country. But the fruit of the growth must reach the poorest of the poor, which is yet to happen. Also, it must be remembered that India is a multi-religious and multi-cultural country, just as the US is, and they all have their rights under the Constitution of India which must not be trampled underfoot.

The greatness of India since times immemorial has been a recognition of the commonality of Godhead, and this belief India must hold on to. The noble ideas of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve bhavantu niramaya" must not remain only the quotes to sing praises of the glorious traditions and values of India but continue to guide India on the road to becoming "vishwaguru".

Happy Independence Day of India!

GUEST COMMENT

Communal punishment: On riots and demolitions

The idea of inflicting collective punishment on the Muslim community soon after any riot or communal disturbance seems to be an ingrained part of governance in Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States. The use of excavators to demolish houses, shops and other establishments has now spread to Haryana, after it was practiced with impunity in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi last year. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has done well to stop authorities from continuing with their demolition drive in Gurugram and Nuh, that witnessed communal clashes, leaving six dead. Taking suo motu cognizance of reports about the demolition activity, the Bench has minced no words in raising the question whether the action is a sort of "ethnic cleansing", as buildings belonging to a particular

community were being brought down "under the guise of a law and order problem". It has been observed that there appears to be no order to demolish the buildings or prior notice to its occupants and that the law and order situation was just a ruse. Few would disagree with the court's characterization of the action in Haryana. The same dubious and ambivalent messaging about the demolitions that one saw in other States is being witnessed in Haryana too. For legal purposes, officials will say the buildings are encroachments and are being removed as per law. For political purposes, it is made very clear that rioters are getting the treatment they deserve.

It requires no special knowledge of the law to say the demolitions are inherently illegal in the absence of any process. It is not clear what evidence is being used to

identify buildings belonging to alleged rioters or to ascertain whether those not involved are also using the premises. Reports suggest that personal belongings and inventory are not allowed to be removed before a building is razed. There is one example of a house that provided refuge to a family during the violence being demolished. Using communal violence as a pretext to impose extra-legal punitive measures will invariably lead to bias, as officials implementing such orders will have no choice except to portray the occupants of the buildings to be razed as encroachers to retain the fig-leaf of legal justification and as anti-social elements for moral justification. In any case, to escape the charge of ignoring encroachments all this while and waiting for a riot to take action, they will have to provide evidence of serving notices on the occupants and, if needed, backdate such notices. The judicial intervention should put an end to the pattern of using the state machinery to inflict misery on a section of the population.

(The Hindu)

Repealing sedition law: Move welcome, but substitute shouldn't be draconian

Often misused against activists and journalists, the archaic sedition law is all set to become history. Union Home Minister Amit Shah - who introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha on Friday to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act - announced that the sedition law had been proposed to be removed. The decision comes as a pleasant surprise as barely two months ago, the

Law Commission had recommended retention of Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC and enhancement of punishment for

the offence. Citing its misuse and the resultant 'chilling effect', the Supreme Court had in May last year put the sedition law on hold, pending a review.

Absent from the original IPC, which was drafted by Lord Macaulay and came into force in 1862, the sedition law was added in 1870. It was widely used to suppress the freedom struggle after its ambit was expanded in 1898. The Punjab High Court had in Tara Singh Gopi Chand vs The State (1951) declared Section 124A IPC unconstitutional, but the Supreme Court upheld its validity in Kedarnath Singh (1962), while restricting its scope.

However, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 - which will replace the IPC - proposes to have a provision that punishes 'acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India' with life imprisonment or imprisonment up to seven years and a fine. One hopes it's not the sedition law by another name. Doing away with this law is not a standalone measure. It's part of an overhaul of the criminal justice system undertaken by the government, two decades after Justice VS Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System submitted its report to the Home Ministry. There is a lot that can be changed in procedural laws. But the government should tread cautiously while redrafting the substantive criminal law.

(Tribune, India)

Ruchira Kamboj




संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी प्रतिनिधि
न्यू यार्क
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

27 July 2023

MESSAGE

I extend my warm wishes to the esteemed community and cherished readers of 'Indian Panorama' on the joyous occasion of our 76th Independence Anniversary. It is indeed wonderful to witness the publication of a special issue by 'Indian Panorama' to mark this milestone.

As India enters its 76th year of Independence, we stand tall as a shining beacon of democratic principles, unwavering in our commitment to pluralism and tolerance. With a resolute spirit, we continue to lend our strong voice to global cooperation and development partnerships, fostering peace and prosperity across the world. Our chairmanship of the G20 embodies the essence of unity, emphasizing the well-being of humanity and advocating a human-centric approach to development.

In the realm of multilateral affairs, India remains steadfast in its dedication to advancing sustainable development goals, while concurrently driving socio-economic growth on the domestic front. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we persevere in our fight against terrorism, the promotion of multilateralism, the protection of human rights, the battle against climate change, and the pursuit of peace and security.

The invaluable Indian community stands as a pillar of strength, tirelessly supporting our initiatives at the United Nations, and for that, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Together, let us look forward to a future filled with hope, progress, and unity. Jai Hind!

Warm regards,



(Ruchira Kamboj)

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**U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN GRACE MENG
6TH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**



MESSAGE

Wishing a wonderful and a joyous celebration of India's 77th Independence Day anniversary! There is a thriving Indian community throughout Queens, one that adds amazing cultural, societal, and community benefits across our borough. I applaud the Indian Panorama for their dedication to providing news to the Indian community in New York City and around the globe and am honored to have been asked to join them in celebrating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav! I hope the coming year will continue to be filled with love, prosperity, and growth.

Grace Meng

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यार्क




CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

7th August 2023

MESSAGE

On the occasion of India's 77th Independence Day, I convey my warmest greetings to all readers of The Indian Panorama. People across the world, Indians, Indian-Americans and friends of India, eagerly await for this august day each year. The zest and fervor with which Independence Day is celebrated in the United States is very special. When we visit Long Island, Edison or any other part of the United States where the tricolor is being unfurled, the atmosphere is so vibrant and colorful that it almost appears as if one is in some corner of India! And it is so because of the very deep emotional connect that the people of Indian origin in this country have with their motherland.

We had celebrated 75 years of India's Independence last year with 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. In keeping with the character of our freedom struggle, this made the celebration truly a people's movement. This year again, we look forward to our community coming forward in larger numbers for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and for participating in 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' program. I urge one and all to wholeheartedly embrace these patriotic initiatives so that we can make the 77th Independence Day celebrations marking the conclusion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' a grand success.

For many of us, that red letter day when India's tricolor was first unfurled at the Red Fort, remains an ever-lasting font of inspiration. May the same feelings and emotions permeate us all as the tricolor is unfurled once again this 15th August.

Happy Independence Day! Jai Hind!



(Randhir Jaiswal)

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August 15, 2023

The Indian Panorama
124 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my best wishes of the Indian Panorama on the publication of its special issue celebrating India's 77th Independence Day!

On this important holiday, we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and join in festivities with friends, family and our community. Special thanks to the Indian Panorama as it continues to bring its readers the latest news and important information so that our community can stay abreast of current news and events. Since the newspaper's inception in 2006, the Indian Panorama has rapidly come to occupy a central place for the South Asian community and serve as an essential resource in this multicultural, multireligious contemporary American society.

On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend all of the correspondents and staff of The Indian Panorama for their service. My sincere thanks to Chief Editor Professor Indrajit S. Saluja for his hard work and dedicated leadership. I look forward to continuing to work as your State Senator on behalf of our community in the future, and I would like to express my best wishes for a joyous Independence Day!

Wishing you and your loved ones a most joyous holiday during this 77th Independence Day!

Sincerely,





MESSAGE

On the occasion of India's Independence Day, I extend my greetings to the esteemed readers of **The Indian Panorama**.

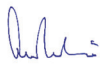
This year, India is presiding over the G-20 grouping of the world's major economies. It is a fitting recognition of the long journey traversed by India since independence from British rule in August 1947.

The theme of India's presidency of the G-20, "One Earth, One Family, One Future" brings to mind the visionary statement made soon after India's independence by Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the leader of India's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, who had declared from the podium of the United Nations on 19 September 1947 that "the great Powers, instead of coming closer together, are drifting farther apart. There is tension, suspense and anxiety, and an uneasy awareness that things are perhaps moving towards some new and annihilating disaster for mankind..." Rejecting attempts to make India part of the ideological confrontation of the Cold War, she affirmed that "ideology is less important than practice. We cannot eat an ideology; we cannot brandish an ideology, and feel that we are clothed and housed. Food, clothing, shelter, education, medical services--these are the things we need."

This focus on what we broadly refer to as "development", instead of confrontation, has enabled India to rise into club of the world's largest economies. To sustain our future, we need to continue to invest in ensuring a supporting environment of peace, security, and equality.

It is my hope that all of us, living in India and abroad, will use the occasion of India's Independence Day celebrations this year to contribute to this challenging, and at the same time exciting, objective.

My best wishes to **The Indian Panorama** for its stellar role in forging bonds of friendship and cooperation that connect us to our common future.



Asoke Mukerji

Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

डॉ. ज्ञानेश्वर म. मुले
सदस्य

Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay
Member



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7th August, 2023

MESSAGE TO THE READERS OF INDIAN PANORAMA



Dear readers of the Indian Panorama and my friends in the USA. I am delighted that the Indian Panorama is celebrating the 77th Independence Day on 15th August, 2023 by publishing a special issue. This coincides with 17 years of journey of Indian Panorama and celebration of "AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV" by people of India.

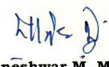
I extend my hearty congratulations on behalf of myself as well as the National Human Rights Commission and the citizens of India on this very significant occasion.

I have seen the rising graph of the Indian Panorama for last several years and the struggles it underwent in accomplishing itself in the US under the Chief Editor, Prof. Indrajit Saluja. Its extraordinary leadership has enabled the Panorama to have an image of journalism without fear or favour.

As India and the world celebrates the 77th year of its Independence it's time for all of us to look back at our journey so far, and at the same time look forward to building a new India that is without inequality, poverty or any other issue that works as a roadblock to our progress. We can look with pride at our significant achievements in the area of food security, creation of infrastructure, space and defense sector achievements, educational progress and I.T. prowess. Our Nation stands for humanity and peace and has the ability to create a world without violence, terrorism and wars.

Let's pledge that we all should help Bharat to become a world leader and Vishwaguru by creating benchmarks that could be followed by others.

Once again I extend my hearty congratulations to the readers of Indian Panorama, to the citizens of the USA and to the Indian Panorama for their progress in the future.



(Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay)

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PADMA BHUSHAN SANT CHATWAL
NEW YORK



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that The Indian Panorama is publishing a special edition to commemorate the 77th Independence Day of India. I congratulate Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for his dedication to India and Indians which is manifested in the pages of The Indian Panorama which has been in publication since 2006.

On this occasion, I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to India for conferring on me Padma Bhushan - one of the highest civilian honors of India- in recognition of my contribution to the strengthening of ties between the US and India. There are many other Americans of Indian origin who have similarly been honored for their contribution in many fields. It is a binding relationship which we all cherish.

India has progressed well, as have Indians at home and abroad. The march towards becoming one of the three world economic powers in a few years from now is led by a confident leadership sure of achieving the goal. I wish India and Indians everywhere well.

Happy Independence Day !



K.R. LAKHANPAL, IAS
CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB (RETD.)
CHANDIGARH

MESSAGE


India's Independence Day is one event that binds the Indian Diaspora in an emotional bond. It is a day, more than any other, that is celebrated by the overseas Indians, as much as by their brethren in India, out of love for their motherland. The 18 million strong Indian Diaspora celebrates the day with parades, cultural shows, exhibitions and fares across the world.

It gives me great pleasure that The Indian Panorama, one of the most popular digital weekly newspapers, focusing on India and Indians in India and abroad, is bringing out a special edition to commemorate the historic day. I congratulate the publisher and editor Prof Indrajit S Saluja for his love of India.



The Indian Panorama has contributed enormously to society by providing insight through the news content and analytical articles for the overseas Indians, particularly in the US. It has positioned itself as a bridge between the Indian Americans and the mainstream Americans, particularly those in politics, administration, professions, and in social and cultural spheres. The consistent quality content of the publication has attracted readership from beyond the shores of America.


Even as I wish the readers of The Indian Panorama a Happy Independence Day of India, I urge the publishers to ensure The Indian Panorama lives up to its motto "ever truthful". I wish the publication a great success.

K. R. Lakhanpal



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA



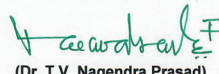
01 August 2023

Message

I would like to extend warm greetings to the Indian community on the occasion of 76th Anniversary of independence of India. The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations are to culminate on August 15, 2023. The events to mark 75 years of independence of India held over two years brought the community together to celebrate India's rich culture, heritage and achievements of modern India. On the West Coast, there were several celebrations focused on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' across various cities with special themes. These occasions also provided an opportunity to pay rich tributes to our leaders who led Independence Movement and laid their lives to provide the strong foundation for today's India. We feel fortunate to have 'Gadar Memorial' in San Francisco from where 'Gadar Babas' participated in India's freedom movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Indrajit Saluja on the 17th year of its publication of 'Indian Panorama' and for bringing Special Editions on all our national days over the years.

I wish the team at the 'Indian Panorama' and all its readers a very happy Independence Day.


 (Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON

August 01, 2023

Message


On behalf of the Consulate General of India, Houston, I would like to convey greetings to The Indian Panorama and its readers on the occasion of the 76th Anniversary of Independence Day of India. I would also like to felicitate the Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja and his team for continuing the tradition of bringing out a special edition on this occasion.

This publication's fine work in showcasing the positive impact of the Indian community in United States, as well as its efforts to promote and uphold the interests of Indian diaspora is worthy of our deep appreciation and respect.

The vibrant Indian-American community has been a source of strength in India's ties with the United States. Their unique achievements mirror the success of the bilateral relationship between both countries. Such publications help bring the new developments and opportunities to the doorstep of the community and help bringing the Indian community much closer.

We look forward to the continued support of 'The Indian Panorama' to strengthen our outreach and promote Consulate's various events and initiatives.

I take this opportunity to greet all fellow Indians, the Indian American community and the readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of Independence Day and wish everyone good health & prosperity.


 (D C Manjunath)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
शिकागो



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
CHICAGO



MESSAGE


I congratulate all the readers of the Indian Panorama and through them the entire Indian American diaspora on the occasion of 77th Independence Day of India.

On this special day in our Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav we remind ourselves of the task ahead as we enter the Amrit Kal – the 25 years leading to 2047, by which India must attain a knowledge-based advance economy. We call upon the Indian diaspora in United States to contribute to this national effort by advancing the multi-faceted cooperation as expressed in the Joint Statement issued during the recent state visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister.


Jai Hind!


 (Somnath Ghosh)
 28 July 2023

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August 15, 2023

Professor Saluja
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
The Indian Panorama

Dear Professor Saluja,

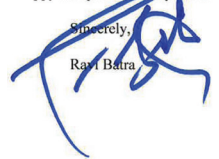
Ranju, who got a national "forever" Diwali Stamp, joins me in wishing India, Indian-Americans, friends of a secular and democratic India and your readers: Happy India's Independence day!

From **Pandit Nehru's** hopeful "*tryst with destiny*" celebration in 1947 to **PM Narendra Modi's** bold *Washington Declaration of "Indivisibility"*, on June 9, 2016 between India and United States, India's tryst has succeeded in full measure. But PM Modi's September 15th 2022 declaration in Samarkand - that "today is not an era for war" - was only superceded by his latest July 22nd 2023 Washington II Declaration: a "Limitless Partnership" between India and the United States, and between Indians and Americans. It is this latest Partnership between the United States and India that is the culmination of every Indian-America's Dream: *E Pluribus Unum* to now also mean two Sovereigns with one soul!

Feel free to read an Op-Ed I wrote to memorialize Modi at the UN and in the USA:
<https://www.america-times.com/modi-brings-era-of-peace-to-un-and-enters-a-limitless-marriage-in-wash-dc/>

While our *Constitution* is largely India's Constitution, thanks to Columbia Law graduate **Dr. Ambedkar**, it is PM Modi who in July 2023 during his State Visit acted as a loving, playful and adoring Son-in-Law of these United States. I suspect that **Benjamin Franklin** relishes this marriage as long overdue since the Boston Tea Party starred Indian Tea.

Again, we wish 1.4 Billion Indians: Happy Independence Day India!

Sincerely,

 Ravi Batra

US based Indiaspora to host G20 Forum in New Delhi from August 22 to 24

US-based Indiaspora will host a G20 Forum in New Delhi from August 22 to 24.
AUGUST 4, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In the run-up to the 18th summit of the G20 nations, US-based Indiaspora will host a G20 Forum in New Delhi from August 22 to 24.

The gathering, scheduled to take place at the Taj Mahal Hotel, will bring together influential voices from around the world to discuss critical issues spanning foreign policy, financial inclusion, climate change, gender equality, healthcare, philanthropy, entrepreneurship, sports, trade and investments, and more, according to a press release by the nonprofit.

The G20 summit will be held at the Pragati Maidan Convention Center in New Delhi on September 9-10.

"The Indiaspora G20 Forum presents an unparalleled opportunity to create a lasting impact on a global scale," said Sreekumar Nair, CEO of Indiaspora-India. "By convening this event we aim to drive tangible solutions that transcend boundaries and foster collaboration. This forum is a testament to the Indian diaspora's collective commitment to creating positive change and leaving a meaningful legacy for generations to come."

According to Indiaspora, the event will feature a diverse range of plenary and breakout sessions, providing an opportunity for engaging discussions led by renowned speakers from various fields. The lineup will include government officials, policymakers, businesspersons, entrepreneurs, accomplished sportspersons, inspiring artists, and dedicated philanthropists, all sharing a common vision for a better world.

"As India assumes the G20 presidency, the Indiaspora G20 Forum couldn't have been planned at a more opportune moment," said Sanjeev Joshipura, Executive Director of Indiaspora. "Indiaspora is assembling 200 diaspora leaders from 25 countries to see how we can contribute to India's journey towards 100 years of independence. The Indian diaspora, working alongside prominent leaders in India, are committed to harnessing our collective strength to foster inclusive growth, sustainable development, and social progress, as India continues to assume its global leadership position."

Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna to co-lead bipartisan delegation to India

US lawmakers will participate in Red Fort address of PM Modi on India's Independence Day They will meet with business, tech, government and Bollywood leaders

AUGUST 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A bipartisan group of US lawmakers will travel to India to take part in the Red Fort address of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the country's Independence Day on August 15, according to an official statement.

The bipartisan Congressional delegation is led by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna and Congressman Michael Waltz. The two are co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans.

"It is an honor to lead a bipartisan delegation to India and be there to celebrate India's Independence Day. My grandfather spent his life fighting for India's independence. So, this is a deeply personal and meaningful trip for me. It is also a historic moment for the US-India relationship. I plan to meet Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, cabinet ministers and a diverse range of MPs


US Congressman Ro Khanna
 Photo / khanna.house.gov

along with business, tech, cricket and Bollywood leaders," Khanna to PTI on Monday.

"This trip will deepen the coordination and partnership between our countries and allow us to engage on important issues like decarbonization,

digitization, economic partnership, defense ties, pluralism and human rights," he said.

The lawmakers will visit Red Fort where the prime minister will address the nation on India's Independence Day.

They will meet business, tech, government, and Bollywood leaders in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and New Delhi and visit Raj Ghat, the historic memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, the statement said.

Khanna and Waltz will be joined by lawmakers Deborah Ross, Kat Cammack, Shri Thanedar and Jasmine Crockett along with Rich McCormick and Ed Case.

For Congressman Khanna, this is history coming full circle.

"His grandfather Amarnath Vidyalankar was an Indian freedom fighter who spent four years in jail alongside Gandhi and later was part of India's first parliament," said the statement issued on Monday, August 7.

(Source: PTI)

Indian-origin former Singapore minister submits application to qualify for presidential election


Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Monday, August 7, 2023, filed his application for a certificate of eligibility to run in next month's presidential election.
AUGUST 7, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore's Indian-origin former senior minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Monday, August 7, 2023, filed his application for a certificate of eligibility to run in next month's presidential election.

Shanmugaratnam, 66, formally launched his presidential campaign last month with a pledge to evolve the country's culture to keep it a "shining spot" in the world.

The 2023 presidential election is due in September, as President Halimah Yacob's six-year term ends on September 13.

Tharman has submitted his application for a certificate of eligibility, The Straits Times reported. Apart from Shanmugaratnam, three other potential hopefuls, all of Chinese origin, have announced their own submissions.

Former GIC investment chief Ng Kok Song, 75, told the media that he had submitted the forms on August 2 to be considered eligible via the public sector deliberative track.

Entrepreneur George Goh, 63, submitted his eligibility form on August 4.

Former presidential candidate Tan Kin Lian, 75, said he has submitted his application for a certificate of eligibility for the upcoming presidential election but has not decided if he will contest, according to a media report.

Tharman, who stepped down from active politics after 22 years in June, during his campaign launch, had cautioned against judging candidates based on past affiliations rather than their track record.

Singapore has stringent criteria for candidates wishing to stand for the post of President.

 (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Canadian college 'shatters' Punjab students' dreams

Cancels admission at eleventh hour, citing rush

AUGUST 8, 2023

TORONTO (TIP): An "abrupt decision" taken by Canada's Northern College, Scarborough campus, has thrown the plans of numerous Indian students, many of whom hail from Punjab, into disarray.

Just a month before the anticipated September session, the college cancelled admissions, leaving the students in limbo. They had already invested in accommodation, purchased air tickets and readied themselves for their upcoming journey to Canada. The reason cited is the overwhelming number of applications received by the institution.

Sunil, who handles Canada student visa cases at Pyramid e-Services, an immigration firm in Jalandhar, said the college had received an unusually high response. "The college issued more offer letters than available seats under the assumption that not all students would receive embassy clearance and visas. However, the rejection rate turned out to be significantly lower this time, forcing the college to cancel admissions," he said. He said the college tried to address the situation by promising to refund 100 per cent of the fees to students. Additionally, they offered students the option to secure offer letters from other colleges, with the possibility of transferring the same fees to the chosen institute.

Harmanjot Singh, a student from Kapurthala who had applied for a two-year business diploma at Northern College, said he had already made preparations, including booking a non-refundable ticket worth Rs 1.12 lakh for an August 29 departure. However, the last-minute decision of the college left him and others in shock. He received an email informing him of the lack of availability of seats in the college.

 (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

An "abrupt decision" taken by Canada's Northern College, Scarborough campus, has thrown the plans of numerous Indian students, many of whom hail from Punjab, into disarray.

Photo for Representational purpose only / file photo

Indian American judge Moxila A. Upadhyaya presided over Trump arraignment

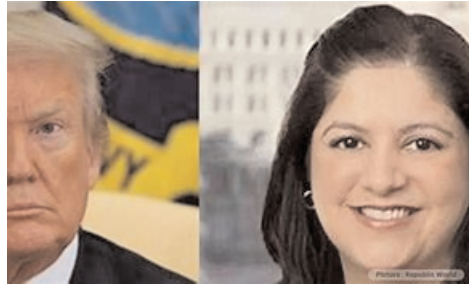
AUGUST 3, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The arraignment of former President Donald J. Trump was presided over by Indian American Magistrate Judge Moxila A. Upadhyaya, who was born in Gujarat and grew up in suburban Kansas City, Missouri.

A journalist by training - she holds a Bachelor of Journalism, magna cum laude, from the Missouri School of Journalism - Upadhyaya was appointed United States Magistrate Judge on September 7, 2022.

A magistrate judge, appointed by active district judges of the court, serves an eight-year term and holds the authority to conduct preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, including arraignments, among other essential duties.

Upadhyaya also received a BA with honors in Latin from the University of



Judge Moxila A. Upadhyaya was born in Gujarat and grew up in suburban Kansas City, Missouri.

Missouri. Later, she obtained a J.D., cum laude, from the American University's Washington College of Law, where she earned distinctions for her trial work in the Criminal Justice Clinic and served as a member of the Administrative Law Review.

After law school, Upadhyaya served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric T. Washington, former Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, for a two-year

term. Subsequently, she joined Venable LLP's Washington, D.C. office, where she specialized in complex commercial and administrative litigation.

Upadhyaya also has devoted herself to pro bono work, representing indigent clients in post-conviction proceedings, according to her official biography. Notably, she received the Defender of Innocence Award from the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project in 2009 and was named Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by Venable in 2006.

Upadhyaya has served on various committees and boards, including the D.C. Bar Litigation Section Steering Committee, the D.C. Access to Justice Foundation, and the Council for Court Excellence. Additionally, she served on this Court's Committee on Grievances from 2021 to 2022 and is recognized as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Indian American Researcher Bhumi Purohit wins American Political Science Association's top award



Bhumi Purohit is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs with a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology

AUGUST 9, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American researcher Bhumi Purohit has received the American Political Science Association's (APSA) 2023 William Anderson Award for the best dissertation in the general field of federalism or intergovernmental relations, state, and local politics.

Purohit is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs with a joint appointment in the Department of Psychology.

Her research examines the behavioral and institutional barriers to women's political representation, as well as institutional barriers to public service delivery in India.

Purohit's research is motivated by questions such as: Why do women's interests remain under-represented in politics, even with parity of electoral representation? How do gender biases about women politicians affect public service delivery outcomes in women's constituencies?

In her dissertation, she examines this question by examining why and how bureaucracies create barriers for women once they are elected to office, particularly when bureaucrats sit at higher levels of office with the ability to strategically use discretion against lower-level politicians.

In the summer of 2023, she will start as an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Georgetown's McCourt School.

"Laments of Getting Things Done: Bureaucratic Resistance Against Female Politicians in India" presents a path-breaking examination of bureaucratic resistance to locally elected women politicians in India, according to the citation from the award committee.

"It is the first study to systematically examine the gendered nature of bureaucratic resistance at the local level, three decades after decentralization reforms introduced quotas for women in local elections," it notes.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja named Tesla CFO



AUGUST 7, 2023

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down, the automaker said in a company filing on Monday, August 7.

Taneja, 45, was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major on Friday after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post.

Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of "tremendous expansion and growth" in the company filing. "Tesla thanks Mr. Kirkhorn for his significant contributions. Mr. Kirkhorn will continue to serve Tesla through the end of the year to support a seamless transition," it said.

"This morning Tesla announced that I've stepped down from my role as Chief Financial Officer, succeeded by our Chief Accounting Officer, Vaibhav Taneja," Kirkhorn said in a LinkedIn post.

"Being a part of this company is a special experience, and I'm extremely proud of the work we've done together since I joined over 13 years ago. As I shift my responsibilities to support this transition, I want to thank the talented, passionate, and hard-working employees at Tesla, who have accomplished things many thought (were) not possible. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian envoy raises Sikh trooper's beard issue with US authorities

AUGUST 11, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): New York State trooper Charanjot Tiwana sought permission to grow a beard for his wedding in March last year. However, his request was denied on the grounds that keeping a beard would pose a safety risk if required to wear a gas mask.

The Indian Embassy in Washington has taken up the issue of a Sikh New York State trooper being barred from growing a beard with senior levels of the Biden administration, as lawmakers voiced concern over the incident and



Indian envoy raises Sikh trooper's beard issue with US authorities

Photo for representational purpose only / File photo

termed it "religious discrimination". (Source: PTI)

India-born college student will be first Republican to challenge Democrat Baldwin for Senate in 2024



India-born college student will be first Republican to challenge Democrat Baldwin for Senate in 2024.

Photo for representation only / iStock

Rejani Raveendran's longshot entry would indeed add a new face to the race

AUGUST 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Rejani Raveendran, a 40-year-old India-born college student, has announced her bid for Senate in the US state of Wisconsin, becoming the first Republican to officially contest against Democratic Senator Tammy Baldwin.

Raveendran, chair of the University of

Wisconsin-Stevens Point College Republicans, on Tuesday officially launched her run against 61-year-old Baldwin in Portage County.

The announcement made Raveendran the first Republican Senate candidate in Wisconsin with just under a year to go until the primary, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

"I have met lots of politicians, lobbyists, and policymakers. Many of them were there for 20, 30 and 40 years. We elect them, send them and they become so comfortable in DC and forget all about us, why we (have) sent them there," she said on Tuesday, August 8, while announcing her candidacy.

Raveendran's longshot entry would indeed add a new face to the race. The mother of three has not been involved in politics until recently. She joined the Stevens Point College Republicans this year, she said, and only decided to run for Senate after her trip to Washington earlier this summer. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

SALUTE to INDIA on its 77th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY



BY ASHOOK RAMSARAN

INDIA SHOULD EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXERT ITS POSITION AND INFLUENCE FOR GLOBAL GOOD: CLIMATE CHANGE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS, SPACE EXPLORATION AND SKILLFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE MEDICAL SOLUTIONS TO DISEASES AND VACCINATIONS. MOREOVER, INDIA SHOULD SECURE ITS RIGHTFUL POSITION AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

Indians sacrificed for many years with continuing struggles on many fronts in attaining their hard fought and wrenching freedom from Britain on 15th August 1947. The Indian people used various independence movements, in particular nonviolent resistance led by Mahatma Gandhi, to become free and independent. The partition with Pakistan resulted in violent riots, mass casualties, wrenching dislocation of millions of people and lasting bitterness. The people of India and Indians of the Diaspora living in other countries take much pride in this annual celebration to validate their progress, confidence, commitment and resilience.

The 77th anniversary of India's independence is glorious celebration of a nation which has made enormous progress from its chaotic birth on August 15, 1947 to become a thriving economic and geo-strategic nation wooed by major world powers and regional partners for strategic and economic partnerships and alliances. India has made enormous strides and progress since its independence, from dependency to becoming a major geo-economic and strategic entity in the global arena.

It is a pivotal moment and the dawn of a new era in Indian's respectable standing in the world amidst a changing world order due in large measure to India's enormous and sustained progress: Economic, military, geo-strategic, security, infra-structure, advances in education levels, medical and social improvements. It is a unique position of strength, independence and respectability, in combination with visionary long term strategic considerations.

Indian's Prime Minister Hon Narendra Modi ji said: "We never lost our ambitions of being a free nation and India is indebted to all its freedom fighters but cannot forget the pains of partition. This is the can-do generation. All of our doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, sanitation workers, scientists developing



vaccinations. Democracy is not just a structure; it is also a spirit. It is based on the belief that the needs and aspirations of every human being are equally important. India, despite the many global challenges, is the fastest growing major economy today. This itself is the best advertisement for democracy in the world".

"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people. Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life", said Mahatma Gandhi. "Freedom is not given; it is taken", said Subhash Chandra Bose.

India should explore opportunities and exert its position and influence for global good: Climate change, human rights and freedom of the press, national and regional security, peaceful resolution of conflicts, space exploration and skillful use of technology to advance

medical solutions to diseases and vaccinations. Moreover, India should secure its rightful position as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

While maintaining its independence and consideration of its own interests, India should strengthen its long established and unique partnership with the USA for necessity and geo-economic and geo-political reasons. The strengthening of this mutually beneficial partnership is crucial for India's progress and standing in the world, for the USA continuing its position as a global influencer, and for the increasing and motivated Indian Diaspora in America: The world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy need each other's commitment and respect as they continue to solidify this important bond that brings more stability and progress in the world.

Areas of enhancing the India-USA partnership should include: Strategic alliance; Economic alliance; Reducing the impact of climate change; Peaceful resolution of global and border conflicts; Eradicating childhood diseases and child labour; Water and food security; Human rights, diversity and cultural integrity; Territorial integrity; Cultural preservation; Addressing the impact of migration from underdeveloped countries; Preparing for the next pandemic (vaccines and distribution); High technology solutions to medical and social problems; Guidelines of use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

As India continues its transformation and adaptation as it has done for centuries, there is significant advances in transparency, children's and women's rights, equitable treatment, infra-structure, economics, education and health. The future bodes well for continued progress beneficial to all Indians and the world. India's enduring vitality is strong and vibrant.

(The author is President, Indian Diaspora Council International)

For faster development of India, discard the other-worldly humbug



BY PARVEEN CHOPRA

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY PROFESSES 200% LIFE - FULL EXPLORATION AND FULL FLOWERING OF THE INNER AND OUTER WORLDS.

India is on the path to development with alacrity since independence. But at this juncture, it will be worthwhile to point out that what kept India backward for a thousand years was not just foreign rule, but also the distorted understanding of the core of Indian philosophy as it manifested in the four dharmic traditions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.

Unfortunately, the misconception gained ground somehow that this world is illusory, and renunciation is the way to

achieve spiritual enlightenment and attain liberation from the cycle of life, death and rebirth. This when Hinduism clearly listed sanyas as the fourth and last station in human life. This when Vedas are replete with richas and rituals to invoke prosperity. And when you come to Sikhism, even their priestly class are enjoined to remain householders.

Truth be told, Indian philosophy professes 200% life - full exploration and full flowering of the inner and outer worlds.

This was reinforced for me when I recently reconnected with Shri Virendra Qazi, a scholar and practitioner of Kashmir Shaivism, whose program I am

arranging on Long Island next month. He explained to me the one difference this lesser-known darshan has with Vedanta. "The world is not mithya or illusory, but is also Divine. Kashmir Shaivism teaches total harmony in the material world with the highest techniques of Divine realization," he said, pointing out that their saints don't wear saffron.

Living the 200% life is also the underpinning of my web magazine, ALotusInTheMud.com/ Launched at the Indian Consulate in New York in January this year, Lotus' content not only presents wisdom from various religious and spiritual traditions but

also DIY techniques and the latest from science on how to be productive and successful while staying healthy and happy. We at Lotus have no compunction, for example, in running an article headlined 'Yes, money can buy you happiness', of course, suggesting in the how part: invest in experiences, engage in prosocial spending, etc.

Happy Independence Day!

(Parveen Chopra is the founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, a wellness and spirituality web magazine. You can get their biweekly newsletter free in your inbox by subscribing for free at alotusinthemud.com/newsletter/. He can be contacted at 516 710 0508)

Freedom is fragile unless fiercely defended!



BY GEORGE
ABRAHAM

There is little doubt that the BJP's role in the last nine years has ushered in an unprecedented attack on India's democracy and people's independence while injecting new elements of intolerance and authoritarianism. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter. The question would be whether the Indian Diaspora could ill afford to continue its long-held silence on the current polarization that is ripping the country apart or its open defense of a regime that discriminates and punish the minorities in India! The thirty million-strong Diaspora may need to ponder our status as minority citizens across the globe and how we may be on the verge of undermining our own moral arguments in defense of freedom and justice.

After Prime Minister Modi's much-celebrated visit to the United States, there was a growing debate as to the level of success compared to the previous visits by Modi himself or the former Indian prime Ministers. In an Economic Times report, various industrialists in India called it trend a setting or landmark visit. However, an article in Time magazine called the Biden-Modi meeting a failure for democracy. The truth is somewhere between these two assertions.

Undoubtedly, Biden's embrace of Modi was a significant endorsement by Washington that has made several of his allies in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party express deep concern about the state of affairs in India. About 75 Washington lawmakers, Senators, and Congressmen wrote to Biden in an open letter demanding that Biden discuss growing human rights violations in India. American mainstream media in general, decried Modi's past complicity in rights violations and his current governance that discriminates religious minorities across India.

It is to be noted that Modi was on a visit to the United States when one of the states in the union called, Manipur, was burning by ethnic clashes involving Hindu militants and Tribal Christians. Although the BJP propaganda machine has been eager to portray that as a dispute between two ethnic groups involving land rights, the burning of 243 churches in the Meitei heartland alone reveals the hidden agenda of the party in power. It is inconceivable that Mr. Modi hasn't spoken about Manipur before or after his state visit to Washington.

Washington's Deep State' might have embraced Modi, but the mainstream media's stories tell altogether a different story about the situation in India. In a press conference held in Washington along with President Biden, Modi pretended to be surprised by the question about how India treats its minorities. Not long after that, the Muslim WSJ reporter who asked that question was threatened and trolled mercilessly by those faithful followers of the Prime Minister.

There is little doubt in independent minds that Modi has been presiding over a period of rapid deterioration of human rights and religious freedom and the increasing criminalization of dissent. Civil Society, once vibrant in the country, is close to extinction as their voices are



"My state is burning, kindly help", boxer Mary Kom requested Modi govt



mutated, and their financing channels are blocked. The media, by and large in India, has been taken over by the crony capitalists who have turned them into a Modi worship team. Investigative agencies have been weaponized to silence any organization, media outlet, or political party that would dare to challenge their deception and half-truths.

As the country is about to celebrate its 77th Independence Day from colonialism, one wonders whose independence we will celebrate! It indeed is not the independence of those two women who were marched naked and allegedly gang-raped in Manipur at the beginning of the unrest. The video showed two women stripped naked, held, and groped by a mob of men and dragged to a field. Would a country that prides itself on being the largest democracy and of a great civilization treat its women this way? Moreover, the arbitrary Internet shutdown, another violation of the right to information, covered up this embarrassing news to the public before his impending arrival in the U.S.

It is indeed not the independence of two Muslim men called Junaid and Nasir, from the Rajasthan-Haryana border, who were allegedly attacked and abducted by a mob that later set them ablaze, alive while they were inside their car. A gang of self-professed right-wing zealots appears to have taken control of what Indians should eat in that part of the country! A Bajrang Dal leader Monu Manesar is named as the gang leader as accused in the burning of Junaid and Nasir and still at large and probably is the latest provocateur in the Nuh, Haryana riots.

It is indeed not the independence of those hundreds of Muslim families who were made homeless and destitute overnight by the actions of the state machinery that engaged in bulldozing homes of those who were allegedly accused of throwing stones at a march that appeared to have designed to enrage the locals due to the rumored presence of Monu Manesar. Nobody should condone the behavior of those who pelted stones; however, bulldozing their homes and shops that helped a community make a living is a crime against humanity. Don't we have enough laws on the books to arrest and punish those culprits? Does the extra-judicial and collective punishment we might have copied from the Israeli occupation of Palestine appropriate for real democracy and the land of Mahatma?

After nine years of BJP rule, lynching, burning of people alive, and ethnic cleansing are all assumed to have a sense of normality. However, the institutions that were built to safeguard the values of democracy are all under great duress. It is quite evident that the current government disregards the aspirations of minorities while actively diminishing the power structures that provided political and social equilibrium in the last 65 years or more. The great leaders who have fought for our independence from the British, like Gandhi, Nehru, and Patel, together with B.R. Ambedkar who, have built institutions that guaranteed life and property protection of every citizen regardless of their race, religion, or region, also provided the opportunity to climb up the ladder of success and economic prosperity. What we are

"FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION. WE DIDN'T PASS IT TO OUR CHILDREN IN THE BLOODSTREAM. IT MUST BE FOUGHT FOR, PROTECTED, AND HANDED ON FOR THEM TO DO THE SAME, OR ONE DAY WE WILL SPEND OUR SUNSET YEARS TELLING OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WHAT IT WAS ONCE LIKE IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE MEN WERE FREE." - RONALD REAGAN

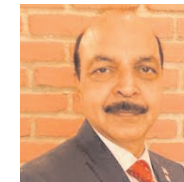
witnessing today is not the pursuance of that dream but somewhat revisionist steps on a regressive path that would not bode well for the Republic.

This week, we may witness widespread celebrations of India's independence that will be held in many cities across the country in the U.S. However, you may not hear a word about whether the hard-fought freedom won by our founding fathers of modern India is in danger of being extinguished! The Indian community, by and large, remains silent on the ever-diminishing freedom or the weakening of its institutions. Five Congressmen of Indian origin are represented in the halls of Congress today, and we should be proud of that achievement. We must be grateful as well for the opportunities and privileges accorded in this great land of our adoption, where we can express our opinions freely and challenge the powers that be when we feel discriminated against. Yet not a single Congressman, who has taken an oath to uphold the American constitution and values, uttered a word when Manipur was burning, and the ethnic cleansing was in progress! They sat there in the joint session of Congress and clapped away, cheering the leader of the 'mother of democracy'!

There is little doubt that the BJP's role in the last nine years has ushered in an unprecedented attack on India's democracy and people's independence while injecting new elements of intolerance and authoritarianism. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter. The question would be whether the Indian Diaspora could ill afford to continue its long-held silence on the current polarization that is ripping the country apart or its open defense of a regime that discriminates and punish the minorities in India! The thirty million-strong Diaspora may need to ponder our status as minority citizens across the globe and how we may be on the verge of undermining our own moral arguments in defense of freedom and justice.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer at the United Nations. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

This is no longer my India that was the birthplace of my Religion & my Ancestors



BY DAVE MAKKAR

"Ethnic violence is a regrettable aspect of any society, and it has no place in the teachings of Hinduism. In India, the perpetrators of such violence are using religion to instigate hatred and animosity among different communities. Unfortunately, under Modi their support base has expanded, and the worst is they have the protection from the state and Modi himself. As a Hindu, I condemn such acts and stand in solidarity with those affected by these tragedies. It is essential to remember that the perpetrators of ethnic violence do not represent the vast majority of Hindus who uphold the principles of love and harmony."



Police in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh have apologized after a photograph of a lynched man being dragged by a crowd in the presence of three officers on social media caused outrage.

financially, emotionally, and physically during the infamous emergency of Indira but that never forced me to stop fighting the Elected Aristocracy aka Congress. I became so disillusioned and decided to leave India in Dec 1996, with a hope that one day I will come back to India again to live with my family in a Democratic India. My hope was shattered by my own idol Atal Bihari Vajpayee of BJP that became Prime Minister of India in 1998. He started favoring Dhirubhai Ambani by selling National assets at throwaway prices and terms detrimental to India to wean him away from funding Congress. After that it was no u turn for India towards real Democracy when I realize BJP is worse than Congress and I took the Citizenship of USA in Nov. 2002.

With the coronation of a known communal and criminal Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India in 2014; financed by more corrupt and communal business families, now India has reached a point of no return even to the elected aristocracy. Now India in my opinion is an Elected Dictatorship financed and supported by Gangster Capitalist with money stolen from national resources purchased at throwaway prices with the help of leaders like Modi with the public money taken as low interest rate loans from the public banks.

As a proud Hindu, I believe in the values of peace, compassion, tolerance, and coexistence that lie at the core of Hinduism. However, since 2014 under Modi as PM, there have been a steady increase in the instances of ethnic violence against minorities, denial of basic human rights to the critics of Modi regime, the rise of dictatorship, and the propagation of fundamentalist Hindutva ideologies in India. No one including the so-called Hindu billionaires, intellectuals, journalists, and religious leaders have tried to address these issues and make a clear distinction between the

true essence of Hinduism and the actions of a few individuals and groups who seek to manipulate it for their own divisive agendas.

The true essence of Hinduism: Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions and is known for its diversity and inclusivity. It promotes the idea of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which means "the world is one family." The principles of Hinduism advocate non-violence, respect for all living beings, and the acceptance of different paths to the divine. Hinduism encourages seekers to embrace spirituality and attain self-realization, transcending the barriers of caste, creed, or ethnicity.

Ethnic violence is a regrettable aspect of any society, and it has no place in the teachings of Hinduism. In India, the perpetrators of such violence are using religion to instigate hatred and animosity among different communities. Unfortunately, under Modi their support base has expanded, and the worst is they have the protection from the state and Modi himself. As a Hindu, I condemn such acts and stand in solidarity with those affected by these tragedies. It is essential to remember that the perpetrators of ethnic violence do not represent the vast majority of Hindus who uphold the principles of love and harmony.

The Dangers of Dictatorship: A democratic society is founded on the principles of freedom, equality, and justice for all its citizens. Unfortunately, PM Modi have openly displayed and is practicing authoritarian policies and undermining the democratic, moral and social fabric of India. Hinduism encourages righteous governance and upholds the importance of a leader's accountability to the people they serve. Dictatorship contradicts the pluralistic values of Hinduism and erodes the democratic rights and freedoms of citizens.

"FRATERNITY MEANS A SENSE OF COMMON BROTHERHOOD OF ALL INDIANS-OF INDIANS BEING ONE PEOPLE. IT IS THE PRINCIPLE WHICH GIVES UNITY AND SOLIDARITY TO SOCIAL LIFE" - AND SAID WHAT THIS MEANS IS THAT "IF YOU ATTACK THE DIGNITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL - WHETHER ON THE PRETEXT OF THEIR ETHNICITY OR LANGUAGE, RELIGION OR CASTE, SEXUALITY OR FOOD HABITS OR BELIEFS - THEN YOU ATTACK THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF INDIA."

-- Dr B.R. Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly in 1949

Fundamentalist Hindutva and its Detrimental Impact: Fundamentalist Hindutva is a political ideology that seeks to establish a Hindu-centric nation, promoting the dominance of Hindutva over other religions. This ideology, while claiming to represent Hinduism, actually distorts its essence. True Hinduism celebrates diversity and advocates unity among all faiths. The use of religion for political gains, divisiveness, and discrimination is contrary to the teachings of Hinduism.

Respecting Pluralism and Secularism: The true spirit of India lies in its secular fabric, where people of different religions, languages, and cultures coexist harmoniously. As a Hindu, I believe in promoting interfaith dialogue, understanding, and respect for all religions. Hinduism teaches us to embrace diversity and recognize that different paths can lead to the same ultimate truth.

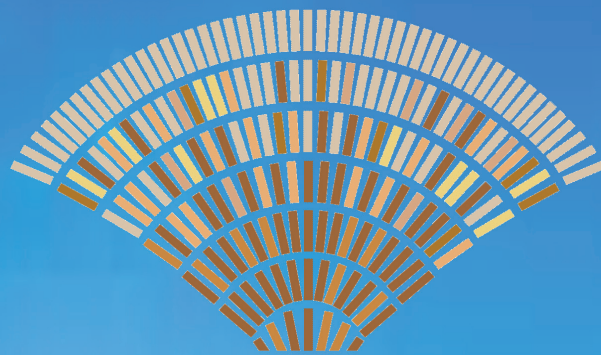
As a Hindu, I firmly believe in the principles of love, compassion, and tolerance that are the bedrock of Hinduism. It deeply saddens me to witness the rise of ethnic violence, dictatorship, and fundamentalist Hindutva in India. It is essential for every Indian, regardless of their religious affiliations, to come together and reject any form of violence or divisiveness. They must reject divisive and communal leaders like Modi and those who are hurting India in the name of misguided Hindutva that has nothing to do with Hinduism.

Indians must strive to build an India that embraces its pluralism, upholds its democratic values, and respects the diversity of its people. Only by recognizing and celebrating their differences while finding common ground they can create a brighter, more inclusive, and peaceful future for their beloved nation. This India will be a true reflection of the values taught by Hinduism and the essence of its timeless wisdom.

(The author is a US based social activist)

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OPED

A Clarion Call to Elevate Nassau's Alzheimer's Response



BY SIELA A. BYNOE

A first-of-its-kind nationwide study by the Alzheimer's Association revealed that approximately one-eighth of the senior citizens residing in Nassau County are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease. This distressing revelation illustrates that our county is among the localities most heavily impacted by a horrific and heartbreaking disease that robs its victims of their memory and cognition. I have witnessed firsthand the heartbreak and devastation that cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's disease brings to our community.

In November 2021, Chesnel Veillard, a resident of New Cassel who suffered from dementia, wandered from his home. I first learned of Mr. Veillard's disappearance and condition when his daughter, Sendy, who previously worked as an intern in my office, called to request assistance in locating him. Tragically, he perished after he wandered onto the railroad tracks and was struck by a train. His death was devastating to his family, his loved ones, and his neighbors in New Cassel. As we

approach two years since his untimely passing, I remain as convinced as ever that his death was preventable.

A key stated purpose of the Alzheimer's Association study was to provide resources and data to local municipalities that can guide them in how they apportion and allocate resources toward optimally serving and protecting their constituents. The fact that approximately 31,300 Nassau seniors have been identified as suffering with Alzheimer's disease must be a clarion call for local leaders to marshal the necessary resources to aid this sizable - and likely growing - population of at-risk adults.

Nassau County currently utilizes Project Lifesaver in conjunction with its Silver Alert System to help safely return cognitively impaired individuals who have wandered away from caregivers. This internationally regarded search and rescue program is a powerful tool for protecting the safety and welfare of cognitively impaired individuals. However, under the current County program, participants must pay \$325 to enroll, and that can make access to this potentially life-saving resource cost-prohibitive for working-class families.

To address this gap, I authored and sponsored legislation, which was

introduced in January 2022 and refined and re-filed later that year in September, to create the Chesnel Veillard Program - an initiative in which the County would fund cost-free access to Project Lifesaver for clinically eligible individuals and families whose household income is less than \$76,050/year.

To maximize the benefits of the Project Lifesaver technology, anyone who enrolls in the Chesnel Veillard Program would also be entered into the County's Return Every Adult and Child Home (REACH) registry - a database of children and adults with Alzheimer's, dementia and other conditions that potentially limit their ability to communicate. The Veillard program is designed to serve income-eligible individuals who do not currently live in a nursing home, long-term care facility, Alzheimer's special care unit, or similar facility that would have programs in place as a function of its operation to protect cognitively vulnerable residents.

Increasing the use of Project Lifesaver will help law enforcement and first responders more quickly locate cognitively vulnerable individuals who wander - an outcome that simultaneously saves taxpayer resources and provides families with the peace of mind they need. Not only would the

Chesnel Veillard program proactively aid in safeguarding vulnerable Nassau residents, its implementation would be the embodiment of the wise stewardship of municipal resources.

As of this writing, the measure has not been brought to the floor by the Legislative Majority for a public hearing or vote. This delay in acting upon a cost-effective, common-sense proposal to protect our most vulnerable citizens is truly regrettable. Yet, I remain hopeful that the findings of the Alzheimer's Association's rigorous nationwide study will spur my colleagues into action so that we can adopt this measure during the month of September, which coincidentally happens to coincide with World Alzheimer's Month.

The crisis of Alzheimer's disease is already here in Nassau County, and I anticipate that the number of our residents suffering from this and other debilitating cognitive ailments will only grow in the coming years. Now is the time to take decisive, proactive action so that we can bring comfort to those who are already suffering and prepare ourselves to respond to future needs.

(Siela A. Bynoe, of Westbury, has represented the Second Legislative District in the Nassau County Legislature since 2014)

Legislator Kevan Abrahams Celebrates 'National Night Out' at Cornelius Court Elementary School in Uniondale

AUGUST 3, 2023

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Kevan M. Abrahams (D - Freeport) partnered with the Uniondale Fire District, Uniondale School District, Glory House Recovery, Inc., and the Nassau County Police Department to celebrate 40 years of National Night Out with an event on Tuesday, August 1 at the Cornelius Court Elementary School in Uniondale.

National Night Out is a crime prevention and awareness initiative that seeks to promote "police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live." The event enhances relationships between law enforcement and communities by bringing them together with residents in a safe, fun, and welcoming atmosphere.

Attractions included free hot dogs, pizza, refreshments, face painting, games, music, inflatables, DJ entertainment, prizes and surprise raffle drawings, vendors with lots of free giveaways, an appearance by Sparky the robotic fire dog, Dale - the Long Island Nets mascot and more. Legislator Abrahams thanks Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus, Western Beef of West Hempstead, Affinity by Molina, Heeling Soles, Inc., Millennium Sistahs and the United States Army for their contributions in support



Photos / Office of Legislator Kevan M. Abrahams

of the event. Special thanks to the Nassau County Police Explorers, Uniondale Jr. Firefighters and the Nassau County Crossing Guards for ensuring attendees were safe and having fun. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Legislator Arnold W. Drucker, Community Partners Celebrate National Night Out at Mid Island Y JCC in Plainview

AUG 2, 2023

PLAINVIEW, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Arnold W. Drucker (D - Plainview) joined forces with the Mid Island Y JCC, the Nassau County Police Department and an array of community stakeholders to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1 - an event that drew hundreds to the Plainview community hub.

Held in thousands of communities each year on the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out is an initiative that seeks to promote "police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live." The 2023 installment marks National Night Out's 40th anniversary as a national observance.

Legislator Drucker's event was presented in partnership with the Nassau County Police Department's Second Precinct and local community partners in business, education, and healthcare. Family-friendly activities from National Night Out include giveaways from local businesses and community groups, refreshments, raffle prizes donated by local businesses, martial arts demonstrations, sweet treats from an ice cream truck sponsored by the Nassau County Superior Officers Association, popcorn and cotton candy, a bouncy castle, and more.

Additional attractions included visits from NCPD Commissioner Patrick Ryder and the department's K-9 and Mounted



Photos/ courtesy Office of Legislator Arnold W. Drucker

units, tours of a Plainview Fire Department ladder truck and ambulance, a display of historic tanks from the Museum of American Armor; entertainment from Party Harty, and information from local businesses, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.

"Since 1984, National Night Out events across the country have strengthened bonds between law enforcement agencies and the community members.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui - The Golden Voice of Radio



SHAHEER A. MIRZA

Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui is a name synonymous with the grand voice at the Lucknow Station of All India Radio for over four decades. He started his career in British India and grew with the station through its journey of success and the transformation phases of technological advances.



Shafaat Ali at his Lucknow AIR Station desk

Those were the days when information was ethical in nature and commitment was the prime motto to cater to the audience, the days of commercial interests were still far away. Any information that was broadcast on the radio had no element of doubt in the minds of the audience. This was not only because of the then transparent government policies but individuals

like Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui had a vital role in developing that trust and respect.

Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui was an uncompromising administrator in his role but on the intellectual front he was very soft-hearted and a tender writer, a creative composer, an artistic producer, and an engaging presenter whose abilities were par excellence. He used to get involved in the minute details of his assignments to ensure the finesse that was expected from him. He mastered the language of classical Urdu and coped nicely with the projects in English and Hindi as well.

He was a man of high literary credentials with deep-rooted connections in the fields of arts, culture, literature, poetry, music, academics, politics, etc. He never confined his thought process to any limits or restricted himself to any specific genre, his creativity used to flow along the artistic presentations and with the same comfort he used to deal with the most influential political figures of his times. He was one of those rare individuals who earned credibility based on his literary acumen and his powerful voice became a mark of quality and authenticity.

His works were vastly acknowledged, and he was honored with 3 National Awards for his features on 'Life Sketch of Prophet Muhammad PBUH (1974), Ameer Khusro (1977), and Mahatma Gandhi (1981). He was bestowed with various other State Awards and felicitations during and after his work life. He was an integral part of a number of academic and social bodies and remained instrumental in establishing the credibility of many such platforms.

One of his landmark radio presentations that remained unparalleled for decades was the commentary of the religious congregation of Shi'ite Muslims known as 'Sham-e-Ghareebaan' (a post-dusk mourning gathering) on the 10th of Muharram (the first Islamic month) to commemorate the martyrs of



Conducting All-India Mushaira at AIR Lucknow



With U. P. Governor H. E. Usman Arif



With U. P. Governor H. E. Motilal Vohra



Receiving Life-Tiem Achieving Award

Karbala under the leadership of Imam Husain (the grandson of Prophet Muhammad PBUH). Since Lucknow has been a center of Shi'ite Muslims by virtue of their rule in the Avadh region before the British stepped in, the mourning period of Muharram is observed with great devotion and huge participation across the Muslim world in general and Shi'ites in particular.

There is an extensive list of literary greats, poets, singers, musicians, academicians, politicians, and people from various occupations who endorse the camaraderie drawn by Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui between his professional commitments and his literary mission. He was truly a gifted expert who put his voice to the noble cause and created a space for himself and helped in pushing the young talents to achieve what they deserved.

Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui was a person with great regard



With elder brother Professor Shujaat Ali at an International Conference in Chicago

across faiths and communities and was seen as a symbol of Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb, a term used to depict the composite high culture of the central plains of northern India, especially the doab region of Ganges and Yamuna rivers, that is a syncretic fusion of Hindu and Muslim cultural elements. He is credited to engage established and legendary singer Begum Akhtar and great Urdu poets Vaali Aasi and Munawar Rana with the radio, he also roped in the likes of Gopal Das Neeraj to cater to the segment of Hindi poetry. He initiated and promoted the idea of scientific programs to create practical awareness of scientific advances.

His illustrious radio career ended in the year 1987 and he was honored with the title of Program Executive/Producer Emeritus as a token of his untiring and dedicated services to All India Radio. Even after his retirement, he remained associated with All India Radio Doordarshan (State Television) until his last days. He was a guide and mentor to many aspiring professionals who got a name for themselves in the future to come and he always emphasized the quality of work than delivering duties for the sake of it. He was a symbol of sincerity, simplicity, honesty, commitment, dedication, and a progressive approach to his works.

Born to a noble and literary family of Inayat Ali Siddiqui on July 15, 1929, in the legendary town of Sandila, district Hardoi of Avadh region, India, Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui saw a tumultuous period of adolescence and youth owing to challenges that were there due to freedom struggle during his growing years.

The sweetness of Urdu has always been there in his family, his elder brother Distinguished Professor Dr. Shuja'at Ali Siddiqui Sandilvi, who was a towering figure at the Urdu Department at Lucknow University, and his nephew Professor Dr. Sa'adat Ali Siddiqui, nicknamed as Mujahid-e-Urdu (warrior of Urdu). Currently, the literary traditions in the family of Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui are carried forward by his nephew Professor Dr. Zafar Iqbal living in the United States, and his niece Professor Dr. Parveen Shuja'at at Lucknow, India.

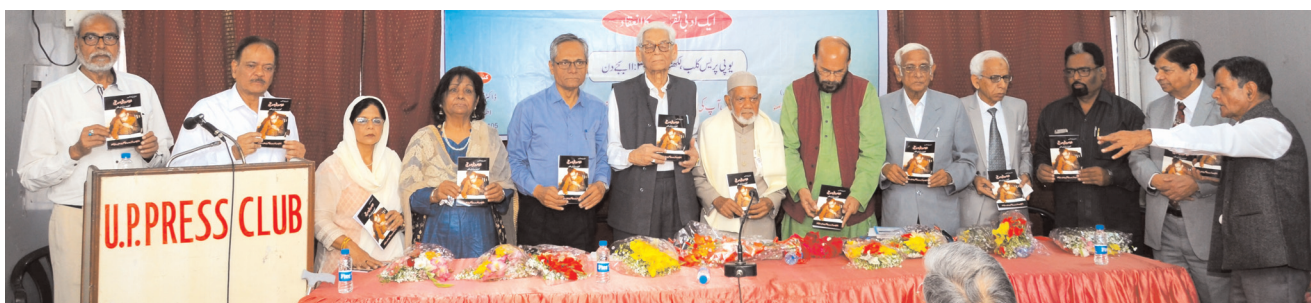
Shafa'at Ali Siddiqui breathed his last heavenly abode on August 01, 2018, at Lucknow and left behind a void that could never be filled. His contributions to the world of radio would always be remembered in high esteem and his literary contributions would always be cherished whenever the traditions of Lucknow were discussed.

I consider myself privileged to have spent time with Shafaat Sahib. I am very proud to recite the following sheyr of the late Raghupati Sahai Firaq Gorakhpuri with an apology to him.

*Aane vaal? nasleñ tum par fa?hr kareñg? ham-asro
Jab bh? un ko dhy?n aa.eg? tum ne 'Shafaat' ko
dekh? hai*

Coming generations will feel proud of you, my friends. When they will realize that you had spent time with Shafa'at.

(Shaheer A. Mirza is an airline professional, historian, commentator, political analyst, and author of the book 'Mughals of the Dark.' He can be contacted on shaheeramirza@gmail.com)



Festschrift honoring Shafaat Ali release ceremony

Shyam Gajwani is installed as Long Island Indo American Lions Club President



Presidential remarks. Shyam Gajwani speaks after his installation as the President of Long Island Indo American Lions Club

AUGUST 7, 2023

GLEN COVE, NY (TIP): Long Island Indo-American Lions Club hosted its Installation Ceremony on Sunday, July 30th 2023 at Metropolitan, Glen Cove, NY. The Club has accomplished numerous charitable projects and activities throughout the past years, under the leadership of Founder President Indu Gajwani & Immediate Past President Dr. Sunil Mehra. It was the time to handover the responsibilities of the club and leadership to a New PRESIDENT. Esteemed guests, community leaders and members of the club graced the evening with their presence. Among the Guests present were District Governor Mark Bothello, Past District Governors- Paula Umreiko, Andy Umreiko,



The Ad hoc committee

immediate Past Governor Rupal Sehgal and Second Vice DG-Maria Leitao.

The Emcee Anju Sharma welcomed all and highlighted the incredible achievements of the club. This is the first club founded with 34 charter members. In a shortspan of 4 years LIIA Lions club is Number one with maximum membership, and also leads in Melvin Jones Award recipients.

The Program Began with Pledge of Allegiance by Anchit Aery, Lions Prayer by Dr. Abhay Malhotra, Toast by Saurabh Sheth and Toast to the King by Poojaa Makhijani. The Founder President Indu Gajwani was invited to introduce the dignitaries. The New Members were installed by DG-Mark Bothello, PDG Paula Umreiko installed the Executive Committee and immediate PDG Rupal Sehgal



The Executive Committee

installed Ad Hoc committee.

Anju Sharma introduced President Shyam Gajwani and highlighted his contribution to the club as creator & backbone of the Club. She expressed gratitude for his services to the Club. New President for 2023-2024 was invited to address the guests. He thanked everyone for their continuous support and trust. He requested everyone to keep supporting and help to bring the Club to new heights.

The program ended with a Vote of Thanks by General Secretary Sanju Sharma. She extended a special note of thanks to the sponsors & supporters. The President was invited to open the Dance Floor. The guests were invited to the dance floor and everyone had a blast. The Installation was a fun filled evening.

NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS LEADERS FROM BROOKLYN AND THE BRONX NAMED TO CITY & STATE NEW YORK'S ANNUAL POWER LISTS

AUGUST 8, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals announced August 1, that five of its hospital CEOs and the Associate Director of Public Relations at Jacobi Hospital were named to City & State New York's "Bronx Power 100" and "Brooklyn Power 100" lists. Each one is recognized for being key members of their community, providing New Yorkers with access to high-quality, comprehensive health care while also advocating for their social and economic needs. NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi | North Central Bronx CEO Christopher Mastromano and NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln CEO and systemwide Chief Growth Officer Christopher Roker rank 26th on the Bronx Power 100 list. NYC Health + Hospitals/Wooranksl CEO Gregory Calliste, NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health CEO Svetlana Lipyanskaya, and NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County CEO Sheldon McLeod rank 35th on the Brooklyn Power 100 list. Associate Director of Public Relations for Jacobi and North Central Bronx Hospitals, John Doyle, is on the list at number 65.

"NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull continues to develop and advance while exemplifying the highest values of patient care and staff engagement," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull CEO Gregory Calliste. "I am honored to be the head of the Woodhull team in recognition of their dedication and commitment to our community. We value the continuous support given by the Woodhull community. We also appreciate the confidence our patients have shown by choosing Woodhull as their hospital of choice and allowing our health care professionals to care for them and their loved ones."

"Power perceived is power achieved! I am grateful City & State included me on their list of the borough's movers and shakers," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi | NCB



The honorees are recognized for being movers and shakers in their respective boroughs

Associate Director of Public Relations John Doyle. "I hope whatever small 'power' I possess goes towards making our beloved borough a better place for all."

"It's an honor to be recognized on the City & State New York: Brooklyn Power 100 list," said NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health CEO Svetlana Lipyanskaya. "This year, with the opening of our Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital, we will continue to deliver on the promise that each patient who comes through our doors, can expect excellent patient care, that they so richly deserve."

"I'm humbled to be included as one of the borough's movers and shakers," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi | North Central Bronx CEO Christopher Mastromano. "Any power I have is because of the goodwill of our health care heroes committed to providing quality care for our patients and savings their lives. It is an honor to work alongside them."

"At NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, we take great pride in embodying our ICARE values -Integrity,

Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County Chief Executive Officer Sheldon McLeod. "These values are the foundation of our person-centered care approach. I am privileged to lead a hospital that embodies the true spirit of compassionate healthcare and am honored to be recognized by City & State's 2023 Brooklyn Power 100. This accolade is not just a testament to my own dedication but a reflection of the incredible teamwork and unwavering commitment of our entire hospital staff."

"I'm extremely grateful to be recognized for doing my job, which for me, is a labor of love," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Lincoln CEO and systemwide Chief Growth Officer Christopher Roker. "Serving the Bronx community, the Lincoln family and New Yorkers is an honor and one that I don't take for granted. Congratulations to my fellow honorees and may we all continue using our power to fulfill our purpose."

ABOUT NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS

NYC Health + Hospitals is the largest municipal health care system in the nation serving more than a million New Yorkers annually in more than 70 patient care locations across the city's five boroughs. A robust network of outpatient, neighborhood-based primary and specialty care centers anchors care coordination with the system's trauma centers, nursing homes, post-acute care centers, home care agency, and MetroPlus health plan-all supported by 11 essential hospitals. Its diverse workforce of more than 43,000 employees is uniquely focused on empowering New Yorkers, without exception, to live the healthiest life possible. For more information, visit www.nychealthandhospitals.org and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

US curbs on investment in Chinese tech sector



Biden with supporters after addressing a gathering in Dallas

Photo credit / PTI

AUGUST 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

President Joe Biden has signed an executive order to block and regulate high-tech US-based investments going toward China - a move the administration said was targeted but it also reflected an intensifying competition between the world's two

biggest powers.

Blocking our development: Beijing

China said Washington had been trying to block its development. It accused Biden of pursuing technology hegemony.

Beijing said the US should revoke its

'erroneous' decision, warning that the latest restrictions would hurt global supply chains.

The order covers advanced computer chips, microelectronics, quantum information technologies and artificial intelligence. Senior administration officials said that the effort stemmed from national security goals rather than economic interests, and that the categories it covered were intentionally narrow in scope.

The order seeks to blunt China's ability to use US investments in its technology companies to upgrade its military while also preserving broader levels of trade that are vital for both nations' economies.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce responded in a statement early Thursday that it has "serious concern" about the order and "reserves the right to take measures." The US and China appear to be increasingly locked in a geopolitical competition with a conflicting set of values.

Meanwhile, China accused the US of trying to block its development. It said technology curbs should be repealed at the earliest by the US. The Foreign Ministry accused the Biden administration of pursuing "technology hegemony". - Agencies

US RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS WITH INDIA IN PAST AND WILL DO SO IN FUTURE: OFFICIAL



"We regularly raise human rights concerns with countries with which we engage, have done that -- so in the past with India, and we'll do so in the future," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday, August 7.

Photo / courtesy Department of State

AUGUST 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

The US has raised the issue of human rights with India in the past regularly and will do so in the future, a senior US official has said ahead of President Joe Biden's visit to New Delhi next month to attend the G20 Summit.

"We regularly raise human rights concerns with countries with which we engage, have done that -- so in the past with India, and we'll do so in the future," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference on Monday, August 7.

Miller was responding to a question if President Biden during his upcoming trip to New Delhi in September would be asking India about the alleged Christian persecution in the country.

"We have made very clear that we oppose the persecution of Christians and we oppose the persecution of any religious group, no matter where it takes place in the world," Miller said.

India in the past has trashed such allegations as based on "misinformation and flawed understanding".

"Motivated and biased commentary by some US officials only serves to undermine further the credibility of these reports," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in May while commenting on a report by the US State Department on religious freedom that criticized India for alleged attacks on minorities.

"We value our partnership with the US and will continue to have frank exchanges on issues of concern to us," Bagchi had said while responding to media queries on the report.

(Source: PTI)

Attorney General Merrick Garland appoints a special counsel in the Hunter Biden probe



David Weiss, the U.S. attorney in Delaware, has been appointed special counsel in the Hunter Biden probe.

Photo /

Courtesy U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Delaware

AUGUST 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced on August 11 he is appointing a special counsel in the Hunter Biden probe, deepening the investigation of the President's son ahead of the 2024 election, an AP report says.

Attorney General Garland said he is naming David Weiss, the U.S. attorney in Delaware who has been probing the financial and business dealings of the president's son, as the special counsel.

Attorney General Garland said on Tuesday that Weiss told him that "in his judgment, his investigation has reached a stage at which he should continue his work as a Special Counsel, and he asked to be appointed."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

House Resolution to declare August 15 as National Day of Celebration of world's two largest democracies introduced



Introduced by Shri Thanedar and co-sponsored by Congressman Buddy Carter and Brad Sharman, the resolution seeks to declare August 15, India's Independence Day as the National Day of Celebration of the World's Two Largest Democracies.

AUGUST 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Led by Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar, a group of US lawmakers have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives to declare India's Independence Day as a National Day of Celebration of the World's Two Largest Democracies.

The resolution expresses the belief that the strong partnership between the United States and India, rooted in shared democratic values, will continue to advance global democracy and foster peace, stability, and prosperity for all nations. Introduced by Thanedar and co-sponsored by Congressman Buddy Carter and Brad Sharman, the resolution seeks to declare August 15, India's Independence Day as the National Day of Celebration of the World's Two Largest Democracies.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Treasury and IRS issue proposed regulations identifying certain monetized installment sales as listed transactions



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

AUGUST 3, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): The Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service, on August 3, issued proposed regulations identifying certain monetized installment sale transactions and substantially similar transactions as listed transactions - abusive tax transactions that must be reported to the IRS.

Material advisors and certain participants in these listed transactions are required to file disclosures with the IRS and are subject to penalties for failure to disclose these transactions.

The IRS listed monetized installment sales this year as part of the agency's Dirty Dozen list of common tax scams and schemes.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



V.K. RAJU, MD, FRCS, FACS
PRESIDENT, EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

MESSAGE

Whatever the motivation, the recent movie, Oppenheimer, caused a great deal of antagonism in India. But, I chose not to react. I was told time and time again, on many occasions, the problem is your reaction rather than the incident. The motivation behind a Hollywood movie...

Let us focus on what is important and celebrate the 77th Independence Day of India, and truly think of the immeasurable potential of India. It is the only country that has the greatest natural resource- 400 million smart people below the age of 26 -many will have a different view as to what will be considered unacceptable in the future regarding this incident.

To quote Disraeli, "the youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity."

On this 77th birthday of India, I wish only one thing: unity of India, real, real unity. In its vast history, India has never invaded another country, never had a military coup or Civil War.

Today we have come to recognize that it is "a one world or none". The effort to build one world requires a closer understanding among the people of the world with different beliefs and cultures

First and foremost, India requires a closer understanding among its own people: Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs and the numerous other sects.

Each generation has its own problems. Emotions are ornaments of life, but we need to choose the emotions that bring out higher side, not lower side.

Jai Hind!

Dr. V.K. Raju



DR. THOMAS ABRAHAM
CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (GOPIO)

MESSAGE

76 years ago, after a long non-violent struggle called Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi, India got its independence from the British Colonial Rule. At that time many in India and outside doubted whether the new republic will sustain itself, due to widespread ignorance, poverty and divisiveness of our people. However, India made progress under a democratic rule, in all the seven decades and now moving forward to become the third largest economy in the world in this decade. India is also providing leadership in the world, especially after Russia's war on Ukraine, sending needed food to many parts of the world. As we celebrate 76th anniversary of India's Independence, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of democracy, freedom, justice, and peace not only in India but all over the world.

While India was building up in the last 7 decades, India had also sent large number of its brightest to America who have made substantial contributions in building up the economy of America. Our contributions are noted very well in healthcare, hospitality, science, engineering and technology and corporate leadership. We are also not behind in the political process. In 2020 election our community made history, by the election of Indian/African American Senator Kamala Harris as the Vice President. In 2022, not only four Indian Americans got reelected to the House of Representatives but added one more. Over three dozen Indian Americans were also elected to the state legislatures and half a dozen mayors. That is a great achievement for a new immigrant community.

The Indian American community has played very important role for improved US-India relations. With a highly successful State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2023, USA and India are coming closer with more people-to-people relations. Indian American community is a large contributor to India's development. With Indian Diaspora's remittance to India in Fiscal Year 2023 reaching \$107 Billion and Forex exceeding \$600 Billion, India is in a good footing unlike many other countries. India must attract and utilize the professional resources of 32 million India Diaspora for its development.

From our part, GOPIO International, with a new team this year, will continue our work of mobilizing the Indian Diaspora community for common causes and for mobilizing resources for India and promoting India's image abroad.

Happy Independence Day to everyone.



NAVEEN C. SHAH, CPA
PRESIDENT & CEO
NAVIKA CAPITAL GROUP
521 RXR PLAZA,
UNIONDALE, NY 11556
DECEMBER 30, 2021

MESSAGE

India's Independence Day is an occasion for celebration by Indians in India and abroad.

While the Diaspora celebrates the historic day with parades, concerts and exhibitions, The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special edition to focus on the history of the freedom struggle and the progress India has made in 77 years of Independence.

I commend the work and services of Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, publisher and editor of The Indian Panorama who has upheld the finest traditions of journalism during the 17 years of the publication's life and ensured that the publication carries a diversity of opinions to enrich the readers' minds.

I also take this opportunity to wish Prof. Saluja, Editors and all other team members of The Indian Panorama all success in their endeavor to serve India and the Indian-American community.

I wish the readers of The Indian Panorama a Happy Independence Day of India.

Naveen Shah



HARRY SINGH BOLLA,
CEO BOLLA OIL CORPORATION
809 STEWART AVE,
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

MESSAGE

I am delighted to learn that New York-based leading English language weekly newspaper, The Indian Panorama, is publishing a special edition to commemorate the 77th Independence Day of India. I am confident it will be another extremely readable edition as have been the Independence Day special editions in the past 17 years.

I congratulate the publisher and editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for providing an extremely enjoyable reading, week after weeks, and year after years. As a result, The Indian Panorama has a huge readership in the Tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut as well as in other states of the US. The web edition of The Indian Panorama is read all across the world, thus making it a leading voice of the NRI community which has done India proud.

I take this opportunity to wish a Happy Independence Day of India to the readers and publishers of The Indian Panorama.

Harry Singh Bolla



**PURNIMA DESAI,
REIKI GRANDMASTER
FOUNDER PRESIDENT, SHIKSHAYATAN
FOUNDER PRESIDENT, SRINIKETAN
NEW YORK**

MESSAGE

There is no occasion as precious and as worthy of celebration as the Independence of the country. On this August 15, we celebrate the 77th Independence Day of India. We celebrate India, Indians and everything closely or remotely connected with India. It has been rightly said : " You can take an Indian out of India, but you cannot take India out of an Indian." That is why we have a rush of parades, cultural extravaganzas, fares and shows on the occasion all across the world. These celebrations are an expression of the heartthrob for the motherland.

I am glad The Indian Panorama has always been an active participant in the celebration of India's Independence. I am an admirer of the publication, and have found the publisher/ editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja bringing out for the last 17 years, the best edition on the historic occasion of India's Independence. The Indian Panorama can be credited with being the best source for learning about India's history of freedom struggle and the march of the Indian nation. That's why the publication has a devoted readership not only in the Tri-States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, but all across America, and even beyond , across the world. I congratulate the dedicated team at The Indian Panorama for the rich content they present week after weeks, and keep readers updated on the happenings around them.

I wish readers of The Indian Panorama and the Indian Diaspora a Happy Independence Day of India.
Bharat Mata Ki Jai!



**DR. HARI K. SHUKLA, MD, PEDIATRICS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRIC,
NYU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

MESSAGE

I am pleased to know that The Indian Panorama is publishing a special edition to commemorate the 77th Independence Day of India. The premier publication which is held in great esteem for its fairness and truthfulness is a great bridge between the Indian Americans and India, and between the Indian Diaspora in the US and the mainstream Americans, particularly in administration, and in social and cultural spheres. I congratulate and thank the publisher and editor of The Indian Panorama Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for the great services he is rendering to India, Indians , and Indians abroad.

Indian Americans celebrate the Independence Day of India with parades, cultural programs , exhibitions and fares as do our brethren in India. In fact, I, for one, think Indians abroad celebrate the Independence day more enthusiastically than Indians in India. In my own city of New York and the surrounding cities, we have close to 6 parades, one of them the Federation of India in Tri-States India Day Parade is believed to be the largest India Day parade outside India. It has been my pleasure to have been associated with this oldest Parade in New York for the last many years. Another parade in Queens where I live, and which I support, draws huge crowds, and many lawmakers make it a point to join the Indian American community in celebrating India's Independence Day. Truly, an occasion to showcase India and strength of India, and Indians' love of India.

I congratulate The Indian Panorama for being a part of the India Day celebrations , and wish readers of The Indian Panorama, a Happy Independence day.

Dr. Hari K. Shukla



C M Kumra
Chief Executive
Bank of India, New York
277, Park Avenue

India is an incredibly diverse nation. Built on a vibrant tapestry of linguistic groups, religions, culture and heritage, India has emerged as one of the leading democracies of the 21st century. Bank of India joins in the celebration of "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" to commemorate 77 glorious years of Independence of India.

The path to freedom was a long cherished dream for India. We as Indians stand together united, and echo in our voice for the national anthem to celebrate ancient values and heritage that stood firm against the gnaw of time.

We at Bank of India, New York are contributing by helping the Indian diaspora and corporates for their banking requirements in India and US. We are pleased to inform you that the New York branch is active in the banking industry for over the past four decades. We would like to thank our numerous happy clients for their trust in our service and lasting relationship.

As Ambassadors of India in the United States, let us come forward to step on the path of prosperity and glory. The largest democratic nation in the world, India shares democratic ethos with the United States of America. On the auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day celebration, Bank of India extends greetings and felicitations to the Indian diaspora, Indian American Community and friends of India.

May the Tricolour fly high and India reaches the zenith of success. Jai Hind!



**DR. YASH PAUL CHHABRA
FOUNDER & CEO, RAJPUT INDIAN CUISINE
PRESIDENT & CEO, RAJPUT INDIAN EATS
PRESIDENT, ANDRO CLOUD SOLUTIONS INC.
COO, J&N ESTATES LLC
CEO, D&C POWER INVESTMENTS INC.
AUTHOR, INDO-VEGAN COOKBOOK**

MESSAGE

I extend my warm wishes and greetings to all Indians at home and overseas and to readers of The Indian Panorama on the completion of 76 years of India's Independence.

We cherish the ideals of the ones who made our Independence possible. Let's take a moment to think of their sacrifice and what they had to pay for the freedom we enjoy today.

Freedom cannot be taken for granted. It is to be respected and protected. I am reminded of the cautionary words of Ronald Reagan who said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

May this independence day bring fortune and success for every one of us. May India see more progress and become the 3rd top economy as the Prime Minister of India said at the joint session of Congress in Washington DC on June 22, 2023.

Once again, I extend my heartiest wishes to everyone, including Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and readers of The Indian Panorama, a Happy Independence Day , and God Bless!

Dr. Yash Paul Chhabra

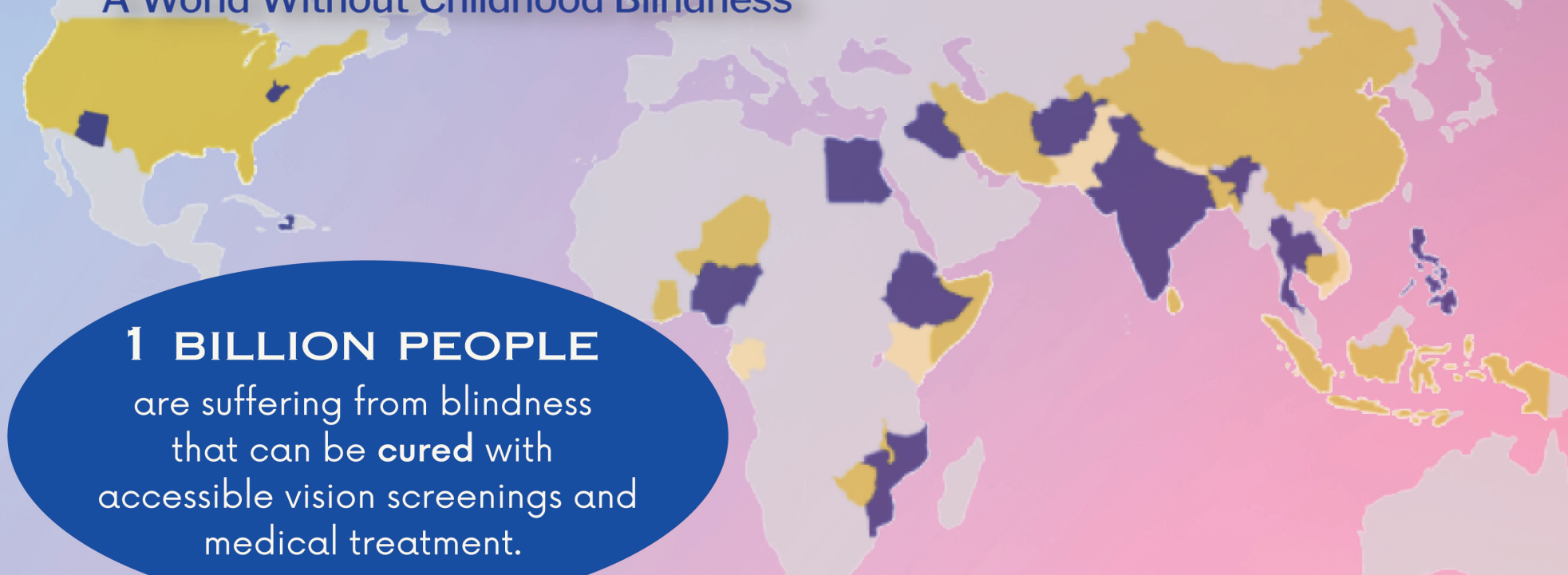


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Member of Indian Parliament Prof Achyuta Samanta Visits Guatemala

MEETS WITH NOBEL LAUREATE AND PROMINENT ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MS. RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ, GUATEMALA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EDUCATIONISTS

AUGUST 10, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): Prof. Achyuta Samanta, an esteemed Member of Parliament from Odisha, visited Guatemala from 7-9 August 2023. Prof. Achyuta Samanta's visit commenced with a significant meeting with Ms. Rigoberta Menchú, a distinguished Nobel Laureate and prominent advocate for human rights. This convergence of two remarkable individuals, both unwaveringly committed to effecting positive social transformation, was a powerful moment. Ms. Menchú's lifelong dedication to championing indigenous rights, social equity, and peace deeply resonates with Prof. Samanta's own mission of empowering marginalized communities through education and holistic development. Their profound exchange of ideas and the alignment of their visions for a more just and balanced world sparked illuminating discussions on the crossroads of education, human rights, and sustainable advancement. This encounter not only epitomized the unity of purpose between these influential figures, but it also vividly illustrated the potential of collaboration in confronting urgent global issues.

The meeting between Prof. Achyuta Samanta and Ms. Claudia Patricia Ruiz Casasola, Minister of Education was a productive exchange focused on the pivotal role of education in shaping the future of Guatemala. This significant interaction underscored both parties' dedication to fostering quality education and enabling holistic development for the nation's youth. Discussions ranged from innovative educational methodologies to the importance of nurturing local talent. Prof. Samanta's insights from India's successful educational initiatives, coupled with the Minister's vision for Guatemala's educational landscape, emphasized the potential for collaboration in creating empowered and skilled citizens.

The meeting between Prof. Achyuta Samanta and Vice President of PARLACEN, Ms. Iliana Guadalupe Calles Domínguez and Secretary General of PARLACEN, Mr. Erwin Eduardo Velásquez Herrera, was a significant step towards strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation between India and the Central American region. During the meeting, various aspects of parliamentary collaboration were discussed, ranging



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra met with Ms. Rigoberta Menchú, Guatemalan Human Rights Activist & Nobel laureate



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra met Vice President Ms. Iliana Calles & Sect Gen Mr. Erwin Velásquez of Parlacen



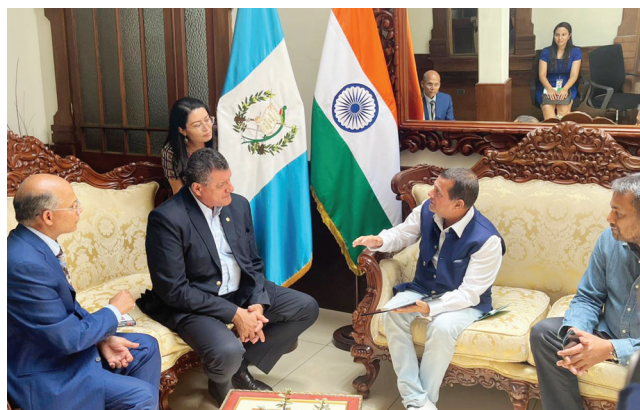
A warm welcome of Hon MP Prof Achyuta Samanta and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra at Mayan University of Guatemala



Hon MP Prof @Achyuta_samanta & Amb @manojifs met H.E. Boris Roberto España, VP of Congress of Guatemala, along with other senior Congressmen



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra met with Ms. Claudia Patricia Ruiz, Minister of Education



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra paid a courtesy visit to Hon'ble Vice President of Guatemala



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament observed Odisha Day with Hon'ble Vice President of Guatemala at the Embassy premises



Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament was honored with Doctorate Honoris Causa in Educational Sciences by Rector of the Rural University of Guatemala

from legislative exchanges to shared strategies for promoting regional development and stability. This interaction reflected a shared commitment to enhancing diplomatic and parliamentary relations, with the ultimate goal of fostering prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainable progress for the people of both nations and the wider region.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta was honored with the prestigious Doctorate Honoris Causa in Educational Sciences by Dr. Fidel Reyes Lee, Rector, and Board of Trustees of esteemed Rural University of Guatemala on 8 August 2023. Prof. Achyuta Samanta was also honored with another prestigious Doctorate Honoris Causa by Dr. Vitalino Similox, Rector of the esteemed Mayan University of Guatemala on August 9, 2023. This recognition stands as a testament to his outstanding contributions in the field of education and his transformative impact on society. The conferred honors underscore his dedication to fostering educational advancements, promoting research, and empowering marginalized communities. This significant accolade not only acknowledges Prof. Samanta's remarkable accomplishments but also signifies a meaningful partnership between India and Guatemala in the realm of education and knowledge exchange.

The meeting on 9 August 2023 between Prof. Achyuta Samanta and Ms. Irma Elizabeth Palencia Orellana, President of the Election Commission, was a significant step towards enhancing democratic processes and fostering a culture of informed civic participation. Their dialogue revolved around the vital theme of cooperation between India and Guatemala, particularly in the context of the upcoming elections. This meeting not only showcased a shared aspiration for strengthened democratic systems but also demonstrated the transformative power of international partnerships in advancing meaningful governance and citizen engagement.

A courtesy call was made by Hon'ble Member of

MESSAGE



**DR. MANOJ KUMAR MOHAPATRA
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO GUATEMALA, EL
SALVADOR AND HONDURAS**

As we celebrate the 77th Independence Day of India, it is an honor to reflect on the enduring relationship between India and the Central American countries, especially Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Our nations share a bond that transcends geographical boundaries, rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a commitment to progress.

India's journey to independence is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our people, who courageously fought for freedom and self-determination. Today, as we commemorate this historic milestone, we also celebrate the remarkable strides India has taken in various fields, from technology and innovation to culture and diplomacy.

In our relations with Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, our partnership has flourished over the years. It is heartening to witness the collaborative efforts that have been instrumental in strengthening ties between our nations. From cultural exchanges and educational initiatives to trade and development cooperation, our engagement continues to deepen and diversify.

The Embassy's proactive engagement has extended to partnerships that foster education, capacity-building, and sustainable development. In addition to several Yoga events in Honduras and El Salvador, the Embassy has successfully organized the largest International Day of Yoga events in 2022 and 2023 in Guatemala City. These gatherings not only promote physical well-being but also symbolize the unity of our communities. Furthermore, our commercial endeavors, such as Buyer Sellers Meets and Business to Business

Meets, have paved the way for enhanced economic cooperation, fostering trade and innovation. The increasing presence of Indian companies in Central America has brought about significant economic benefits, generating job opportunities and fostering growth in the region.

Cultural diplomacy remains a cornerstone of our relations, epitomized by the vibrant Namaste India events. These cultural exchanges celebrate the rich tapestry of our traditions, arts, and heritage, strengthening the people-to-people ties that form the bedrock of our friendships. Gastronomy classes have facilitated a delightful exchange of culinary arts, enhancing cultural understanding.

Our diplomatic engagements have been marked by numerous collaborative initiatives aimed at fostering mutual growth and understanding. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program has been instrumental in promoting capacity-building, with scholars from Central America benefitting from a diverse range of courses in India. This exchange of knowledge further strengthens our bonds and contributes to the holistic development of our partner nations.

Moreover, we are thrilled to share that our commitment to enhancing diplomatic skills has taken a significant stride forward. The recent addition of specialized courses for diplomats in India has met with great enthusiasm. Notably, 36 diplomats from El Salvador recently attended the 1st Special Course for Diplomats by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) in New Delhi, a testament to our shared dedication to advancing diplomatic prowess and international relations.

Our diplomatic engagements have reached new heights, solidified by bilateral high-level Ministerial visits and successful Foreign Office Consultations that have enriched our mutual understanding and cooperation. These visits have not only reinforced the warmth of our relations but have also paved the way for meaningful partnerships in diverse sectors. India has played a significant role in the global fight against COVID-19 by providing vaccines to various countries, including those in Central America. Through its vaccine diplomacy initiative, India has been a reliable partner in delivering COVID-19 vaccines

to countries in need, including Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. India has consistently demonstrated unwavering support during times of crisis in Central America. Whether it was the devastating earthquake of 2012, the prolonged draught in 2014, or the volcanic eruption in 2018, India has stood strong in providing assistance and solidarity to the people of Guatemala. Our commitment to friendship and cooperation goes beyond borders, and in times of calamity, we have extended a helping hand to alleviate suffering and contribute to the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The connection between Hindu culture and the Mayan civilization of Central America shows intriguing parallels. Shared symbolism, intricate iconography, cosmic beliefs, and ritual practices point to common spiritual themes. Though direct historical links remain uncertain, these similarities underscore the universal human pursuit of understanding existence and the cosmos. Such resemblances might have been facilitated by ancient trade networks or independent contemplations of similar concepts. The intersection of Hindu and Mayan cultural elements offers a glimpse into the shared quest for meaning across diverse civilizations.

The legacy of these endeavors underscores India's presence and contributions in Central America. As we commemorate this milestone, let us renew our commitment to building a brighter future together. The collective efforts of India, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are testament to the enduring spirit of cooperation that defines our relationships.

As we navigate the challenges of a rapidly changing world, the spirit of friendship and cooperation remains unwavering. India is united with Central American countries by a shared vision of a better future, characterized by prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras for their warmth and friendship. May this Independence Day inspire us to strive for greater heights, as we continue to work hand in hand for the progress and well-being of our nations.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra

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**Prof Achyuta Samanta, Hon'ble
Member of Parliament and
Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar
Mohapatra with Ms. Irma Elizabeth
Palencia Orellana, President of the
Election Commission**

Parliament Prof. Achyuta Samanta and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra on the esteemed team of Congressmen led by Vice President of Congress, Mr. Boris Roberto España on 9 August 2023. During this visit, both sides engaged in fruitful discussions with members of the Congress, including H.E. Boris Roberto España and Herbert Figueroa, among others. The meeting emphasized the mutual commitment to strengthening bilateral relations between India and Guatemala, particularly in the parliamentary domain.

Hon'ble Member of Parliament Prof. Achyuta Samanta and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes, Vice President of Guatemala, demonstrating the warm and cordial relations between India and Guatemala. The discussions during the meeting centered on various avenues of collaboration, including education, culture, and economic ties. The Vice President shared insights on

Guatemala's developmental aspirations, while acknowledging the positive impact of India's expertise and cooperation. This engagement highlighted the commitment of both nations to nurturing a strong and enduring partnership for the benefit of their peoples and the broader international community.

On the 9th of August, a vibrant celebration of Odisha Day took place at the Indian Embassy premises, drawing a distinguished gathering that included the H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes, Vice President of Guatemala, congressmen, ministers, ambassadors, and esteemed dignitaries. This event served as a platform to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Odisha, a state in India, and to foster cultural exchange and diplomatic camaraderie. The presence of such eminent personalities underscored the significance of the occasion, reflecting the strong ties between India and Guatemala. It was a delightful opportunity to share the diverse traditions, art forms, and flavors of Odisha with the global community,

reinforcing the spirit of friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

Prof. Samanta is a visionary leader and a symbol of transformative change in the field of education in India. With a background deeply rooted in education and social empowerment, Prof. Samanta's journey is marked by his unwavering commitment to uplift the marginalized and provide them with opportunities for a brighter future. As the founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), he has pioneered a unique model of education that has impacted the lives of thousands, particularly tribal and underprivileged children. His passion for education, social justice, and sustainable development has earned him numerous accolades, including the prestigious Gusi Peace Prize, making him a true advocate for progress and inclusivity. As an MP, Prof. Achyuta Samanta continues to channel his energy and expertise towards advancing the well-being of his constituents and the nation at large.

India has zero-tolerance policy against corruption: PM Modi at G-20 meeting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, Aug 12, said the highest impact of corruption is borne by the poor and the marginalised and asserted it (corruption) affects resource utilisation, distorts markets, impacts service delivery and ultimately diminishes people's quality of life.

Addressing the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meet at Kolkata via video-conferencing, the PM cautioned against greed as it prevents "us from realising the truth".

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed dignitaries to the city of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Referring to the writings of Tagore, Modi cautioned against greed as it prevents us from realising the truth. He also touched upon the Upanishads that strive for 'Ma Gridha', which translates to 'let there be no greed'. Referring to Kautilya in Arthashastra, the PM said it is the government's duty to enhance the state's resources to maximise the welfare of its people. "India has a strict policy of zero tolerance against corruption," the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that India is leveraging technology and e-governance to create a transparent and accountable ecosystem.

He mentioned that leakages and gaps in welfare schemes and government projects are being plugged. As a result, the Prime Minister said hundreds of million people in India have received direct benefit transfers into their bank accounts amounting to more than 360 billion dollars helping save over 33 billion dollars.

UK marks fund on Khalistani terror as India seeks action against separatists

UK Security Minister Tom Tugendhat, on a visit to India, met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Khalistani issues and announced a £95,000 investment to enhance London's understanding of the threat posed by pro-Khalistan extremism. It will complement the joint work already underway between the UK and India through the Joint Extremism Task Force.

India, on the other hand, wants strong action, including deportation, against extremist elements for threatening officers of the Indian High Commission in London. Here to attend the G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting, the minister met his counterpart S Jaishankar on Thursday. "Discussed how India and the UK could make their partnership more contemporary and productive. The current global scenario offers many opportunities to develop our ties," said Jaishankar on X. Though the MEA is not the primary host, its spokesperson said talks were on steps "we feel all host governments should take" while declining to discuss whether India had sought additional security for its missions in countries where Khalistani separatists were especially active.

Nuh violence: Calls for economic boycott of Muslims unacceptable, says SC

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, Aug 11, remarked that calls made for economic boycott of Muslims after the communal violence in Haryana's Nuh district were "unacceptable", Bar and Bench reported.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti suggested formation of a committee headed by the Haryana director general of police to examine complaints of hate speech reported in the aftermath of the violence. If allegations are found true, the judges said that directions can be issued to the police authorities to act against the miscreants.

"The problem is, at the SHO [station house officer] level or at the level of the police station, the understanding of the nuances of the law is a little different," Justice Khanna said. "Whereas senior or mid-level officers...They can sensitise them."

Communal clashes erupted between Hindus and Muslims during the Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra, a procession organised by the Bajrang Dal and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, on July 31, and quickly spread beyond Nuh.

Hindu mobs went on a rampage in Gurugram, torching a mosque in Sector 57, killing its deputy imam and setting fire to shops and shanties of Muslim migrant workers in Sector 70 the next day.

A petition filed in the Supreme Court by journalist Shaheen Abdullah stated that over 27 rallies were organised in various states after the violence and speakers delivered hate speech, PTI reported.

"In a video that surfaced on social media on August 2, a procession by the Samhast Hindu Samaj can be seen walking through a neighbourhood in Hisar, Haryana, in the presence of police officials issuing warnings to residents/shopkeepers that if they continue to employ/keep any Muslims after two days then their shops will be boycotted," the plea said.

At Friday's hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Abdullah, said that the Supreme Court must protect people and not



allow "this kind of vitriol" to go unchecked.

Justice Khanna underlined the need to maintain harmony between communities. "This problem has to be solved," he added. "No one can accept it."

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj said that there is already a mechanism under the law to address the problem of hate speech but in some places it is not working.

When the bench asked Sibal about the idea mooted by it for setting up a committee, the lawyer submitted, "My problem is when someone threatens shopkeepers to throw out Muslims in the next two days, this committee is not going to help."

Sibal added that the police do not arrest the culprits once first information reports are registered. "Nothing happens after FIRs are registered," he lamented. "Then, what is the point of saying an FIR has been registered?"

The matter will be heard next on August 18.

Nuh action not 'ethnic cleansing': Hry tells HC

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

The Haryana government on Friday, Aug 11, told the Punjab and Haryana high court that question of "ethnic cleansing" in the demolition exercise carried out in Nuh and Gurugram does not arise and that the demolition was undertaken as per the law.

As the hearing began before the bench of justice Arun Palli and justice Jagmohan Bansal, on Friday morning, state's additional advocate general, Deepak Sabherwal, verbally told the court that it was not a case of "ethnic cleansing at all and due procedure has been followed for demolition in both the places Nuh and Gurugram".

Sabherwal sought more time to file a written statement, stating that the data is being compiled. HT reported on Wednesday, citing government officials, that around 1,200 properties, almost all belonging to Muslims were demolished.

But the court proceedings took an interesting turn when the bench said it was referring the matter back to the chief justice's bench. "It was a public interest litigation matter and as per high court rules..., should have been listed for hearing before the first division bench...", the bench said, before posting the matter for hearing on August 18.

The bench referred to Chapter 2 Rule 9 in Volume 5 of the Punjab and Haryana



high court rules, which stipulates that all suo motu public interest litigations (PIL) initiated by the high court shall be put up before the chief justice for listing before an appropriate bench as per roster within three days.

The PIL was assigned for hearing before the bench of justice Palli and justice Bansal on Friday. The first division bench, which usually hears PILs, is presided over by the chief justice RS Jha himself. But he is on leave.

In the detailed order released later, the bench said, "In the wake of the detailed note recorded by the office. Let this petition, along with miscellaneous applications, be placed before the 1st division bench on 18.08.2023." Contents of the note was not reflected in the order.

Meanwhile, in the brief hearing, a lawyer appearing for affected locals in Nuh also tried to point out that

demolitions were carried out without any prior notice and private properties were targeted. However, the advocate general, BR Mahajan submitted that action was as per law.

On August 7, a division bench comprising justice GS Sandhawalia and justice Harpreet Kaur Jeewan took suo motu on the demolitions and observed that the law-and-order situation seemed or be "a ruse" to demolish buildings without due process. The bench further asked if the action was an "exercise of ethnic cleansing" by the state.

On Thursday evening, the case was assigned to a new bench, without any reason for the change being mentioned. And on Friday, perhaps closing the loop, the new bench has referred the case back to the chief justice.

The demolition exercise began in Nuh on August 3, four days after communal violence erupted in the district on July 30 during a Hindu religious procession.

The violence eventually spiralled and spread to neighbouring districts, including Gurugram, where mobs set afire a mosque and pillaged several shops and restaurants. The demolitions continued till the morning of August 7, when the high court intervened and questioned the government over the manner it was being carried out.

Source: HT

AAP's Raghav Chadha suspended from Rajya Sabha for 'violation of rules'

AP MP Raghav Chadha who was accused of not taking the consent of five Rajya Sabha MPs before including their name to a select committee has been suspended from the Upper House of Parliament on Friday, Aug 11, -- until the committee of privileges investigating the case against him submits its report. The motion of suspension was moved by Piyush Goyal who said Raghav Chadha's action was unethical. Chadha's conduct was unexpected and unbecoming of a member of Parliament, Goyal said accusing Chadha of breach of privilege.

Five Rajya Sabha MPs — S Phangnon Konyak, Narhari Amin and Sudhanshu Trivedi of BJP, M Thambidurai of AIADMK and Sasmit Patra of BJD — said that their name was included without their consent in a select committee moved by Raghav Chadha in the House.

Raghav Chadha refuted the allegations and said an MP can propose the name for the formation of any committee and neither the signature nor the written consent of the person whose name is proposed is required. "Suppose I organise a birthday party and invite 10 people. Eight of them come, and two don't accept my invite. Instead, they charge me, 'how dare you invite us to your birthday?' This is what happened. I just invited them (MPs) to be part of the committee," Raghav Chadha said.

Instead of expressing remorse for his unethical conduct, Raghav Chadha in his interaction with the press outside the House ridiculed the objections raised by his fellow parliamentarians for including their names, Goyal said as he moved the motion against Chadha in the Upper House.

Rahul attacks Modi: Cracking jokes while Manipur burning doesn't suit PM

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, Aug 11. He said that while the Parliament was discussing Manipur, the prime minister was laughing and cracking jokes. The Congress leader said that the Indian Army can end the Manipur violence in two days but the prime minister does not want to extinguish the fire.

Gandhi also criticised the prime minister's reply to the no-confidence motion and said that his speech was about himself, his view and politics and had little to do with Manipur. PM Modi devoted just two minutes on Manipur in his speech stretching up to 2 hours and 13 minutes, said Gandhi.

Referring to PM Modi's remarks that there would be a no-confidence motion in 2028, Rahul Gandhi stated that the question was not if Modi will become PM in 2024 but of Manipur, where children and people are being killed.

"I watched the PM yesterday speaking for two hours laughing, joking, 'lagaoing naaras'. The Prime Minister seems to have forgotten that the state of Manipur is on fire and has been on fire for many days," Gandhi said.

"The Prime Minister sitting in the middle of Parliament was shamelessly laughing..It doesn't suit him. The issue was not Congress or me, the issue was what is happening in Manipur and why it was not being stopped," he said.

"The PM at least could go to Manipur, talk to communities and say I am your PM, let's start talking, but I don't see any intention," the Congress MP said.

He said that there has been no dialogue in Manipur that continues to witness relentless violence. The first step is to put an end to the violence, said Gandhi.

Gandhi said that his words that PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have 'murdered Bharat Mata in Manipur' were not hollow words. "Hindustan has been murdered by BJP in Manipur," he said. The Congress MP also spoke about the suspension of Opposition MPs from the Parliament. He added that their job will not change even if the government suspends Opposition MPs, and that their job is to end the violence there.

Rahul Gandhi Leaves For Wayanad, First Time After Being Reinstated As MP

Rahul Gandhi left for his parliamentary constituency in Kerala's Wayanad on Friday, Aug 11, from his residence in Delhi,



for the first time after being reinstated as Lok Sabha MP.

Lok Sabha Secretariat on Monday restored the membership of Rahul Gandhi after the Supreme Court on August 4 stayed his conviction in the 'Modi' surname remark case.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee Working President VT Siddique said, "Rahul Gandhi will be coming to Wayanad on August 12. We are going to arrange a warm reception for him and the preparations have already started. There is a district Congress Committee meeting tomorrow. Rahul Gandhi will be present for it on August 12 and 13".

"There will be a very warm welcome ever hand in the history of Wayanad for Rahul Gandhi," Mr Siddique added.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi has reportedly also been re-allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow, party sources told news agency ANI.

NCERT forms new panel for content in school textbooks

NEW DELHI (TIP)

NCERT has constituted a committee including author and Infosys Foundation chair Sudha Murthy, singer Shankar Mahadevan, and economist and member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council Sanjeev Sanyal, to finalise the curriculum, textbooks and learning material for classes 3 to 12.

The 19-member National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) will be headed by National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) chancellor MC Pant, according to an internal note of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), a copy of which has been seen by HT.

The committee will work to align the curriculum with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) developed by the K Kasturirangan-led steering committee as a part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. While the final NCF-SE has already been submitted with the Union ministry of education, it is yet to be released in the public domain. The draft of the framework was released in April.

According to the note, NSTC will be empowered to develop the school syllabus, and teaching and learning material for classes 3 to 12; it will also work on "appropriately revising" the existing textbooks of classes 1



and 2 to ensure a smooth transition to NCF. "The textbooks and other learning material developed and finalised by NSTC shall be published and distributed by the NCERT," the note added.

The committee is co-chaired by Manjul Bhargava, a professor of mathematics at Princeton University. Its other members include mathematician Sujatha Ramdorai, badminton player U Vimal Kumar, chairperson of Centre for Policy Studies MD Srinivas, and chairperson of Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti Chamu Krishna Shastry.

A senior ministry official said that experts from different domains have been selected as members of the committee,

and that its chairperson will now constitute various Curriculum Area Groups (CAGs) by engaging different subject experts.

"CAGs will assist NSTC to develop textbooks and learning material for each of the subjects included in the syllabus. NSTC will be free to invite other experts for advice, consultation, and support," this person added, requesting anonymity. Chamu Krishna Shastry said that 11 CAGs will be constituted to work on the 11 domains mentioned in NCF-SE including mathematics, science, physical education, and social sciences. "More than 1,000 subject experts will be engaged in the process of curriculum development and textbook designing."

Shastry added that the committee will aim to complete the process by the end of this academic year so that the new textbooks will be ready before the beginning of next session. To support the functioning of NSTC, NCERT has also constituted a National Oversight Committee (NOC) that will be chaired by the chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Jagbir Singh.

"NOC will provide detailed orientation to the members of NSTC and others including CAGs. It will ensure full alignment of textbooks, syllabus and teaching learning material to NCF-SE," said a senior NCERT official who asked not to be identified.

Source: HT

India in history this Week

AUGUST 11, 2023, TO AUGUST 17, 2023

11 AUGUST



1908 The revolutionary Khudiram Bose was hanged.
1961 Dadar Nagar Haveli was merged with India and made it a Union Territory. Like Goa, this area was also in the Portuguese colony for many years.
2004 India and Pakistan exchanged lists of wanted criminals.
2007 Mohammad Hamid Ansari became the 13th Vice President of India in 2007.
2008 Integrated Steel Manufacturers Godavari Power and Ispat signed a MoU of Rs 1570 crore with the Government of Chhattisgarh in 2008.

12 AUGUST

1765 The British East India Company's rule began in India under the Allahabad Treaty.
1919 Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space program, was born in Ahmedabad.



2009 India's famous economist C. Rangarajan was appointed as the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.
2008 Aamir Khan was awarded the Golapudi Srinivas Memorial Award 2008 for his film Taare Zameen Par.



1945 George Sidney Arundel, an Englishman who devoted his life to India, died.

13 AUGUST

1795 Queen Ahilyabai Holkar died.
1936 Famous Indian woman revolutionary Bhikaji Cama died.
1956 The National Highway Bill was passed in the

Lok Sabha.

1951 Hindustan Trainer 2, the first aircraft manufactured in India, took its first flight.
1784 Pitt's India Bill introduced in the British Parliament for administrative reforms in India.
2008 Tata Steel, the world's leading steel company, entered into an agreement with two major companies to jointly build a steel complex in Vietnam.
2008 India successfully tested the multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) weapon system Pinak.



1936 The famous Indian cinema actress Vyjayanthi Mala was born on 13 August 1936.

14 AUGUST

1862 Bombay High Court was established.
1924 Birth of renowned writer and journalist Kuldeep Nayyar.
1947 Partition of India, Pakistan became a separate nation.



1968 Morarji Desai honored with Pakistan's highest civilian honor, Nishan-e-Pakistan.
1956 Indian comedian Johnny Lever was born.

15 AUGUST

1772 The East India Company decided to set up separate civil and criminal courts in the districts.
1854 East India Railway ran the first passenger train from Calcutta to Hooghly in a distance of 37 km. However, it was officially inaugurated in 1885.
1872 Writer and litterateur Sri Aurobindo was born.
1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of independent India.
1950 An earthquake of 8.6 magnitude killed 20 to 30 thousand people in India.
1972 Postal index number ie PIN code is implemented.
1982 The national program of nationwide color broadcasting and TV was inaugurated in Delhi.
1990 The ground-to-air missile Akash was successfully launched.
1907 It was founded on 15 August as part of the Indian Bank-Swadeshi movement.



16 AUGUST

1886 Ram Krishna Paramahansa Dev breathed his last at the Twilight Vela.
1946 The Muslim League declared a direct action day, during which around 5000 people were killed and 15,000 were injured in Kolkata during the violence.



2018 Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died at the age of 93.

17 AUGUST

1909 Madan Lal Dhingra was hanged in the Pentonvilli prison in connection with the murder of Vayali and Lalkaka.
1947 After the independence of India, the first British troops left home.
1941 Bimal Jalan, the 20th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, was born on 1941.



2011 Lokpal movement: Anna Hazare continued his fast in Tihar, despite his release in 2011, till he got written permission to continue his fast in JP Park.
2009 On the issue of internal security, the one-day conference of all the Chief Ministers of the country was held in New Delhi on 2009 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

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History of India's freedom struggle

The country is gearing up to celebrate its 77th Independence Day on August 15. The day marks the country's independence from British Raj 76 years ago. It honors our freedom fighters, the history of our country, its culture, and the nation's achievements. People mark this day by attending social gatherings, cultural events, hoisting the Tricolor or tiranga, watching parades, citizens singing patriotic songs, and more.

In ancient times, people from all over the world were keen to come to India. The Persians followed by the Iranians and Parsis immigrated to India. Then came the Moghuls and they too settled down permanently in India. Chengis Khan, the Mongolian, invaded and looted India many times. Alexander the Great too, came to conquer India but went back after a battle with Porus. He-en Tsang from China came in pursuit of knowledge and to visit the ancient Indian universities of Nalanda and Takshila. Columbus wanted to come to India, but instead landed on the shores of America. Vasco da Gama from Portugal came to trade his country's goods in return for Indian spices. The French came and established their colonies in India.

Lastly, the Britishers came and ruled over India for nearly 200 years. After the battle of Plassey in 1757, the British achieved political power in India. And their paramouncy was established during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie, who became the Governor-General in 1848. He annexed Punjab, Peshawar and the Pathan tribes in the north-west of India. And by 1856, the British conquest and its authority were firmly established. And while the British power gained its heights during the middle of the 19th century, the discontent of the local rulers, the peasantry, the intellectuals, common masses as also of the soldiers who became unemployed due to the disbanding of the armies of various states that were annexed by the British, became widespread. This soon broke out into a revolt which assumed the dimensions of the 1857 Mutiny.

The Indian Independence Movement incorporated the efforts by Indians to liberate the region from British, French and Portuguese and form the nation-state of India. It involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions between 1857 and India's emergence as an unified nation-state on August 15, 1947.

Revolt of 1857

Also called India's first war of independence, it began at Meerut on May 10, 1857, and slowly spread across Delhi, Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow.

It was the first significant uprising against the East India Company. Although the Revolt was unsuccessful, it had a significant impact on the masses and inspired India's entire Independence Movement.

It was the revolt of 1857 which gave a clear message to the British Crown that the East India Company had failed to exercise control over the country, demonstrating its incapacity.

The British East India Company's control came to an end with this fight for independence.

After the British Crown seized control of India from the East India Company in 1858, it became a British colony in law. Following this, India was directly



governed by the British government through governors general.

Swadeshi Movement - 1905-1911

The Swadeshi Movement was a consequence of Lord Curzon's announcement for the partition of Bengal in 1905, on the grounds that the population of Bengal as a whole would be difficult to govern over.

However, the British declared the division of Bengal into two provinces with the intention of undermining nationalist unity.

The "Boycott" resolution was adopted at a conference held at the Calcutta Town Hall on August 7, 1905, thus establishing the Swadeshi movement and bringing its previously fragmented leadership under one leadership.

The goal of the Swadeshi movement was to encourage the usage of local goods and services while denouncing

their British counterparts. This raised India's economic standing and demonstrated to the British that Indians could live independently.

When British products were openly torched, this movement became violent. The British started detaining the agitators to address this issue, and ultimately Bengal was partitioned.

The Swadeshi Movement was a turning point in Indian history because it demonstrated the nation's unity and helped people see that they could defeat the British if they united.

Ghadar Movement- 1914-1917

The Ghadar Movement was a significant turning point in India's quest for independence. Early in the 20th century, a number of stringent immigration laws based on racial discrimination were put in place to reduce the number of Indian

immigrants coming to Canada in search of employment.

Komagata Maru Incident: A ship from Canada by the name of Komagatamaru that was carrying immigrants from India was sent back. Several of the ship's passengers were killed or detained in a clash with the British police as it headed back to India. The Komagata Maru episode attracted worldwide attention and condemnation for the violation of human rights and racism. The episode further inspired the Ghadar party to engage in its struggle against colonial rule, and therefore it indirectly gave a fillip to the Indian struggle for freedom.

After the brutal British repression, the Ghadar Movement started to wane. 1917 saw the Ghadar Party split into a Communist and a Socialist faction following the end of World War I.

The Ghadar movement might be characterised as a story of extraordinary bravery, labour and toil that affected every Indian living in foreign countries.

The powerful speeches by its leaders did shape the expatriate opinion against the misrule of the British in India.

It truly qualifies as a major struggle which aroused the people to fight for freedom and sowed seeds for any other future course of action.

Home Rule Movement - 1916-18

Home Rule Movement served as the country's response to the First World War and a powerful means to express opposition to British rule.

Home Rule Movement was started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at Belgaum in April 1916 and later by Annie Besant in Madras in September 1916.

This movement was targeted at achieving self-rule, without the interference of the British Government.

Movement sought to demonstrate the strength of India and its people by raising political awareness and assembling a bigger political representation for the nation in opposition to British Rule.

This movement resulted in the 1917 Montague Declaration, which said that there would be a greater representation of Indians in the administration, fostering the growth of institutions for self-governance and finally bringing about responsible governments in India.

Champaran Satyagrah - 1917

Champaran Movement was Mahatma Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience during the struggle for independence, which took place in the Bihar region of Champaran in 1917.

Gandhi was persuaded by an indigo farmer, Rajkumar Shukla, to visit Champaran to look into the plight of the farmers, who were subjected to oppressive regulations and high taxes. Under the tinkathia system, they were compelled to grow indigo by the British colonists.

Gandhi gathered support from the local farmers and masses to organise

nonviolent protests against planters and landlords, and as a result, the government decided to do away with the oppressive tinkathia system. Additionally, the peasants were compensated with a part of the money taken from them.

Gandhi organised three protests in Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda during the years 1917 and 1918, before beginning the Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Although the Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be organised, the term 'Satyagraha' was first used during the anti-Rowlatt Act protest, which means, a non-violent method of protest.

Rowlatt Satyagraha- 1919

The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, passed by the British Indian government, was more often known as the Rowlatt Act.

The Act granted the government the authority to imprison anyone accused of engaging in terror activities for up to two years without a trial. The freedom of the press was likewise severely restricted by the Rowlatt Act.

Mahatma Gandhi began a non-violent Satyagraha on April 6, 1919, to protest against the British government's unfair Rowlatt Act, which was called the Rowlatt Satyagraha.

A nationwide hartal was declared and people were asked to hold meetings against the repressive act and refrain from going to work.

While the hartal was successful in Delhi, violence was witnessed in Punjab and a few other places. Therefore, Gandhi suspended the hartal in the wake of the violence.

The infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place in Amritsar on 13th April 1919, was also the result of the protest against the Rowlatt Act. This incident was a great reason for Indians to struggle for India's independence even harder.

Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement - 1920

Khilafat Movement: The Indian Muslims were not happy with the way the British dethroned the Caliph in Turkey. So, in 1919, various protests were held against the Britishers. The Muslim League and Congress came together during this time. Both of these parties worked together to organise numerous political protests. The movement was initially introduced on August 31, 1920, when the Khilafat Committee began a campaign of non-cooperation.

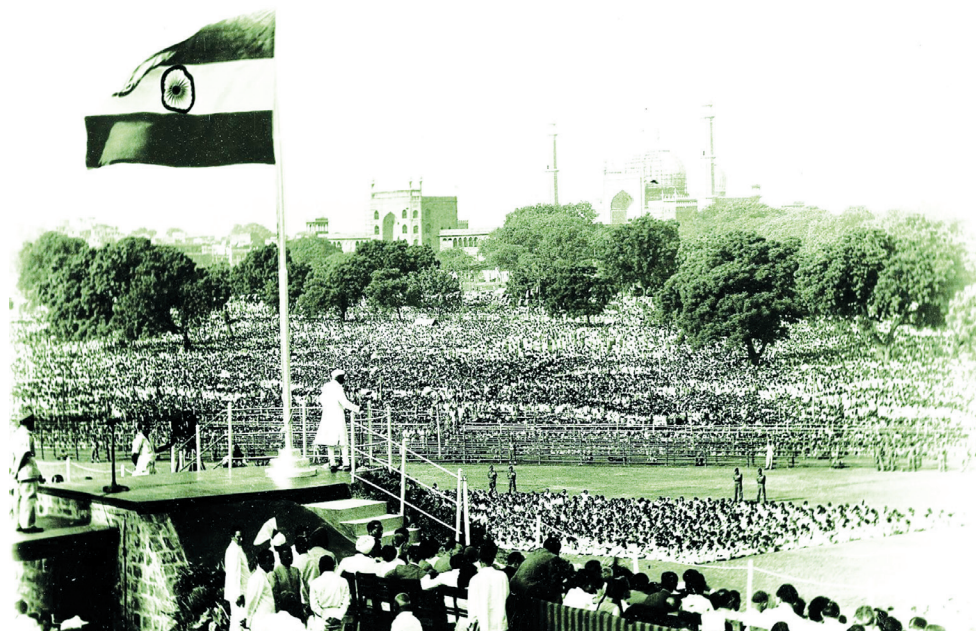
The Indian National Congress (INC), led by Mahatma Gandhi, began the Non-Cooperation Movement on September 5, 1920. The Non-Cooperation Movement is one of the key movements in India's independence struggle. It was initiated by Gandhi in support of the Khilafat Movement.

The aim was to boycott major social programmes, events, offices and schools to resonate with India's struggle for independence. In his declaration Gandhi, wanted people to adopt Swadeshi principles and work for the eradication of untouchability from society.

The open, non-violent protest against the government by thousands of Indians was a true mass movement.

The Indian National Congress called for self-government or Swarajya and only non-violent methods were asked to be used while protesting

However, following the Chauri Chaura



incident in February 1922, where during a fight between the police and protesters a violent crowd set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen, Gandhiji decided to put an end to the movement.

Civil Disobedience Movement - 1930

Mahatma Gandhi led a non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement in colonial India known as the Salt March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, the Dandi March, and the Dandi Satyagraha.

By 1930, the Congress Party had announced that the only goal of the

liberation movement should be Poorna Swarajya or total independence. The 26 January 1930 was declared Poorna Swarajya Day.

The movement began in 1930 after Indians became angered when the British imposed a tax on the sale and collection of salt, and Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.

On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, a seaside town in Gujarat, where they produced

salt from seawater in violation of the law. More than 60,000 individuals were detained as the movement swept across the nation, including Mahatma Gandhi.

When Gandhiji was finally allowed to leave prison in 1931, he met with Lord Irwin, who was keen to put a stop to the civil disobedience movement and the media attention it had garnered.

The Gandhi-Irwin Pact stipulated that the civil disobedience campaign would be put an end to in exchange for allowing Indians to produce salt for household use. Lord Irwin also consented to the Indians' detention being lifted. Gandhiji participated in the London Second Round Table Conference as a "equal."

Quit India Movement - 1942

The INC called for a widespread civil disobedience movement when the Cripps Mission, which arrived in India in March 1942, was unable to promise any type of constitutional remedy for India's issues.

The idea of an independence movement in India was accepted by the Congress Working Committee at its Wardha meeting on July 14, 1942.

Gandhi began this movement in August 1942 in an effort to compel the British to leave India. This campaign, known as the "Bharat Chhodo Andolan," compelled the British colonial authorities to consider leaving India.

The outcome of the movement was that Congress was declared an unlawful association and its offices all over the country were raided. The leaders were arrested and there rose a chaotic moment with this incident.

Despite heavy-handed suppression by the government, the people were unfazed and continued their struggle.

The movement placed the demand for complete independence at the top agenda of the freedom movement.

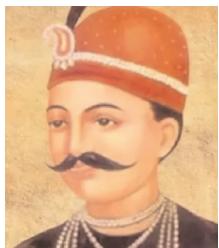
Independence, 1947 to 1950

On 3 June 1947, Viscount Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General of India, announced the partitioning of the British Indian Empire into a secular India and a Muslim Pakistan. At midnight, on 15 August 1947, India became an independent nation. Violent clashes between Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs followed. Prime Minister Nehru and Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel invited Lord Mountbatten to continue as Governor General of India. He was replaced in June 1948 by Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. Patel took on the responsibility of unifying 565 princely states, steering efforts by his "iron fist in a velvet glove" policies, exemplified by the use of military force to integrate Junagadh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Hyderabad state into India.

The Constituent Assembly completed the work of drafting the constitution on 26 November 1949; on 26 January 1950 the Republic of India was officially proclaimed. The Constituent Assembly elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India, taking over from Governor General Rajgopalachari. Subsequently, a free and sovereign India absorbed two other territories: Goa (liberated from Portuguese control in 1961) and Pondicherry (which the French ceded in 1953-1954). In 1952, India held its first general elections, with a voter turnout exceeding 62%; this made it the world's largest democracy.

Indian Freedom Fighters

Behind the ceremony of Independence, 15th of August 1947, there is a violent and disordered history of furious rebellions, fights, and activities carried out by thousands of enthusiastic Indian freedom fighters to free India from British rule. Many of India's freedom fighters fought, suffered, and died. The Indian freedom fighters did not only play an essential part in the country's independence, but they also left a legacy of daring, unwavering resolve, and steadfast devotion to the country. They inspire millions to fight and preserve our precious freedom, even after their death.



Tantia Tope (1814–1859)

Tantia Tope was one of the Indian rebellions of 1857. He served as a general and led a group of Indian soldiers against the British. He was an ardent follower of Nana Sahib of Bithur and continued to fight on his behalf when Nana was forced to retreat by the British army. Tantia even forced General Windham to retreat from Kanpur and helped Rani Lakshmi of Jhansi to retain Gwalior.



Nana Sahib (1824 – 1857)

After leading a group of rebellions during the 1857 uprising, Nana Sahib defeated the British forces in Kanpur. He even killed the survivors, sending a hard-hitting message to the British camp. Nana Sahib was also known as an able administrator and is said to have led around 15,000 Indian soldiers.



Kunwar Singh (1777-1858)

At the age of 80, Kunwar Singh led a group of soldiers against the British in Bihar. Using guerrilla warfare tactics, Kunwar bedazzled the British troops and managed to defeat the forces of Captain le Grand near Jagdispur. Kunwar Singh is known for his bravery and was fondly called as Veer Kunwar Singh.

Rani Lakshmi Bai (1828–1858)



One of the key members of India's first war of independence, Rani Lakshmi Bai went on to inspire thousands of women to join the fight for freedom. On 23 March, 1858 Lakshmi Bai defended her palace and the entire city of Jhansi when it was threatened to be captured by British troops led by Sir

Hugh Rose.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856-1920)



Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the most prominent freedom fighters of India who inspired thousands with the slogan – "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it". As a form of protest against the British, Tilak established schools and published rebellious newspapers. He was famous as one of the trios – Bal, Pal and Lal. People loved him and accepted him as one of their leaders and so, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.

Mangal Pandey (1827-1857)



Mangal Pandey is said to have played a key role in inspiring Indian soldiers to start the great rebellion of 1857. Working as a soldier for the British East India Company, Pandey started firing at English officials and caught them unawares. His attack is regarded as the first step of the Indian rebellion that started in 1857.

Begum Hazrat Mahal (1820–1879)

Working along with leaders like Nana Saheb and



Maulavi of Faizabad, Begum Hazrat Mahal rebelled against the British during the revolt of 1857. She was successful in taking control of Lucknow after leading the troops in her husband's absence. She rebelled against the demolition of temples and mosques before retreating to Nepal.



Ashfaqulla Khan (1900–1927)

Ashfaqulla Khan was a firebrand among the young revolutionaries, who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. He was an important member of the Hindustan Republican Association. Khan, along with his associates, executed the train robbery at

Kakori for which he was arrested and executed by the British.

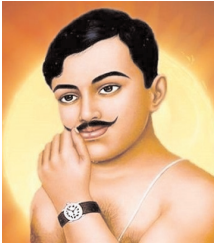
Bipin Chandra Pal (7 November 1858 – 20 May 1932)



Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the key members of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter. He advocated the abandonment of foreign goods. He, along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, spearheaded many revolutionary activities. For this reason, he is called as the 'Father of Revolutionary

Thoughts.'

Chandra Shekhar Azad (23 July 1906 – 27 February 1931)



One of the close associates of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad is credited for reorganizing Hindustan Republican Association. Azad, as he was popularly called, is known as one of the bravest freedom fighters of India. At the time of being surrounded by British soldiers, he killed many of

them and shot himself to death with the last bullet of his Colt pistol. He did so, as he never wanted to be captured alive.

Chittaranjan Das (5 November 1869 – 16 June 1925)



Chittaranjan Das founded the Swaraj Party and was an active participant in the Indian National Movement. A lawyer by profession, Chittaranjan is credited for successfully defending Aurobindo Ghosh when the latter was charged under a criminal case by the British. Popularly known as Deshbandhu, Chittaranjan Das is best known for mentoring Subhas Chandra Bose.

Birsa Munda (15 November 1875 – June 9 1900)



Principally a religious leader, Birsa Munda used the religious beliefs of his tribe in order to revolt against the government of British. He implemented guerrilla warfare techniques to upset the rhythm of the British troops. In 1900, Birsa, along with his army, was arrested by the British soldiers. He was later convicted and was lodged in a jail in Ranchi.

Surya Sen (22 March 1894 – 12 January 1934)



Surya Sen is credited for planning and executing a raid that aimed at seizing the weapons of police forces from the Chittagong armoury of British India. He led a battalion of armed Indians to carry out the task. He is known for turning youngsters into firebrand revolutionaries.

Surya Sen is among thousands of young Indians who lost their lives, battling for an independent India.

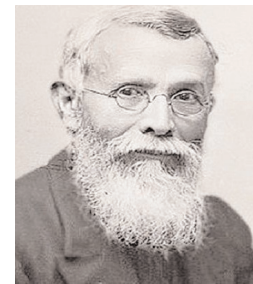
Subramania Bharati (11 December 1882 – 11 Sept 1921)



A poet by profession, Subramania Bharati used his literary skills to inspire thousands of Indians during the independence movement. His works were often impassioned and patriotic in nature. In 1908, Bharati had to flee to Puducherry when the British government issued an arrest warrant against him. A

prominent member of the Indian National Congress, Bharati continued his revolutionary activities from Puducherry.

Dadabhai Naoroji (4 September 1825 – 30 June 1917)



Credited with establishing the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji is remembered as one of the most prominent members to have participated in the independence movement. In one of the books published by him, he wrote about the colonial rule of the British which was precisely aimed at looting

wealth from India.

Khudiram Bose (3 December 1889 – 11 August 1908)



Khudiram Bose was one of those young revolutionaries and freedom fighters whose deeds of bravery went on to become the subject of folklore. He was one of those brave men who challenged the British rule and gave them a taste of their own medicine. At the age of 19, he was martyred, with 'Vande Mataram' being his last words.

Lakshmi Sahgal (24 October 1914 – 23 July 2012)



A doctor by profession, Lakshmi Sahgal, popularly known as Captain Lakshmi, encouraged women to join the troop led by Subhas Chandra Bose. She took the initiative of forming a women's regiment and named it 'Rani of Jhansi regiment'. Lakshmi fought vigorously for the Indian independence before she was

arrested by the British government in 1945.

Lala Har Dayal (14 October 1884 – 4 March 1939)

A revolutionary among Indian nationalists, Lala Har Dayal turned down a lucrative job offer and went on to inspire hundreds of non-resident Indians to fight



against the atrocities of the British Empire. In 1909, he served as the editor of *Bande Mataram*, a nationalist publication founded by the Paris Indian Society.

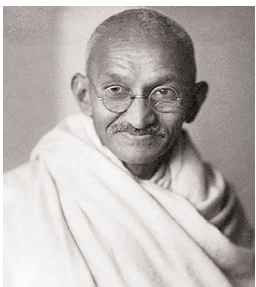
Lala Lajpat Rai (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928)



One of the most important members of the Indian National Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai is often revered for leading a protest against the Simon Commission. During the protest, he was assaulted by James A. Scott, the superintendent of police, which ultimately played a role in his death. He was a part of the famous triumvirate called

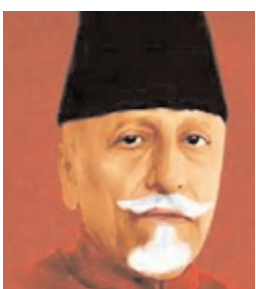
'Lal Bal Pal.'

Mahatma Gandhi (2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948)



Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian independence movement and was successful in freeing India from the clutches of the British. He employed non-violence and engaged in various movements as part of his inspiring protest against the British rule. He went on to become the most significant freedom fighter and hence is called as the 'Father of the Nation.'

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (11 Nov 1888 – 22 Feb 1958)



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a great freedom fighter. Maulana Azad took part in most of the important movements. He presided over the special session of Congress in September 1923 and at the age of 35 he became the youngest man to be elected as the President of the Congress.

Ram Manohar Lohia (23 March 1910 – 12 October 1967)



One of the founding members of the Congress Socialist Party, Ram Manohar Lohia was an active member of the Indian independence movement. Lohia was a key member in organizing the Quit India Movement, for which he was arrested and tortured in 1944. He even worked for the

Congress Radio which operated secretly, propagandizing anti-British messages.

Ram Prasad Bismil (11 June 1897 – 19 December 1927)



Ram Prasad Bismil was one of those young revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. Bismil was one of the most important members of the Hindustan Republican Association and also a prominent member of the group that was involved in the Kakori train robbery. He was sentenced to death

by the British government for his involvement in the famous train robbery.

Rash Behari Bose (25 May 1886 – 21 January 1945)

Rash Behari Bose was one of the most important revolutionaries who tried to



assassinate Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy of India. Along with other revolutionaries, Bose is credited for organizing Ghadar Mutiny and the Indian National Army. He was also involved in persuading the Japanese to help the Indians in their struggle for freedom.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 Oct 1875 – 15 Dec 1950)



His brave deeds earned Vallabhbhai Patel the title, 'the iron man of India.' For his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel came to be known as Sardar. Though he was a famous lawyer, Sardar Patel gave up his profession in order to fight for the freedom of the country. After the independence, he became the deputy Prime Minister of

India and played an important role in the integration of India by merging numerous princely states with the Indian Union.

Bhagat Singh (1907 – 23 March 1931)



The name Bhagat Singh is synonymous with sacrifice, courage, bravery and vision. By sacrificing his life at the age of 30, Bhagat Singh became an inspiration and a symbol of heroism. Along with other revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. To

remind the British government of its misdeeds, Bhagat Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. By embracing death at a young age, Singh became a symbol of sacrifice and courage, thereby residing forever in the hearts of every Indian.

Rajguru (26 Aug 1908 – 23 March 1931)



A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Shivaram Rajguru was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Shivaram is mainly remembered for his involvement in the assassination of John Saunders, a young British police officer. With an intention of killing

James Scott, the police superintendent who had assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai just two weeks before his death, Shivaram mistook John for James and shot him to death.

Subhas Chandra Bose (23 Jan 1897 – 18 August 1945)



Popularly known as Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose was a fierce freedom fighter and popular leader on the political horizon of pre-independent India. Bose was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1937 and 1939. He founded the Indian National Army and raised the famous slogans, 'Delhi Chalo' and 'Tum

Mujhe Khoon Do main Tumhe Ajadi Doonga.' For his anti-British remarks and activities, Bose was jailed 11 times between 1920 and 1941. He was the leader of the youth wing of Congress Party.

Sukhdev (15 May 1907 – 23 March 1931)



One of the key members of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Sukhdev was a revolutionary and a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. He too, was involved in the killing of John Saunders, a British police officer. Sukhdev was captured, along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru, and was

martyred at the age of 24.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 – 26 Feb 1966)

The founder of Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was an activist and was popularly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar. Also an eminent writer, Savarkar published a book titled 'The Indian War of Independence' that spoke about the struggles of the Indian mutiny of 1857.

Madan Mohan Malaviya (25 Dec 1861 – 12 Nov 1946)



An important participant of the Non-Cooperation Movement, Madan Mohan Malaviya served as the President of Indian National Congress on two different occasions. On 25 April, 1932, he was arrested for his participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Malaviya was also a central figure during the protests

against the Simon Commission in 1928.

Sucheta Kriplani (25 June 1908 – 1 December 1974)

The founder of 'All India Mahila Congress', Sucheta Kriplani became an important associate of Gandhi during the Partition riots. Along with other freedom fighters like Aruna Asaf Ali and Usha Mehta, Sucheta became an important member of the Quit India Movement. She was also active in politics post-independence and became the country's first woman Chief Minister.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (2 February 1889 – 6 Feb 1964)



A co-founder of the All India Women's Conference, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was one of the most important members of Dandi March in 1930. After being imprisoned for her participation in the Dandi March, Amrit Kaur went on to actively participate in the Quit India Movement for which she was once again jailed by the

British authorities.

Udham Singh (26 December 1899 – 31 July 1940)



Udham Singh was one of the most important and famous revolutionaries who took part in the Indian independence movement. He is remembered for avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by brutally murdering Sir Michael O'Dwyer on March 13, 1940. For his act, Udham Singh was convicted and was eventually sentenced to death.

Madan Lal Dhingra (8 February 1883 – 17 August 1909)



One of the earliest revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland, Madan Lal Dhingra served as an inspiration to other important revolutionaries, such as Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad. When he was studying Mechanical Engineering in England, Dhingra murdered Sir William

Hutt Curzon Wylie for which he was sentenced to death.

Kartar Singh Sarabha (24 May 1896 – 16 November 1915)



Kartar Singh Sarabha was one of the most famous revolutionaries who sacrificed his life at the age of 19. Sarabha joined the Ghadar Party, an organization formed to protest against the British rule, at the age of 17. He, along with his men, was arrested when a member of the Ghadar Party betrayed them by informing the police about

their hiding place.

India after Independence: Achievements and progress

India earned independence on August 15, 1947. It became one of the biggest democracies in the world. After 76 years of gaining independence, India has walked a long way. They have built a surplus economy and defiled evil forces from within to remain a democracy

From being an education hub of the world in ancient times to becoming the IT hub of the world today, the Indian landscape has come a long way. Taking 15th August 1947 as our frame of reference, we find that there are several fields like science and technology, economy, and human development where India has shown remarkable progress. However, some fields like health and education still seem to be taken care of. Let us look at these aspects of Indian development individually.

Science and Technology

When the Britishers left India, they left behind a broken, needy, underdeveloped, and economically unstable country. After independence, India prioritized scientific research in its first five-year plan. It paved the way for prestigious scientific institutes like IITs and IISc. After just three years of independence, the Indian Institute of Technology has established in 1950. These institutions promoted research in India with the aid of foreign institutions. From launching its first satellite Aryabhata in 1975 to being the first country to reach the orbit of Mars, India has taken confident strides in the field of space research technology, thanks to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). We can proudly state that India is standing on a par with countries like USA and China, same goes with the field of biotechnology also where India is producing vaccines for the entire world. The success of UPI is also a case study for the world with 9.36 billion transactions worth Rs. 10.2 trillion in Q1 of 2022 only.

Achievements

1951: The first Five Year Plan draft has a dedicated chapter on "Scientific and Industrial Research".

1953-54: Samarendra Kumar Mitra builds India's first indigenous electronic analogue computer at the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

1954: First particle accelerator cyclotron becomes operational. Astrophysicist Meghnad Saha and later nuclear physicist B.D. Nagchaudhuri led the team that built it at the University of Calcutta.



1954: Homi J. Bhabha sets up the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay. It was named the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre after his death. The Department of Atomic Energy comes



into being through a presidential order.

1958: Parliament formulates and adopts the Scientific Policy Resolution. It embodied Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of India as a welfare state where social transformation was possible only through investment in science and technology.

1959: The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, builds India's first digital computer called TIFRAC (TIFR Automatic Computer).

1960: The CFTRI develops the first baby milk food from buffalo milk (Amul) after multinationals refused to set up a manufacturing facility in India because the country was short of cow milk and buffalo milk was not suitable as it had too much fat.

1962: Nehru establishes Indian National Committee for Space Research under the DAE. It was renamed Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969.

1963: G.N. Ramachandran, along with his colleagues C. Ramakrishnan and V. Sasisekharan, develop what is today called the "Ramachandran plot", a tool used universally in the field of protein conformation.

1963: Vikram Sarabhai establishes India's first rocket launching station at Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram.

1964: Under the aegis of TIFR, cosmic ray experiments begin at abandoned mines at Kolar Gold Fields at a depth of 2.3 km. KGF is credited with the discovery of atmospheric neutrinos.

1965: Mathematicians M.S. Narasimhan and C.S. Seshadri from TIFR prove the Narasimhan-Seshadri Theorem. Perhaps the most significant mathematical result to come out of post-Independence India.

1968: The Green Revolution is launched under the premiership of Lal Bahadur Shastri, led by M.S. Swaminathan with the political support of Agriculture Minister C. Subramaniam.

1970: A team led by Govind Swarup of TIFR builds the Ooty Radio Telescope. Uniquely, the telescope sits on a natural slope of 11 degrees, which matches the

latitude of the location, allowing it to track celestial sources for up to 10 hours in the east-west direction.



1974: Pokhran-1, India's first nuclear test, is conducted on May 18.

1975: On April 19, "Aryabhata", India's first indigenously designed and built satellite, launched. On August 1, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment, one of the largest of its kind anywhere, starts. The aim: use of satellite technology to telecast educational programmes.

1978: India's first, and the world's second, test-tube baby, "Durga", born in Calcutta on October 3.

1983: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi unveils government's Technology Policy Statement at a session of the Indian Science Congress in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, in January.

1983: The Integrated Guided Missile Programme starts on July 26 under the leadership of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Director, DRDL. Prithvi, Trishul, Akash, Nag and Agni are the result.

1983: India establishes its scientific base station (Dakshin Gangotri) in Antarctica, about 2,500 km from the South Pole, for research in oceanography, geology, glaciology, geomagnetism, and environmental sciences. In 1988, this was abandoned and a new station, Maitri, also India's first permanent station, was set up 90 km from the first one.

1984: Centre for Development of Telematics is set up under Sam Pitroda with scientists and engineers from TIFR and the Telecom Research Centre of the DoT. Its mandate: develop a telephone digital switching system based on what had been developed for the Army. The

result: first Rural Automatic Exchange in 1985.

1985: The Indian Railways reservation system IMPRESS (Integrated Multi-train Passenger Reservation System) launched in New Delhi on October 15.

1986: India's first parallel computing supercomputer, Flosolver, built at the National Aeronautics Laboratory becomes operational in December.

1988: The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology develops DNA fingerprinting technology. India becomes third country to develop the technology.

1989: Standardisation of the design of the 220 MWe Indian Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor.

1994: The radio astronomer Govind Swarup of TIFR completes his Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope at Narayangaon, near Pune. It pioneered new techniques in antenna design and is one of the largest and most sensitive low frequency range radio telescopes in the world.

1997: Shantha Biotechnics, a private company based in Hyderabad, launches India's first recombinant health product, a hepatitis B vaccine called Shanvac-B.

1999: India's first synchrotron radiation source, Indus-1, with a beam energy of 450 MeV, becomes operational at the DAE's Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Indus-2, with a beam energy ramped up to 2.5 GeV, becomes operational in 2005.

2000-01: The Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO), built and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, in Hanle near Leh in Ladakh, is inaugurated in June.

2001: The maiden flight of Tejas, the indigenously designed and built light combat aircraft, on January 4. Designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency and built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Tejas has now been inducted into the Air Force and the Navy.

2002: On August 6, computer scientist Manindra Agrawal and his students Neeraj Kayal and Nitin Saxena at IIT Kanpur published a first-ever algorithm to determine (in finite time) whether any given number is prime or composite in a provably deterministic manner. In 2006, the authors receive both the Gödel Prize and Fulkerson Prize for their work.

2008: ISRO launches India's first mission to the moon on October 22.

2009: Launch of the first of the Arihant-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines developed under the



Advanced Technology Vessel project, a collaboration between DAE and DRDO that began in the 1990s. Arihant is the first ballistic missile submarine to have been built by a country other than the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.



2013: ISRO launches a spacecraft to Mars on November 5, called Mars Orbiter Mission or Mangalyaan. ISRO becomes the fourth space agency to send a spacecraft into a Martian orbit and the first one to do so on its maiden attempt.

2013-14: Development of a paediatric vaccine to prevent rotavirus infections, a leading cause of diarrhoea among children. Developed by a team of scientists under the aegis of India's Department of Biotechnology, it was licensed for production by the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech under the brand name Rotavac.

2014: WHO declares India polio-free on March 27.

2015-16: After two decades of R&D, ISRO develops India's first indigenous cryogenic engine for its launch vehicle programme.

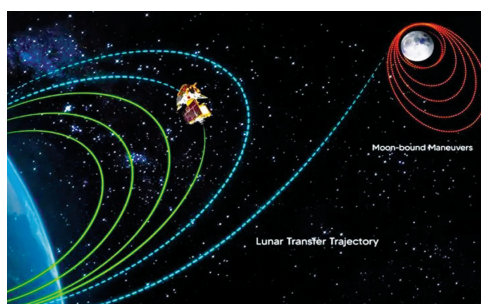
2015-16: The detection of gravitational waves in September 2015 (announced in February 2016) and June 2016 by the US-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory is made possible by the mathematical technique developed by Sanjeev Dhurandhar and B. Sathyaprakash at the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune. It proves to be the most important and sensitive tool for extracting the extremely feeble gravitational wave signal from the accompanying huge amount of extraneous astronomical noise.

2020-21: Entering into collaboration with the ICMR in May 2020, Bharat Biotech develops India's first indigenous vaccine against SARS-COV-2 called Covaxin, an inactivated virus vaccine that gets EUA on January 3, 2021.

In August 2021, ZydusCadila gets EUA for India's first indigenous plasmid DNA vaccine, which has been deployed since February 2022.

July 30, 2023: ISRO's PSLV-C56 puts 7 satellites in orbit; four more missions this year

Aug 6, 2023: Chandrayaan-3 Successfully inserted into Lunar Orbit



Progress of Indian education sector after Independence

Over the course of 7 decades after Independence, the education system of India has evolved gradually yet phenomenally. From a literacy rate of 18% in 1951, we have moved up to 77.7%. Currently, the education system in India is the strongest and largest in the world hosting more than 315 million students. In the following years, the education system started getting influenced by various institutions. During the late nineteenth century, the Theosophical Society of India and Rama Krishna Mission started to merge the western ideals of education with the Indian roots to inspire the students and make them accepted universally.

At the time of independence, India was lagging behind on a number of developmental indicators. The British government had not prioritised educating the general population. It was up to the leaders involved in the freedom struggle to deal with these challenges and come up with a way to make India a modern, educated and developed nation.

Despite several hurdles in their way, our leaders succeeded in their aims to a great extent. It was due to their efforts that India could progress from a mere 27 universities in 1950-51 to 1,113 at present. The country has 11,296 standalone institutes and 43,796 colleges.

Whether it was primary education, growth of schools and universities or other educational indicators, India has progressed in leaps and bounds since it became independent in 1947.

The establishment of the University Grants Commission, All India Council of Technical Education, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and more in the decades after independence has helped India become a powerhouse of learning.

Female education was not given much importance at the time of independence. Most people in the country were extremely reluctant to send their girls to school.

However, the situation has changed. According to data by the Press Information Bureau, girls now outnumber boys in school education.

The wide gender gap in the field has been closed off for students in classes I to VIII. For primary school (class I to V) students, there are now 1.02 girls for every boy, a sharp jump from 0.41 girls in 1950-51. For upper primary (classes VI to VIII) the number is 1.01 girls per boy.

Literacy rate

The literacy rate in India jumped from 18.3% in 1951 to 78% in 2023. Female literacy saw the most remarkable turnaround in the period, surging from 8.9% to 92% in the same period.

Number of schools and colleges

Every government of independent India has focused on making educational facilities more available to the general public. The number of schools has increased to over ten times from 1.4 lakh at the time of independence to 15 lakh in 2020-21.

The number of colleges has also witnessed a steep rise. From 578 colleges in 1950-51, India now has 42,343 colleges. The number of universities in the same period surged from 27 to 1,043.

One significant sector that has seen a surge is medical education. The number of medical colleges has increased over 21 times in the last 70 years. From 28 medical colleges in 1951, the number has gone up to 703 colleges.

Another cornerstone of India's education sector is the National Education Policy 2020 which has been brought out by the current Union government.

The policy aims to revolutionise education in India especially through regional language becoming a medium of instruction in schools.

The policy will also pave the way for an increased role for foreign universities in India.

The benefits of the National Education Policy 2020 will decide where the nation stands in the next few decades.

In India, where there are 500 million people, 18% of them are between the ages of 15 and 24 and are enrolled in secondary and higher education. In India, the adult literacy rate (15+ years) is 69.3%, with adult males having a literacy rate of 78.8% and adult females having a literacy rate of 59.3%.

A globally recognised curriculum

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is just



one of many school boards in India. However, it is often considered the best and most studied. It is known for its emphasis on holistic development and co-curricular activities. Moreover, the CBSE programme is geared toward students who wish to enter the medical and engineering fields.

Accessible and compulsory education

The Constitution states that all children aged six to fourteen have the fundamental right to education. As a result, no child gets left behind, with over 1 million schools in India providing high-quality and accessible education. Additionally, the best have quickly adapted to the "new normal." Nowadays, schools offer both in-classroom and online classes, ensuring that each student completes their education regardless of their pace.

Affordable fee structures

Did you know that Indian schools are relatively more affordable than other institutions around the world? Schools supported by the government can provide free education in line with the Constitution. Of course, private schools will have different fee structures; however, you can ensure that the quality of education your child receives from the is a worthwhile investment.

The Indian education system has come a long way from the age of the gurukuls to the digitally-driven smart classes. And in the past few decades, it is striving hard to match the pace of the global village. From the Right to Education, 2009 act to the National Education Policy 2020, there is a lot that we have already achieved.

The enrolment ratio of children in the age group of 6-11 was 43% in 1951; however, in 2001 India saw 100% enrolment, driven mainly by the various Government schemes and campaigns. The Kothari Commission (1964-66) was the first attempt by the Central Government to create a uniform and forward-looking vision for the Indian education system.

It brought together 20 education sector experts for their suggestions on the future of the Indian education system. The National Education Policy (NEP) of 1968 was set up as per the Commission's recommendations. The policy was an important initiative in the Indian education sector as it put forward a 'National School System' which encouraged access to education irrespective of students' caste and sex.

Healthcare in India has made great progress, but challenges remain

In the last 76 years, India has emerged with new dynamics and has made significant progress in various spheres like the economy, healthcare, education, space, and technology among others. After freeing itself from the clutches of the British rulers, over the next decades India had taken some crucial steps to improve healthcare accessibility and availability. Post-independence India's most noteworthy achievement, in the public health arena, has been the decrease in death rates (mortality). From launching national-level and ambitious initiatives to reducing and controlling some of the deadly diseases, India has come a long way. Let's have a look at some of the important achievements of India's healthcare system in the last 76 years:

Improved Life Expectancy

In the last 76 years, India has improved tremendously with respect to life expectancy. In 1947, the expectancy of an average Indian citizen was around 32 years and it has increased to 70.42 years in 2023. The increase in life expectancy in the last 76 years has been over 100 per cent. United Nations-World Population Perspective states that the average global life expectancy is 72.98 years. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India has significantly improved its people's health outcomes. According to experts, life expectancy is one of the most important and most used indicators for human development. Several studies have revealed that India's life expectancy has increased due to the better availability of treatments, medicines, and evolving technology. The current life expectancy for India in 2023 is 70.42 years which is a 0.33 per cent increase from 2022. Experts opine that there have been significant enhancements in infant and child mortality along with maternal mortality that has led to the longevity of life in the country.

Decline in Child, maternal mortality rate

According to United Nation projections, India's current infant mortality rate in 2023 is 26.619 deaths per 1000 live births, 3.89% decline from 2022. The findings of the National Health Family Survey-5 (NHFS-5) revealed that IMR has marginally declined in nearly all states and Assam has seen one of the largest drops in IMR, from 48 deaths (per 1,000 live births) to 32 deaths.

Meanwhile, in the 1940s, the Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) was 2000/100,000 live births, which apparently came down to 1000 in the 1950s. Moreover, India is also a signatory to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which adopted a global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) target of fewer than 70 deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030. The Registrar General of India says the MMR has declined by 10 points. It has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19 which is an 8.8 per cent decline.

Control of Communicable Diseases:

Since gaining independence, India has launched several national programmes to curb the menace of communicable diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, and AIDS, among others. According to a study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in 1947, 75 million malaria cases in a population of 330 million were estimated in India. During the eradication era in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a spectacular achievement was witnessed on the malaria eradication front because malaria cases significantly declined to just 100,000 in 1964. Despite the reversal which led to around 6.4 million cases in 1976, the cases of malaria have declined significantly over the year. According to the WHO's latest World Malaria Report 2021, of the world's 11 highest burden countries, only India registered progress against malaria. Meanwhile, India's success in Polio has been acclaimed around the globe. Until the early 1990s, Polio was hyperendemic in India, with an average of 500 to 1000 children getting paralysed daily. India was declared



Polio free in 2014 and no new case of Polio has been reported in the country since January 2011. With respect to Leprosy, India is running one of the largest leprosy eradication programmes in the world, the National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP). India's performance in smallpox eradication has been commendable too. After years of being one of the countries with the highest number of smallpox cases, the country declared itself smallpox free in 1979. Similarly, India has made significant progress in controlling diseases like Tuberculosis, Cholera, Kala Azhar, and HIV.

Healthcare policies and govt schemes

Since India became independent in 1947, the government has launched various policies and schemes to improve healthcare facilities in the country. Over the decades, the government has launched schemes like National Health Mission (NHM) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve child and maternal health. Meanwhile, there are schemes that are launched as a part of these missions including Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) enables direct cash transfer to pregnant mothers, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) allows pregnant mothers to deliver in government hospitals for free, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutva Abhiyan (PMSMA) focuses on providing good antenatal care and specifically identifying and managing high-risk pregnant mothers. In 2018, a centrally-sponsored Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) was launched which is the largest Government funded health assurance/insurance scheme in the world. In this scheme, financial risk protection is provided by the government against catastrophic health expenditure that impoverishes an estimated 6 crore people every year. Moreover, the government has launched several other schemes like Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), enhanced the quality of medical education in the country and the extensive improvement in healthcare infrastructure since independence. With over 92,000 seats, there are now 612 medical colleges in India as compared to 28 in the 1950s.

Public healthcare is free for every Indian resident. The Indian public health sector encompasses 18% of total outpatient care and 44% of total inpatient care. Middle and upper class individuals living in India tend to use public healthcare less than those with a lower standard of living. Additionally, women and the elderly are more likely to use public services. The public health care system was originally developed in order to provide a means to healthcare access regardless of socioeconomic status or caste. However, reliance on

public and private healthcare sectors varies significantly between states. Several reasons are cited for relying on the private rather than public sector; the main reason at the national level is poor quality of care in the public sector, with more than 57% of households pointing to this as the reason for a preference for private health care. Much of the public healthcare sector caters to the rural areas, and the poor quality arises from the reluctance of experienced healthcare providers to visit the rural areas. Consequently, the majority of the public healthcare system catering to the rural and remote areas relies on inexperienced and unmotivated interns who are mandated to spend time in public healthcare clinics as part of their curricular requirement. Other major reasons are long distances between public hospitals and residential areas, long wait times, and inconvenient hours of operation.

Major challenges

India has made significant strides in its healthcare sector; however, there remain several challenges that need to be addressed.

Five main interrelated challenges facing India's population: cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and obesity.

Rising obesity rates, particularly in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, increase the risk of other health issues.

Building awareness and promoting healthy lifestyles is necessary to save lives and prevent chronic medical conditions.

Infrastructure

The state of infrastructure varies across states with some having better arrangements than others.

Urban areas need to bridge the gap in hospital services between large urban areas and tier II and III cities. Standalone hospitals and nursing homes provide much-needed service but are unable to provide multi-speciality, leave alone tertiary and quaternary care.

The gaps between services available in metros and big cities and in districts must be bridged.

Health Insurance

Over the past three years, more than four crore Indians have bought health insurance. Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme for 10 crore poor families provides insurance against hospitalization for up to Rs 5 lakh per year per family. Nearly 74 per cent of Indians are either covered or eligible for health insurance coverage, but millions remain uninsured. Out-patient doctor consultation costs, diagnostics, and drugs remain a financial burden for many.

Indian economy since 1947, a look at key milestones

Over the last seven decades, the Indian economy has seen several ups and downs. The country has gone from having a GDP of just Rs 2.7 lakh crore at the time of Independence to Rs 272.41 lakh crore. Once branded a “third world country”, India is now among the biggest economies of the world. India’s economic history has been marked by several critical milestones amongst which are the crisis years of 1966, 1981 and 1991, and India’s emergence from the economic crisis as the world’s fastest growing major economy.

Currently, India is the world’s fifth-largest economy, behind Germany, Japan, China and the U.S.

Pre-liberalisation socialist economy

India’s economic policy after independence was influenced by the colonial experience. Independent India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru expected the nation’s growth to flourish as an outcome of the strategy that involved rapid development of heavy industry by both public and private sectors. The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 proposed a mixed economy. Earlier, the Bombay Plan, proposed by eight influential industrialists including JRD Tata and GD Birla, envisaged a substantial public sector with state interventions and regulations to protect indigenous industries.

Planning Commission, rapid industrialisation in the 50s

India set up the Planning Commission in 1950 in order to oversee the entire range of planning, including resource allocation, implementation and appraisal of five-year plans. The five-year plans were centralised economic and social growth programmes modelled after those prevalent in the United Socialist Soviet Republic (USSR) at that time. The first five-year plan, launched in 1951, focused on agriculture and irrigation to boost farm output as India was losing foreign reserves on foodgrain imports. The second five-year plan launched in 1956 laid the foundation for economic modernization to better serve India’s long-term growth imperatives. It advocated rapid industrialization with a focus on heavy industries and capital goods.

Nationalisation

From 50s to 91, several industries, companies were nationalised by the government. Under the Air Corporations Act that came into force on 28 May 1953, Parliament voted to nationalise nine airlines—Air India, Air Services of India, Airways (India), Bharat Airways, Deccan Airways, Himalayan Aviation, Indian National Airways, Kalinga Airlines, and the Air India International—and replaced them with Indian Airlines and Air India International. The political success of this single Act captured and consolidated the government’s attitude towards the private sector and set the pace for the nationalisation of several other sectors, notably banking, life insurance, general insurance and mining. The next prominent nationalisation happened in 1969 when Indira Gandhi announced nationalisation of 14 leading banks late on July 19. The move was aimed to encourage businesses in order to serve better the needs of the country’s economy.

Free India’s first big financial scam

In 1957, Mundhra scandal, independent India’s first big financial scam, was raised by Feroze Gandhi – Indira Gandhi’s husband. He had found evidence that Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) had bought fraudulent stock worth Rs 1.24 crore in six companies owned by Kolkata-based Haridas Mundhra, without mandatory consultation with its investment committee. It led to the resignation of then finance minister T T Krishnamachari.

Crisis after Nehru; Green, White Revolution to the rescue

The quest to quickly industrialise the nation caused a large reallocation of funds away from the farm sector.



As a result, food shortages worsened, and inflation spiked in the country. In 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri became India’s Prime Minister after Nehru’s demise. Besides the already persisting inflation, food shortages, the war with China had exposed more of India’s economic weakness. Shastri thought that India needed to move away from centralised planning and price controls and he renewed focus on agriculture.

Shastri’s focus on food security arose from the fact that in the 1960s, India was on the verge of a mass famine, and food aid imports from the US were beginning to hit India’s foreign policy autonomy. This led to geneticist MS Swaminathan, along with Norman Borlaug and other scientists, stepping in with high-yield variety seeds of wheat, setting off what is now known as the Green Revolution. Following the success of the Green Revolution, Shastri turned his attention to KDCMPUL – now Amul – union to expand its work, ushering in the White Revolution.

Famine, Wars leave economy crippled in mid-60s, Rupee devalued

The 1960s was a decade of multiple economic and political challenges for India. While the wars with neighbours China and Pakistan caused economic and social hardships for the masses, the deaths of Nehru and Shastri in quick succession had caused political instability. In 1966, the country was in a dire situation as the wars had left the economy severely weakened and the vital monsoon rains had also failed, worsening food shortages and causing a sharp spike in inflation. The constant need to import food grains or seek foreign aid also posed a serious risk to India’s political economy. Indira Gandhi piloted a number of policies in an attempt to trigger economic growth. In an attempt to come out of the crisis, Indira Gandhi on 6 June 1966 devalued the Indian rupee from Rs 4.76 to Rs 7.50 to a dollar in one swoop.

Liberalisation

In 1991, the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was India’s major trading partner, and the Gulf War, which caused a spike in oil prices, resulted in a major balance-of-payments crisis for India, which found itself facing the prospect of defaulting on its loans. India had asked for a \$1.8 billion bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which demanded de-regulation in return. In response, the Narasimha

Rao government, including then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, initiated economic reforms in 1991. These reforms aimed to liberalise the economy by doing away with the Licence Raj. They also reduced tariffs and interest rates and ended many public monopolies, allowing automatic approval of foreign direct investment in many sectors.

2008 Stimulus tap to escape the great recession

In 2008, when it became clear that India would not emerge unscathed from the cascading impact of the Lehman collapse, the government announced three stimulus packages in the space of three months between December 2008 and February 2009, totalling Rs 1,86,000 crore or 3.5% of the GDP. India’s fiscal deficit touched 6% of the GDP in 2008-09, from being just 2.7% in the previous year. Over seven months between October 2008 and April 2009, the RBI eased monetary conditions dramatically and the government continued with the stimulus in 2009-10 too which led to fiscal deficit touching 6.4% of the GDP. The economy staged an impressive rebound. However, the government failed to close the tap and the fiscal stimulus was never withdrawn. To this day, India’s fiscal deficit continues to hover around 6% of the GDP.

GST, Demonisation

Two of the most talked about economic events in the 21st century are Demonetisation and Good & Services Tax (GST). On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared on national television and said all Rs 500, Rs 1,000 high value notes will turn invalid by midnight. The move was aimed at flushing out black money hidden from the taxman. This announcement led to nearly 86 percent of the currency in circulation becoming invalid by midnight. Close on its heels, the GST regime was introduced in 2017.

After the GST Council approved The CGST Bill 2017, The IGST Bill 2017, The UTGST Bill 2017, The Compensation Bill 2017, these bills were passed by the Lok Sabha on 29 March 2017 and Rajya Sabha on 6 April 2017 and were then enacted as Acts on 12 April 2017. Thereafter, State Legislatures of different states passed respective State Goods and Services Tax Bills. After the enactment of various GST laws, GST was launched all over India with effect from 1 July 2017.

India on path of 'aatmanirbharta' in defense

India has been making progress with its self-reliance project or the Atmanirbhar Bharat (AB) initiative that was launched in May 2020. This flagship undertaking has shown signs of incremental progress in the defense sector. Independent of AB, examples of successful defence indigenisation under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have largely been confined to missile technology. But by the end of 2022, the defence ministry disclosed that under AB's Positive Indigenization List (PIL) a total of 3,700 items have been taken off the import list and sourced from the domestic industry.

Military Strength Ranking of India

India's Military Strength Ranking in the world is fourth. For 2022, India is ranked 4 out of the 142 countries that are considered for the Global GPF review. India holds a PwrIndx score of 0.0979. In general, a score of 0.0000 is considered perfect. Above India are three major countries: the United States of America, Russia, and China respectively.

The military forces of the Republic of India include Indian Army Forces. It comprises three main services: the Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army.

The Central Armed Police Forces, Indian Coast Guard, Assam Rifles, Special Frontier Force, and several inter-service commands and institutions together support the Indian Armed forces.

The President of India is known to be the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. India has around 13,25,000 active frontline personnel, around 6500 tanks, a total of 1905 aircraft, and 15 submarines.

Regiments in the Indian Army

In the Indian Army, there are a total of 65 regiments. The army recruits are selected in these regiments as per their skill and valor.

All the regiments of the Indian army have made great sacrifices for the country over the years and have protected our country.

Every regiment is unique in its own way. Each regiment plays a significant role in bringing about operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Each regiment of the Indian army specializes in its particular field. Some of the most important regiments of the Indian Army include the Dogra Regiment, Gorkha Regiment, Ladakh Scout Regiment, Kumaon Regiment, Sikh Regiment, and so on.

At the time of independence 76 years ago, our military was highly combat-experienced, having participated in World War II. However, we were taken by surprise by Pakistan in 1947 and by China in 1962. But today, we are the ones who are surprising our adversaries, be it the Surgical Strikes or Balakot air strikes, be it stopping the Chinese advance in Doklam in 2017 or blocking them at Ladakh in 2020.

In 1947, Pakistan employed invaders as well as army soldiers to attack Jammu & Kashmir, which led to J&K joining India. Then the Indian Army was inducted, and they stopped the Pakistan advance bravely. In 1962, Indian Army was surprised by Chinese assaults in the face of peace overtures between both countries. It was more a political failure than a military one.

The Many Past Successes of the Indian Military

The Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 was a huge victory with unprecedented success; 93,000 Pakistani soldiers laid down their arms in a formal surrender ceremony and another country was created. It was arguably the largest victory since World War II.

All along, the Indian Army also continued to battle internal insurgencies when the state governments and Union police forces could not control the situation in Northeast, Punjab, and J&K. In 1987-89, Indian Army conducted operations in Sri Lanka at the request of Sri Lanka government. The Indian Army acquitted itself well and helped the neighbour. It is not easy to fight an insurgency in another country, as the fiascos in



Vietnam and Afghanistan have shown. In 1988, Indian Army assisted the Maldives government against a coup by a swift and professional response. These operations go to show the country's capability and the faith reposed by the neighbouring countries.

In the 1980s, Indian Army also established dominance at the Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world. In 1998, India successfully carried out the nuclear tests again and entered the select club of nuclear nations. In 1999, Pakistan intruded forces in Kargil with a sinister aim to cut off the Siachen glacier and Ladakh. The Indian Army resolutely evicted the intruders, with scores of frontal battles at the icy heights with young leaders doing the country proud by leading from the front and inspiring the soldiers to success against all odds.

Another common denominator is the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), in which the Indian Army is supposed to be the instrument of last resort, but more often than not ends up being the first responder. We have provided HADR to other countries as well, which has earned global appreciation.

Making the Army Future-Ready

This was our past, but we can't rest on old laurels, we must make the army future-ready. The need of the hour is to prepare the army for the future, and convert India from a military force to a military power. In brief, we have to prepare for future conflicts, a two-front threat, and grey zone warfare.

In recent years, certain bold operational decisions have been taken, and some transformational changes have been initiated, yet much more needs to be done. When terrorists launched an attack on the Army Base at Uri and we lost 18 young soldiers, Indian Army boldly launched surgical strikes at the terrorist camps across the Line of Control. The enemy was taken totally by surprise, as he had least expected this unprecedented action. A couple of years later when we lost 40 CRPF men to a terror attack launched by a Pakistan-based terror outfit, India's precision air strikes caused havoc at a terrorist camp at Jabba Top near Balakot, deep inside Pakistan. On the LAC, when the Chinese PLA attempted to advance into Bhutan territory at Dolam Plateau, the Indian Army forced the PLA to stop on his side of the LAC in 2017. In 2020, when PLA tried to alter the LAC unilaterally in Ladakh, they were stopped at the expense of a bloody battle at Galwan, in which both

sides lost soldiers, for the first time in half a century.

Military reforms had been ushered in after the Kargil war, but were left unfinished. HQ Integrated Defence Staff had been raised, but a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) had not been appointed. This shortcoming was removed and a CDS was appointed on 1 January 2020 to usher in transformational reforms and integration of structures and processes of armed forces. This was a game changer. Raising a separate Department of Military Affairs was another significant reform, which was a long-standing need to streamline the office procedures. Such reforms will go a long way to strengthen military machinery for a shorter decision matrix, which is the need of the hour in this era where multiple inputs have to be processed simultaneously to arrive at decisions with speed.

Sensitive to the demands of new-age warfare, Defence Cyber and Space Agencies have been raised. Information Warfare processes have also been strengthened and integrated. A Special Operations Division has also been established to coordinate the Special Forces operations of all three services. Such structures will help in negotiating the grey zone warfare.

The Importance of Self-Reliance

No country that aspires for a regional role can remain dependent on foreign arms and equipment. Hence, some transformational and never-before reforms have been ushered in to make India self-reliant (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in defence needs. A boost has been given to domestic industry and special incentives to the private sector. Under strategic partnership, defence manufacturers are being encouraged to form a partnership with foreign defence manufacturers to bring in better technology as well as investment. Since India is a huge defence market, big global players are keen to set up shop here.

For the first time, an allocation of 25% percent of R&D budget has been reserved for the private sector. Several advanced countries follow this model, and it will pay good dividends in the long run. The government has announced a negative import list, or a positive 'atmanirbharta' list, listing over 300 defence components that cannot be imported; they must be procured indigenously. Such steps will give a boost to the private sector, especially Medium and Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs).

Infrastructural developments in India

The India of today is different from India at the time of freedom. In the 76 years of independence, Indian Infrastructure has improved drastically. The overall length of the Indian road network has grown from 0.399 million km in 1951 to 4.70 million km as of 2015, which makes it the third largest roadway network in the world. Additionally, India's national highway system now spans 1, 37, 625 kilometres in 2021, up from 24,000 km (1947–1969).

After over 70 years of independence, India has risen to become Asia's third-largest electricity generator. It increased its ability to produce energy from 1,362 MW in 1947 to 3, 95, 600 MW. In India, the total amount of power produced increased from 301 billion units in 1992–1993 to 400990.23 MW in 2022. The Indian government has succeeded in lighting up all 18,452 villages by April 28, 2018, as opposed to just 3061 in 1950, when it comes to rural electrification.

India's infrastructure services are slowly but steadily moving away from the realm of government control to that of the private sector. Across sectors ranging from telecommunications and roads to power and ports, state-owned agencies are giving way to private sector entities operating in a competitive environment and subjected to economic regulation where necessary. Governments at both central and state levels are actively engaged in managing this transition, devising appropriate policy frameworks and establishing suitable institutions such as the central road fund and independent regulatory authorities in power and telecommunication sectors.

Telecommunications



Since India's independence, its telecommunications sector has continued to be governed by the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, which placed all telecommunications within the government domain. Telecommunications services were the exclusive monopoly of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, which had the mandate to regulate and provide these services. Public ownership over the next several decades hampered growth of the sector, leaving India's teledensity (defined as main lines per 100 inhabitants) among the lowest in the world: 0.4 in 1980 and 0.7 in 1990. The extremely high level of unfulfilled demand was evident from the long waiting lists and the willingness of Indian subscribers to pay large up-front payments for telephone connections.

The government initiated partial reforms in 1985, when the Department of Posts and Telegraphs was divided into separate entities, the Department of Posts and the Department of Telecommunications. In 1986 the government spun off basic telephone services in the two metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai into a new public sector entity, the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. Overseas communication services were transferred to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. Subsequently, the government ushered in the National Telecom Policy of 1994, which allowed private participation in both basic and cellular services. In 1997 the government enacted legislation to establish the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

The process of liberalization received further fillip in 1999 with the adoption of the New Telecom Policy of 1999, which permitted the entry of multiple players into all segments, including fixed line, cellular, and long distance telecommunications. Furthermore, the policy-

making and service-providing functions of the Department of Telecommunications were separated; the latter were transferred to a new company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. In addition, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act was amended in 2000, to bring clarity to the authority's functions and powers, and a separate Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal was established to adjudicate disputes.

In November 2003 the government issued guidelines for converging the hitherto disparate basic and cellular licenses into Unified Access Services Licenses. This process of license unification is likely to be extended to other service segments. Today, most major telecommunications operators are aggressively seeking to expand their operations. These expansion plans will, however, require substantial additional investment, and will prove to be a considerable challenge for private players due to the steep decline in tariffs.

The cellular subscriber base nearly doubled in 2002–2003 to reach 12.7 million, and again in 2003–2004, to 26 million.

Power



Private sector participation in the power sector is not new to India. In fact, at the time of independence in 1947, private sector utilities and licenses accounted for over 80 percent of all electricity supplied in India. Immediately after independence, the Electricity Supply Act of 1948 vested responsibility for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity to State Electricity Boards (SEBs), marking the first shift toward public ownership in the power sector. Within the next decade, the state electricity boards took over almost all private sector power licenses.

Ports



India has over 3,728 miles (6,000 km) of natural coastline and is strategically well-positioned on global trade routes. India has 13 major ports and over 181 minor ports (of which 139 are operational), which together handle the bulk of India's foreign trade. Most of the major ports in India were established after independence, except for Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay), which were built in the nineteenth century by the British. Responsibility for all major ports has mainly been, and still is, in the domain of the central government. The thirteen major ports handled over 280 million metric tons of cargo in 2001–2002, mostly petroleum, iron ore, and coal; they operate under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Shipping. The

Tariff Authority for Major Ports regulates prices at the major ports, while the remaining ports fall under the jurisdiction of their respective state governments.

Roads

India's total road network, stretching approximately about 2 million miles (3.3 million km), is the second-largest road system in the world, comprising national highways, state highways, major district roads, and rural roads. Since independence the road network has suffered from a lack of funds, poor monitoring, and inadequate supervision of road projects. Maintenance has been a low priority, which has led to appalling safety conditions, resulting in over 70,000 fatalities per year. Only 46 percent of India's roads are paved, and of those only 20 percent are in good condition. The last few years have seen a rapid increase in motor vehicles and a marked deceleration in the development of road capacity, as over 85 percent of passenger traffic and 70 percent of freight traffic is carried by the road network. As a result, roads have become congested, and the quality of road travel has deteriorated substantially.

Airports

Airports play a critical role in promoting trade, tourism, and the economic development of a country. The Airports Authority of India was constituted in 1995 to bring about integrated development and the expansion and modernization of operational, terminal, and cargo facilities at India's airports. Out of a total of 400 airports/airfields/airstrips in the country, the authority manages 94 civil airports (of which 11 are international airports) and 28 civil enclaves at defense airfields. These airports handled over 44 million passengers in 2002–2003 (15 million international and 29 million domestic). The authority is responsible for providing air traffic services over the Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic areas.

Railways



The Indian Railways (IR) is over 150 years old. Since independence, the IR has remained a government enterprise and it currently operates the world's second-largest rail network under single management, with a route length of over 39,500 miles (63,000 km). The railways carry over one million metric tons of freight and transport over 10 million passengers a day (of which over 5 million are in Mumbai's suburban network). The annual revenue of the IR is approximately U.S.\$5.5 billion, of which freight transport accounts for 70 percent and the balance is passenger traffic.

IR is now facing strong competition from road transport, pipelines, and air transport. Arbitrary pricing policies by the government, especially after 1985, prevented IR from raising passenger fares in line with rising costs, and led to heavy cross-subsidization by overcharging freight customers. Greater customer orientation, more flexibility, and the lower costs of road transport, contrasted with the slow movement and poor service quality of the railways, induced many freight customers to move to relatively cheaper road transport. IR is also plagued by very high operational expenses. In 2000–2001, operating ratio—that is, ratio of total working expenses to gross traffic receipts—reached 98.5 percent. Even as IR is unable to generate enough internal resources to contribute to investment plans, the government too reduced its level of financial support to the railways in the last decade.

Foreign relations of India

India is a member of several intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank, BRICS, and the G-20, which is widely considered the main economic locus of emerging and developed nations. India exerts a salient influence as the founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement. India has also played an important and influential role in other international organisations, such as the East Asia Summit, World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund (IMF), G8+5 and IBSA Dialogue Forum. India is also a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. As a former British colony, India is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and continues to maintain relationships with other Commonwealth countries.

India-United States relations

U.S.-India relations entered a new chapter as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden announced a slew of technology and defense deals, during Modi's recent visit to the United States.

"When India and the U.S. work together on semiconductors and critical minerals, it helps the world in making supply chains more diverse, resilient and reliable," Modi said during a speech to the joint session of the U.S. Congress. "We were strangers in defense cooperation at the turn of the century, but now the United States has become one of our most important defense partners."

The two nations strengthened their defense partnership, striking deals that include building General Electric F414 jet engines in India and repairing deployed U.S. Navy ships in Indian shipyards.

Still, the U.S. and India are not allies and their relationship will be very different from what other countries in the region have with Washington.

India-China LAC row

As the military standoff with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) enters its fourth year, New Delhi is in no mood to acquiesce to Beijing's recent efforts to promote a narrative that the situation in Ladakh is stable and moving towards "normalised management".

The border row in eastern Ladakh erupted into the open with a skirmish between troops of the two nations at Pangong Lake in early May 2020. A brutal clash at Galwan Valley the following month, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers and at least four Chinese troopers, took bilateral ties to their lowest point in six decades.

The resolution of outstanding problems along the LAC appears elusive, with the latest round of military talks between the two sides on April 23 yielding no outcome, and the last breakthrough coming in September 2022.

India-China relations cannot be normalised without peace and tranquillity on the LAC, the people cited above said, requesting anonymity. In this context, they pointed to friction points such as Depsang and Demchok and external affairs minister S Jaishankar's recent remarks that the situation on the LAC remains "very fragile" as there are



points where Indian and Chinese troop deployments are "quite dangerous".

Indo-Pakistan relations

The two nations have a complicated and mainly antagonistic relationship founded on several historical and political events, most notably the partition of British India in August 1947; the India-Pakistan border is one of the world's most militarised international boundaries.

Since British India's partition in 1947, territorial disputes over the Kashmir area have caused two of the three major Indo-Pakistani wars, in 1947 and 1965, and a limited war in 1999 (Kargil war).

However, India wants cordial relations with Pakistan as part of its

"Neighborhood First Policy."

India's continuous view is that conflicts between India and Pakistan should be addressed bilaterally and peacefully.

India would not compromise on national security matters and will take robust and decisive action to counter all attempts to undermine India's security and territorial integrity.

India-Sri Lanka relations

India and Sri Lanka have a long history of intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic contact spanning over 2,500 years.

Since Independence, India, and Sri Lanka have established bilateral relations on various levels, and

significant advancements in the execution of development aid programs for internally displaced people (IDPs) and underprivileged groups of the Sri Lankan population have helped to strengthen the two nations' relationship.

High-level exchanges of visits have characterized political relations between India and Sri Lanka at periodic intervals.

The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) was signed in 1998 and has been in effect since March 2000.

India and Sri Lanka have a strengthening defense partnership based on intensive training and service-to-service links.

The Cultural Cooperation Agreement, signed on November 29, 1977, in New Delhi by the governments of India and Sri Lanka, serves as the foundation for the periodic Cultural Exchange Programs between the two nations.

India-Bhutan Relations

India and Bhutan have a unique and long-standing bilateral relationship marked by mutual trust, friendliness, and understanding.

The unique connection has been fostered through regular high-level visits and conversations between the two nations.

India and Bhutan established diplomatic relations in 1968, creating an Indian special office in Thimphu.

The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between India and Bhutan was signed in 1949 and amended in February 2007.

In 2018, India and Bhutan commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the beginning of their official diplomatic relations.

Since the early 1960s, when Bhutan established its Five Year Plans, India has provided economic aid to Bhutan's socioeconomic growth.

The core of bilateral economic cooperation is mutually beneficial hydropower cooperation with Bhutan.

The Government of India has constantly supported Bhutan's socioeconomic growth. The two countries cooperation in hydropower is an example of win-win cooperation.

There are active cultural interactions between India and Bhutan. Many Bhutanese pilgrims visit sacred Buddhist places in India.

Most Bhutanese students chose India as their preferred study-abroad destination, and the Indian government provides nearly all of them with scholarships.

India-Maldives Relations

India and the Maldives have ancient ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious, and commercial ties, and their relations are close, friendly, and multifaceted.

In 1965, India was among the first countries to recognize and establish diplomatic relations with the Maldives following its independence.

In 1972, India established a CDA mission and a resident High Commissioner in 1980.

In November 2004, the Maldives established a full-fledged High Commission in New Delhi, one of the country's only four diplomatic posts overseas.

India's future: The quest for high and stable growth

The macro challenge for India in the upcoming decade is to turn traditionally uneven growth into a high and stable trend. Given structural differences with East Asian economies, India will need to follow its own unique path.

Capital accumulation will drive India's economy toward this desirable path, with the government and, increasingly, the private sector investing in infrastructure and manufacturing. Digital infrastructure is another potential driver of high growth.

Success will ultimately depend on India's ability to reap its demographic dividend; increase labor force participation, including upskilling; boost private investment, with structural reforms in land, logistics and labor; and increase competitiveness, driven by foreign direct investment. Geopolitics could provide considerable tailwinds.

The trillion-dollar question is whether India can sustain high growth. That is, can it replicate the performance of the East Asian tigers over recent decades and improve the prospects and opportunities for its large and growing workforce? Importantly, India's economy is more domestically driven and services-orientated than the East Asian tigers, so its path to success will have to be different.

Challenges & Initiatives in India's Education System

Education is a fundamental right of every individual, and it plays a crucial role in shaping the future of a nation. Education has been a priority in India since the country's independence in 1947. However, despite the government's efforts to improve the education system, many challenges still need to be addressed.

One of the significant issues that India faces is access to education. Although the Government of India has made primary education free & compulsory for all children between the ages of six and fourteen, many children still do not have access to quality education. This is particularly true for children from rural areas and marginalized communities. The lack of infrastructure, inadequate facilities, and shortage of trained teachers are some of the reasons for this.

Another challenge that India's education system faces is the quality of education. Despite increase in number of schools, the quality of education is not up to the mark. Many students cannot read or write even after completing their schooling. The lack of proper teacher training and outdated teaching methods are reasons for this.

Though declined recently, India's education system is affected by a high dropout rate due to various reasons such as poverty, lack of interest, and inadequate facilities. This is particularly true for girls who drop out due to societal pressures and early marriage.

Healthcare

Despite significant progress in recent years, the healthcare system still faces a number of challenges, including inadequate funding, shortage of healthcare workers, and inadequate infrastructure.

It is important that India's healthcare system be a priority and that both the government and private sector focus on addressing these challenges so that India's citizens have access to good healthcare.

India's competitive advantage lies in its large pool of well-trained medical professionals.

India is also cost competitive compared to its peers in Asia and western countries. The cost of surgery in India is about one-tenth of that in the US or Western Europe.

Inadequate Medical Infrastructure: India has a shortage of hospitals, particularly in rural areas, and many existing healthcare facilities lack basic equipment and resources.

According to the National Health Profile, India has only 0.9 beds per 1000 population and out of which only



30% are in rural areas.

Lack of Standardisation of Quality Care: Quality of healthcare provided in India varies significantly, with inadequate facilities and resources in rural areas and poor regulation leading to substandard care in some private healthcare facilities.

Non-Communicable Diseases: Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for over 60% of all deaths in India, with high rates of chronic illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.

Lack of Adequate Mental Healthcare: India has one of the lowest numbers of mental health care professionals per capita.

Government's spending on mental health is also very low. This has resulted in poor mental health outcomes and inadequate care for people suffering from mental illness.

Gap in Doctor-Patient Ratio: One of the most critical concerns is the gap in the doctor-patient ratio. According to the Indian Journal of Public Health India needs 20 lakh doctors by 2030.

However, currently a doctor in the government hospital attends to 11000 patients, which is more than the WHO recommendation of 1:1000.

Way Forward

Improving Infrastructure and Human Resource: There is a need for investing in the construction of new healthcare facilities and upgrading existing ones, as well as increasing funding for healthcare services (currently 2.1% of GDP) and medical research.

Also, there is a need for increasing the number of healthcare workers. It includes increasing the number of medical schools and training programs, as well as offering financial incentives to encourage healthcare professionals to work in underserved areas.

Accessibility of Quality Healthcare: There is a need for time bound implementing targeted programs to increase access to healthcare services for people living in poverty, members of lower castes, and specially women, as well as providing education and information about healthcare to these communities.

There is also a need for enforcing regulations, implementing quality control measures, increasing transparency and conducting audits of health care programmes.

Improving Mental Health Services: It includes increasing funding for mental health services, training healthcare workers to better address mental health issues, and reducing the social stigma associated with mental illness.

Addressing the Root Causes of Health Inequities: The healthcare system should work in coordination with other sectors, such as education, housing and sanitation to address the social determinants of health and reduce overall health inequities.

Sustainable Health Governance: This could include implementing better management systems, strengthening healthcare regulatory bodies and

creating independent oversight mechanisms to ensure more effective and efficient healthcare services.

Curbing Communal Violence

India has to look for solutions to curb communal violence. These include:

Strong Legal Framework:

The enactment or implementation of laws and policies that protect the rights and interests of different communities.

The prevention or prohibition of hate speech, hate crimes, communal riots, etc. The prosecution or punishment of perpetrators or instigators of communal violence.

The provision or compensation of justice or relief to victims or survivors of communal violence.

Strengthening Institutional Mechanism:

The strengthening or reforming of political institutions and mechanisms that deal with communal issues.

The establishment or empowerment of independent or impartial bodies or agencies that monitor or investigate communal violence.

The promotion or enhancement of transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and inclusiveness in governance.

Educational Reforms:

The development or revision of curricula and textbooks that foster a culture of peace, tolerance, respect, and diversity among different communities.

The training or sensitization of teachers, students, parents, media, etc., on communal harmony and coexistence. The creation or expansion of opportunities for inter-community dialogue and exchange.

Social Reform:

The building or rebuilding of social capital and trust among different communities. The mobilization or involvement of civil society actors, such as NGOs, religious leaders, women groups, youth groups, etc., in promoting communal harmony and coexistence.

The recognition or celebration of the contributions and achievements of different communities to India's society and culture.

Economic:

The improvement or redistribution of economic conditions and opportunities among different communities.

The alleviation or elimination of poverty, inequality, discrimination, etc., among marginalized groups.

The facilitation or integration of economic cooperation and collaboration among different communities.

Cultural:

The preservation or restoration of cultural diversity and pluralism in India. The protection or promotion of cultural heritage and sacred sites of different communities.

The encouragement or appreciation of cultural exchange and innovation among different communities.

Community Engagement:

Local community leaders, religious figures, and civil society organizations can play a pivotal role in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding.

Grassroots efforts can foster connections that transcend religious differences.

Media Responsibility:

Media outlets bear a responsibility to report objectively and responsibly, avoiding sensationalism and biased coverage that can fan the flames of communal tensions.

Personalities who made India proud

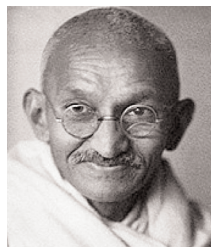
India's contribution in various fields cannot be really measured. Indian personalities be it in the fields of Literature, Music, Science, Religion or Business have left an indelible mark.

Teachings and philosophies of Indian freedom fighters like Gandhi and Nehru and religious thinkers like Vivekananda and Raja Ram Mohan Roy are followed even today not only in India but also all around the world.

Indian cinema and film personalities are popular the world over. Indian scientists like Sir C.V. Raman have brought about revolutionary changes in the fields of science and technology.

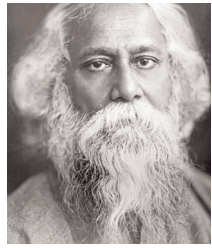
India's famous cricketers have brought glory not only to the game of cricket but have also made our country proud by winning the World Cup.

Mahatma Gandhi



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Father of the Nation, was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist and political ethicist who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

Rabindranath Tagore

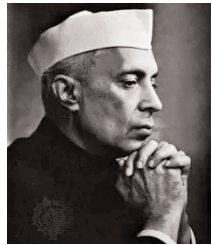


Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer and painter. He reshaped Bengali literature and music as well as Indian art with Contextual

Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Rabindranath Tagore is India's first noble laureate who has bestowed all the fellow Indians and the people in the world, the art of literature.

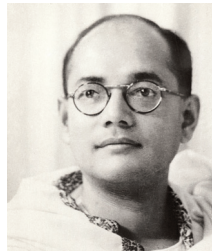
Jawaharlal Nehru



Jawaharlal Nehru was an Indian anti-colonial nationalist, secular humanist, social democrat, and author who was a central figure in India during the middle of the 20th century.

Nehru was a principal leader of the Indian nationalist movement in the 1930s and 1940s.

Subhas Chandra Bose



Subhas Chandra Bose was an Indian nationalist whose defiance of British authority in India made him a hero among many Indians, but his wartime alliances with Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan left

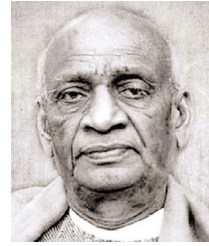
a legacy vexed by authoritarianism, anti-Semitism, and military failure.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, social reformer and political leader who headed the committee drafting the Constitution of India. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the first Indian to complete his Ph.D. in Economics from abroad.

Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel



Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, commonly known as Sardar Vallabhai Patel, was an Indian independence nationalist and barrister who served as the first Deputy

Prime Minister and Home Minister of India from 1947 to 1950.

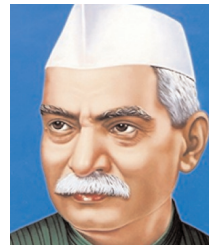
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam



Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam BR was an Indian aerospace scientist and statesman who served as the 11th president of India from 2002 to 2007. He was born and

raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering.

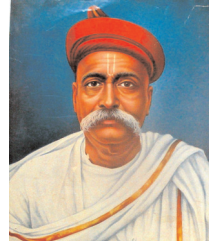
Dr. Rajendra Prasad



Rajendra Prasad was an Indian politician, lawyer, journalist and scholar who served as the first president of India from 1950 to 1962. He joined the Indian National Congress during the

Indian independence movement and became a major leader from the region of Bihar and Maharashtra.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Bal Gangadhar Tilak, endeared as Lokmanya, was an Indian nationalist, teacher, and an independence activist. He was one third of the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate. The

British colonial authorities called him "The father of the Indian unrest"

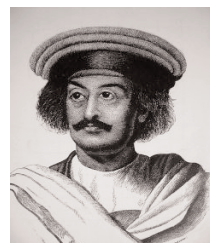
Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was an Indian politician, philosopher, and statesman who served as the second president of India from 1962 to 1967. He previously served as the first vice

president of India from 1952 to 1962. He was the second ambassador of India to the Soviet Union from 1949 to 1952.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy



Raja Ram Mohan Roy was an Indian reformer who was one of the founders of the Brahmo Sabha in 1828, the precursor of the Brahmo Samaj, a social-religious reform movement in the Indian subcontinent. He was given the title of Raja by Akbar II, the Mughal emperor.

Swami Vivekananda



Swami Vivekananda, born Narendranath Datta, was an Indian Hindu monk, philosopher, author, religious teacher, and the chief disciple of the Indian mystic Ramakrishna.

Bhagat Singh



Bhagat Singh was a charismatic Indian revolutionary who participated in the mistaken murder of a junior British police officer in what was to be retaliation for the death of an Indian nationalist.

Mother Teresa



Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu MC, better known as Mother Teresa, was an Albanian-Indian Catholic nun and the founder of the Missionaries of Charity. She was born Anjezë Gonxhe

Bojaxhiu in Skopje, part of the Ottoman Empire at the time. At the age of 18, she moved to Ireland and then to India, where she lived most of her life.

Sachin Tendulkar



Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, is an Indian former international cricketer who captained the Indian national team. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in the

history of cricket. He is the all-time highest run-scorer in both ODI and Test cricket with more than 18,000 runs and 15,000 runs, respectively.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni



Mahendra Singh Dhoni is an Indian professional cricketer. He was captain of the Indian national team in limited-overs formats from 2007 to 2017 and in Test cricket from 2008 to 2014. Dhoni is

widely considered one of the greatest cricket captains, wicket-keeper-batsman and finishers in the history of cricket.

Dhoni is the first captain in world cricket to win all three major ICC trophies. Under his leadership, the Indian cricket team won the 2007 ICC World T20, the 2011 Cricket World Cup and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.

Kapil Dev



Kapil Dev Ramlal Nikhanj is an Indian former cricketer. One of the greatest all-rounders in the history of cricket, he was a fast-medium bowler and a hard-hitting middle-order batsman. Dev is the only player in the history of cricket to have taken more than 400 wickets and scored more than 5,000 runs in Test. India won its first cricket World Cup under his leadership in 1983.

Sania Mirza



Sania Mirza, the tennis champion of her time. She has recently declared that she is retiring after the final event she played, i.e., the US Open 2022. She is currently training for the French Open and

will be performing at Wimbledon following this. In her first match of 2003. Sania was the first Indian player to be ranked below 30 in the world rankings. Throughout her entire career, she has been the winner of numerous tournaments. She has been awarded the Arjuna Awards, the Padma Shri, and the Padma Bhushan. The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, and other awards for her accomplishments in Indian sports.

Saina Nehwal



According to personalities provided in the report by Ormax India. Saina Nehwal was ranked 8 on the list of popular sports personalities for India 2022. In her

professional career, she has earned a total of 441 victories. She has participated in numerous Olympic Games, World Championships, Uber Cup, and Commonwealth Games. She has received the Arjuna Award, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, and many more. In 2022, she's determined to secure her place on the team for her country's Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

PV Sindhu



PV Sindhu is a household name who earned two Olympic and five medals in the World Championship. The 26-year-old superstar athlete has been constantly in the spotlight for the right reasons. In 2022, she

hopes to win gold medals in the Asian

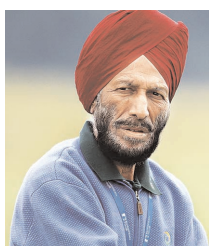
Games, Commonwealth Games, and World Championships.

Mirabai Chanu



Mirabai Chanu is the category 49kg Indian Weightlifter famous for winning a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She was given the Padma Shree and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for her efforts. After competing in numerous Olympics, World Championships, National Championships, and other tournaments. Mirabai Chanu is currently preparing to compete in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games 2022.

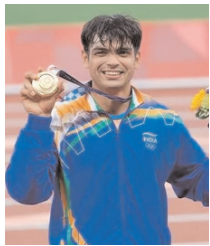
Milkha Singh



Milkha Singh Rathore, also known as "The Flying Sikh", was an Indian track and field sprinter who was introduced to the sport while serving in the Indian Army. He is the only athlete to win gold at 400 metres

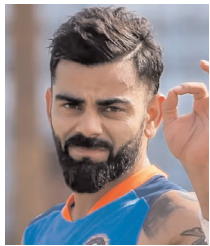
at the Asian Games as well as the Commonwealth Games.

Neeraj Chopra



The Golden Boy in India. Neeraj Chopra made every Indian proud when he won gold at the Olympics 2021 in the Javelin Throw. The athlete gained a lot of attention due to their success. He is now getting ready for the World Championship, Commonwealth Games, and the Asian Games. He was ranked 50th among the Indian Express 100 Most Powerful Indians list. The 24-year-old will be an excellent watch this year.

Virat Kohli



Virat Kohli is now an international celebrity. From his ferocious style of play to his position as Indian Cricket Team captain after Mahendra Singh Dhoni's departure. He has proved his worth at every stage of his professional career. After 2022, when his decision to step back from his position as captain of all cricket forms. It will be fascinating to see him in his best performance. In addition, he's placed at 80 in the tenth spot on the Indian Express 100 Most Powerful Indians list.

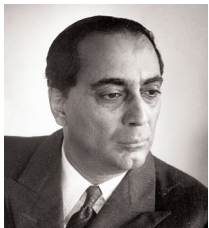
C. V. Raman



Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman FRS was an Indian physicist known for his work in the field of light scattering. Using a spectrograph that he developed, he and his student K. S.

Krishnan discovered that when light traverses a transparent material, the deflected light changes its wavelength and frequency.

Homi Jehangir Bhabha



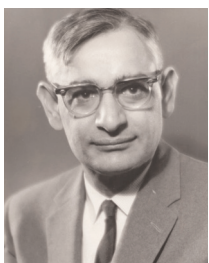
Homi Jehangir Bhabha, FNI, FASc, FRS, Hon.FRSE was an Indian nuclear physicist who is widely credited as the "father of the Indian nuclear programme".

Satyendra Nath Bose



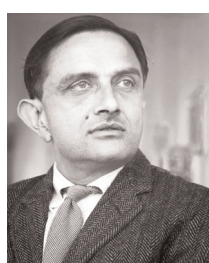
Satyendra Nath Bose was an Indian mathematician and physicist specializing in theoretical physics. He is best known for his work on quantum mechanics in the early 1920s, in developing the foundation for Bose-Einstein statistics and the theory of the Bose-Einstein condensate.

Har Gobind Khorana



Har Gobind Khorana was an Indian-American biochemist. While on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he shared the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine with Marshall W. Nirenberg.

Vikram Sarabhai



Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai was an Indian physicist and astronomer who initiated space research and helped develop nuclear power in India. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1966 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1972.

Srinivasa Ramanujan



Srinivasa Ramanujan was an Indian mathematician. Though he had almost no formal training in pure mathematics, he made substantial contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions, including solutions to mathematical problems then considered unsolvable.

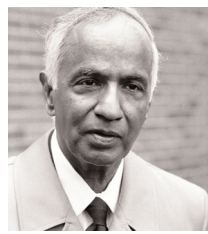
Kalpna Chawla



Kalpna Chawla was an Indian-born American astronaut and aerospace engineer who was the first woman of Indian origin to fly to space. She first flew on Space Shuttle Columbia in 1997 as a mission specialist and primary robotic arm operator. Chawla's second flight was on STS-107, the final flight of Columbia, in 2003.

S. Chandrasekhar

S. Chandrasekhar was born in Lahore before partition. He won a Nobel Prize in 1983 for his mathematical theory on



black holes. The Chandrasekhar Limit has been named in his honour. His most famous work is on energy radiated by stars. The focus in this case is on the white dwarf stars that are basically dying parts of a star. RJ Tyler has praised him in the Biographical Memoirs, Fellows of the Royal Society of London saying that Chandrasekhar will always be one of a kind.

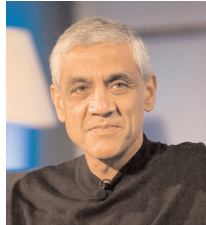
Amartya Sen



Amartya Sen was born in Santiniketan, West Bengal. Apart from being a Nobel Laureate economist, Sen is a philosopher as well. He has made some exceptionally noteworthy contributions to the world of welfare economics, economic theories regarding famines, social choice theory, indices that measure how well citizens are doing overall, and economic and social justice.

It was in 1998 that he won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. He is a member of the Harvard Society of Fellows and the Chancellor of Nalanda University.

Vinod Khosla



Forbes has listed Khosla, one of the people who co-founded Sun Microsystems, as a billionaire. It is Sun that has created Network File System and the programming language known as Java. Khosla has also established his own company named Khosla Ventures. Hailing from Delhi, Khosla was a student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi. He also played a major role in founding TiE and Daisy Systems.

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Rohinton Mistry



Born in Mumbai, Rohinton Mistry is a writer well known around the world. He completed his Bachelor of Arts from St. Xavier's College in Mumbai. In 1975, this celebrated author

moved with his wife to Canada. His first book Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from the Firozsha Bag, a collection of 11 interconnected short stories, was published 1987. Long Journey, his second book, came out in 1991. It was highly appreciated in India and abroad.

Pan Nalin



Born in Gujarat, Pan Nalin has won many awards in his role as a documentary maker, screenwriter, and film director. His most famous works are Samsara, Ayurveda: Art of Being, and Valley of Flowers. After making his first film Samsara, Nalin received significant

international acclaim along with more than 30 awards around the world. Valley of Flowers is regarded as a major underground success and has been pre-sold across 35 countries. Nalin was also sent an invitation to be a part of the panel on France-India Co-production, Salon du Cinema in Paris.

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Venkatraman Ramakrishnan



A Nobel Laureate structural biologist, Venkatraman Ramakrishnan was born in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu. In 2009, he won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry along with

Ada E. Yonath and Thomas A. Steitz. In this instance, he and his co-researchers had studied the function and structure of the ribosome. He also happens to be an upper-tier member of the US National Academy of Sciences. In 2007, he won the Louis-Jeantet Prize for the contribution he made in the field of medicine.

Mira Nair



Mira Nair is one of the most instantly recognizable filmmakers around the world. She was born at Rourkela, Odisha, and began her journey as an independent maker of

short films. For her film India Cabaret, Nair won the Best Documentary prize at the American Film Festival. India Cabaret was basically an investigative documentary on the strippers working in Mumbai at that time. Her first film was Salaam Bombay made in 1988.

AR Rahman



Allah Rakha Rahman is an Indian music composer, record producer, singer, songwriter, musician, multi-instrumentalist and philanthropist,

popular for his works in Indian cinema; predominantly in Tamil and Hindi films, with occasional forays in international cinema. AR Rahman became the only Indian to win two Academy Awards. At the 2009 Oscars itself, popular musician AR Rahman became the first Indian to win two Academy Awards for Slumdog Millionaire. He won the award for Best Original Score and Best Original Song - Jai Ho.

Guneet Monga



As an Indian producer, holding an Oscar - Monga who has produced some of the most beautiful gems of the last decade including Masaan and Lunchbox, brought great glory to the country. As a co-producer of Period: End of a Sentence, Monga endeavoured to stir up a conversation around the taboos of Menstruation and how it directly affects the education of the girl child in India. It's the first time a part-Indian production won at the Academy through the gongs of AR Rahman, Resul Pookutty and the late Satyajit Ray Stand tall to make India proud.

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Nine years of PM Modi government- hits and misses


Vishwanath Corridor and others

The NDA government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed nine years on May 30. The past nine years have witnessed several landmark events, including demonetisation of high-value currency notes (2016), the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (2017), the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, a call for making India self-reliant (Aatmanirbhar) amid aggression on borders, and an emergence of a new class of beneficiaries — the “Labharthi Varg”.

Modi, who ascended to the top post by getting a clear majority and took oath as the PM on May 26, 2014, is the fourth-longest serving PM after Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, and the longest serving PM from a non-Congress party. Here are some points highlighting hits and misses of the last nine years:

Abrogation of Article 370

Abrogation of Article 370, along with Article 35A, the two articles in the Constitution of India that gave a special status to the former state of Jammu and Kashmir. The special status implied that Jammu and Kashmir was different from rest of the country, and was instrumental in fuelling separatism. The two articles were abrogated by the Modi government in 2019, fulfilling a poll promise.

Article 35A gave the state the right to determine who is a permanent resident of the state, which was added to the constitution by a presidential order, not by an amendment. Article 370 said that all the provisions of the Constitution of India do not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, and had listed the provisions that applied. While article 35A was abrogated and it no longer exists, article 370 was amended, and it remains in the constitution, saying that all the provision of the constitution also applies to the constitution.

Along with this, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was also bifurcated into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Ram Mandir construction, Kashi

For BJP, the construction of a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and freeing other ancient Hindu temples converted to mosques by Islamic rulers always have been a major promise. The dream of crores of Hindus came true on 2019, and the Supreme Court of India delivered its verdict in decades on Ram Janambhoomi – Babri Masjid title dispute, handing the entire disputed premises to Hindu parties.

Following the order, while the Hindu petitioners started the construction of the temple, the Modi govt contributed by facilitating the process. Less than a year later in August 2020, Narendra Modi conducted the Bhoomi Poojan of the Ram Mandir.

Another important achievement of the Modi government, according to social media users, was the freeing the Kashi Vishwanath temple and its surroundings from encroachments. The Kashi Vishwanath corridor was inaugurated in December 2021, which connects the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple with the holy ghats along the river Ganga.

During the demolitions for the project, several ancient temples were also discovered, which was hidden by constructions around them. Some such constructions were done deliberately to hide the Hindu temples so that they are not demolished like the original Kashi Vishwanath temple by Islamic rulers, but with time, those hidden temples were forgotten.

The Modi government has also taken up projects rejuvenate many other old temples across the country, which has been listed as an achievement by people.

Covid handling, vaccine

Almost all people who listed achievements of the Modi government thinks that its handling of the Coronavirus pandemic was a success. They appreciated how the govt acted swiftly after the pandemic hit the country, and how several vaccines were developed in the country with active

Oppn accuses BJP of ‘looting’ people

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took a dig at the government over the completion of nine years in office, accusing it of “looting” people's earnings through “deadly inflation” while making “arrogant claims” about it.

The Congress posed nine questions for Narendra Modi on completion of nine years as Indian Prime Minister.

The questions ranged from rising prices, unemployment and farmers’ income, as Congress demanded an apology for the ‘betrayal’ during his tenure.

“The BJP has now been in power for nine years. The authoritarian regime has completely failed on every front. The Prime Minister must respond to these nine questions before the BJP begins to celebrate,” Congress tweeted alongside the list of

nine questions.

Rahul Gandhi said the BJP had built a “9-year-old building on false promises and the plight of the public!”

Congress social media head Supriya Shrinete quipped that the Centre should celebrate a ‘Mahotsav’ Festival of their ‘failures’.

“Unemployment has been at its highest since independence and the way the government has tried to hide it is a tragedy. The Centre has fallen into its own trap but now the poor understand it. Fugitive businessmen be it Lalit Modi, Mehul Choksi, or Vijay Mallya duped the government of crores and the government could do nothing about it. The reality is 23 crores people were dragged below the poverty line in their reign whom we had benefitted between 2004-2014,” Shrinete said.

9 Saal, 9 Sawaal

The Economy

Why is it that inflation and unemployment are skyrocketing in India? Why have the rich become richer and the poor poorer? Why is public property being sold to PM Modi's friends, even as economic disparities are increasing?

Agriculture and farmers

Why is it that the agreements made with farmers while repealing the three black farm laws have not been honoured? Why has MSP not been legally guaranteed? Why didn't farmers' income double over the last 9 years?

Corruption and cronyism

Why are you putting people's hard-earned savings in LIC and SBI at risk to benefit your friend Adani? Why are you letting thieves escape? Why are you silent on rampant corruption in BJP-ruled states, and why are you letting Indians suffer?

China and National Security

Why is it that even after your clean chit to China in 2020, they continue to occupy Indian territory? 18 meetings have been held with China, yet why do they refuse to yield Indian territory and instead continue with their aggressive tactics?

Social Harmony

Why are you deliberately using the politics of hatred for electoral

gains and fueling an atmosphere of fear in society?

Social justice

Why is it that your oppressive government is methodically destroying the foundations of social justice? Why are you silent on the atrocities against women, Dalits, SC, ST, OBCs and minorities? Why are you ignoring the demand for a caste census?

Democracy and federalism

Why have you weakened our Constitutional values and democratic institutions in the last nine years? Why are you practicing the politics of revenge against Opposition parties and leaders? And why are you using blatant money power to destabilise governments elected by the people?

Welfare schemes

Why is it that schemes for the welfare of the poor, needy and tribals are being weakened by cutting their budgets and making restrictive rules?

COVID-19 mismanagement

Why is it that despite the tragic deaths of over 40 lakh people due to COVID-19, the Modi government has refused to compensate their families? Why did you suddenly impose a lockdown which forced lakhs of workers to return home, and not provide any support?

participation of the government.

After that, the government of India ran world's largest free immunisation program, under which over 200 crore doses of made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines have been administered. The Cowin platform developed to administer the vaccination program has been another success.

The Covid pandemic also saw India becoming self-reliant in medical items like personal protection equipment, which mainly were imported earlier.

UPI, digital economy

Social media users have pointed out that India's transformation into a digital economy, primarily led by UPI of the NCPI, is one of the major achievements of the government. Today, India leads in terms of using digital translations, where even roadside vendors accept digital payments even for very small amounts.

The QR code which has become an integral part of India's retail businesses have been widely covered by international media, marvelling how one can shop anything in India without the use of cash. People also listed demonetisation as one of the successes, as the temporary shortage of cash after withdrawing ₹500 and ₹1000 notes had accelerated the growth of the use of online transactions.

Today UPI is the most successful payment system in the world, with millions and users and billions of transactions every month.

Financial inclusion

The next achievement of the government, according to social media users who listed top 9 achievements of the govt, is the various steps taken by the govt for financial inclusion of people, most of those who were not associated with the banking system earlier. The JAM trinity, Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile, has been one of the major successes of the govt in bringing people into the formal financial system.

Under Jan Dhan Yojana, almost 50 crore people have got their bank accounts made. Apart from this, people also listed the Mudra loan scheme, and the Direct Benefit Transfer of subsidies as other achievements in the sector.

One major instrument in financial inclusion has been the Rupay card, which has been able to displace global majors like Visa and Mastercard in payment systems.

Infrastructure

Another major achievement of the government that most people have included in their lists is the massive development in the infrastructure sector in the country. People have noted the rapid construction of highways, expressways and other roads, massive expansion of the railway network and introduction of the made-in-India Vande Bharat Express train, and the Udaan scheme in civil aviation.

Swachh Bharat, Jal Shakti

From day one in the office, PM Modi has been stressing on sanitation, clean water, and end of open defecation. According to people, the government has succeeded in its mission of cleaning India and providing clean water to people.

Under the Swachh Bharat mission, over 3 lakh villages have declared open defecation free, over 2.5 lakh villages

have liquid waste management facilities, and almost 2 lakh have solid waste management arrangements.

Several schemes have been launched under Jal Shakti to improve the availability and quality of water in the country.

GST, Economy

Many people believe that the govt has succeeded in reforming the financial system and improving the economy. Implementation of the GST was a major milestone, which made doing business much easier by removing several different taxes and included them in Goods and Services Tax. It also eliminated barriers to inter-state trade by removing taxes.

Similarly, the PLI and other schemes have been listed as successes by the people in enhancing investment in the country. Several people have included financial stability, increasing GDP as major successes of the government.

Welfare schemes

Successful welfare schemes have a major hallmark of the Modi government, and many people have included it in their top 9 achievement lists. Schemes like the Ujjwala Scheme, Ayushman Bharat scheme, Housing scheme, monetary benefits given to farmers have benefited large number of people.

Apart from these nine picked by most people, many also listed development and better inclusion of northeastern states, foreign policy, indigenisation of the defence sector etc as the major achievements of the govt.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Launched in 2016, PMFBY offers comprehensive crop insurance coverage to farmers at affordable premiums. It ensures timely compensation for crop losses caused by natural calamities, pests, or diseases. This scheme has brought financial security and stability to millions of farmers, safeguarding their livelihoods.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

PM-KISAN, initiated in 2019, is an income support scheme designed to assist small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, eligible farmers receive direct financial assistance of Rs 6,000 annually in three equal installments. With over 120 million farmers benefitting from this scheme, it has significantly boosted their income and improved their quality of life.

Soil Health Card Scheme

Launched in 2015, the Soil Health Card Scheme provides personalised soil health reports to farmers, offering valuable insights on soil nutrients and recommendations for balanced fertilisation. By promoting proper soil management practices, this scheme has optimised yields, reduced input costs, and enhanced soil health across agricultural lands.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Introduced in 2015, PMKVY aims to provide skill training to farmers and rural youth. Implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), this scheme has empowered over 40 million farmers and rural youth by equipping them with essential agricultural skills, improving productivity, and generating employment opportunities.

Broken promises, drifting flagships and bahubalis defying Modi's call

Contrary to the rosy image woven by media, the Modi government has left a trail of half-abandoned flagship programmes, broken promises and chaotic decision-making in crucial areas like defence.

At his Agra rally on November 22, 2013, PM candidate Narendra Modi had said that he would create 1 crore jobs every year.

Ten years later, in November, CMIE reported over 5 crore unemployed. During the last few years, the unemployment rate averaged 7.5%, surging to 25% during the first lockdown. Incensed at this revelation, the government put out its own 'authentic' data in April to claim that the labour market was recovering. Economists said the official figures were outdated.

On August 15, 2020, Narendra Modi vowed to connect all of India's six lakh villages with optical fibre by 2023. Finance minister Nirmala Sitaraman later highlighted the PM's flagship scheme in her Budget speech. However, with hardly a year left, the PM's target is nowhere in sight. The rollout is slow and the goalposts have moved.

On September 21, 2018, Modi vowed to make India a \$5 trillion economy by 2022. He also assured an 8% growth rate with "massive" employment generation in IT and retail. The PM's deadline passed last year in deathly silence, amidst massive dismissals in IT and retail. But railways minister Ashwini Vaishnav released a report projecting India as a \$26 trillion economy in 2047!

On August 15, 2018, Modi thundered from the Red Fort that India would send astronauts to space before Independence Day, 2022. The Department of Space's allocation was hiked 23% and ISRO came under tremendous pressure to fulfil the PM's promise. The deadline passed, and the hiatus between the PM's dreams and India's capabilities was realised.

At Gondia on April 4, 2019, Modi promised to double farmers' incomes by August 15, 2022. He said the government was already giving Rs 75,000 per year to 12 crore farmers under the Kisan Samman Yojana. As the deadline passed, agitating farmers ridiculed the claim. At Gondia, Modi also coined a new name for the opposition: "tukde-tukde gang".

In Doha on February 12, 2018, the PM said the 508 km Sabarmati-Mumbai bullet train, his dream project, would be a reality before August 15, 2022. His rail minister Ashwini Vaishnav says a 'curtailed run' of the bullet train between Surat and Billimora was likely by 2026, four years after Modi's deadline.

On July 28, 2018, Modi flamboyantly announced a house for every Indian by 2022 Rs 54 lakh houses new units in

urban areas and 1 crore in rural areas. The housing shortage remains.

"I promise to provide 24x7 electricity to every home in India when the country celebrates its 75th Independence Day in 2022," Modi told school students on Teacher's Day. The pledge is nowhere near realisation.

In July 2014, two months after taking over as PM, Modi declared: "We will build 100 smart cities outfitted with high-tech communication capabilities... cities in the past were built on riverbanks. New ones will be along highways and based on the availability of next generation infrastructure."

A week earlier, he had announced an additional \$1.2 billion investment for the sector, with fundings from private sources and abroad. Based on this, McKinsey had projected that India would add a Mumbai every year, in terms of commercial and residential space. Thrilled at the business prospects, Singapore and Japan offered anticipatory aid. The UK foreign minister offered GBP 1 billion in credit. Modi's smart city dream was modelled on Dholera, a languishing project in Gujarat propped up by private investment and real estate support.

As early as 2014, the Guardian reported scathingly on 'India's Smart City Craze: Big, Green and Doomed from the Start?' Another study in India found Modi had promised to build 100 new smart cities in five years, but nine months to deadline, only 30% of funds were released.

On the ground, the backlash of the Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh scandal at the Wrestling Federation of India looks more damaging than was thought earlier. The bahubalis need the ruling party's protection and the latter their vote banks. Singh, against whom there were 30 FIRs, has vote banks spread over three districts. Rape convict Ram Rahim has been in and out of Haryana jail with chief minister M.L. Khattar's open support. Noida's Srikant Tyagi and the main accused in the Kanjhawala atrocities also claimed they were BJP activists. Recently, in BJP-ruled Haryana, the CM was forced to sack a minister charged with rape — because the victim went public and demanded action.

Misdemeanours have surged across states, and the opposition has been whipping up a moral backlash against the BJP in, for instance, Betul, then in Chennai (see here and here), Uttar Pradesh (Unnao) and Jharkhand. This random sample illustrates the severity of the BJP's image problem. And now, the PM has told the bahubalis to go easy on the minorities. Coupled with his broken promises and drifting flagship projects, it's a fairly difficult problem for the BJP.

Source: The India Cable

Major controversies between August 15, 2022 and August 15, 2023

Adani Hindenburg row

On January 24, while the rest of India was busy preparing for Republic Day (January 26), a report by US-based short-seller firm Hindenburg Research shocked the nation. In the report, Hindenburg alleged that a man who was at that time the world's third-richest, Gautam Adani, was pulling the largest con in corporate history.

The firm alleged that the Adani Group had been involved in brazen stock manipulation, money-laundering, and accounting fraud for decades. The report also highlighted that the stock valuations of seven listed companies of the group were 85% overvalued.

According to Hindenburg Research, a 106-page report was prepared over the course of two years, and it holds short positions in Adani Group of Companies through US-traded bonds and non-Indian-traded derivatives, along with other non-Indian-traded reference securities.

The report claims that these statements were supported by documents obtained from the Indian government and regulatory authorities. It appears the firm did a detailed investigation before taking a short position.

One of the main concerns raised in the report is the issue of corporate governance at Adani Group. According to the report, members of the Adani family created and oversaw "a massive labyrinth of offshore shell firms" in tax-haven nations like Cyprus, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates with, Hindenburg alleged, no reported employees, independent addresses, phone numbers, or online presence.

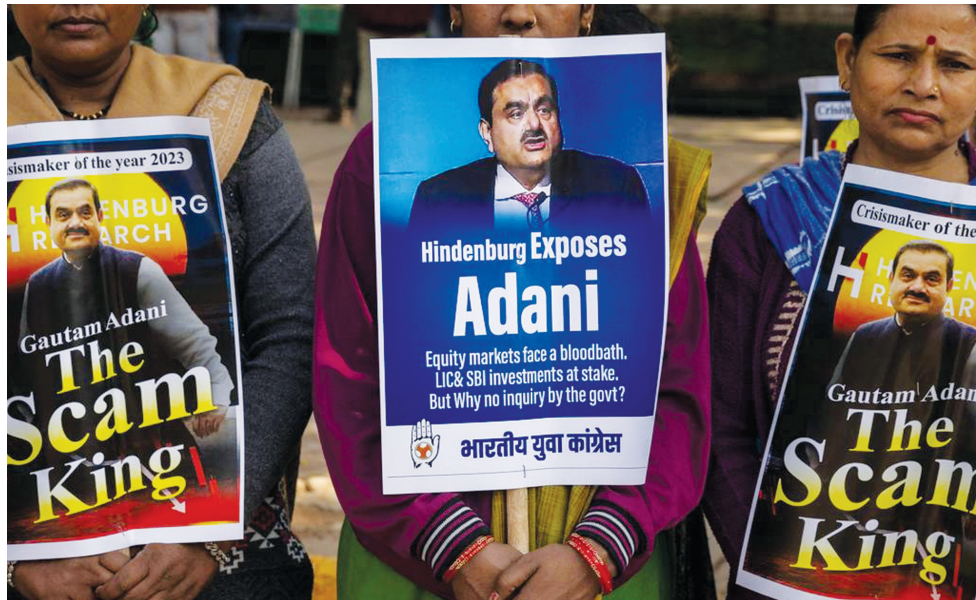
Despite this, they have collectively moved billions of dollars into Indian Adani publicly listed and private entities, often without required disclosure of the related party nature of the deals.

Gautam Adani's brothers Vinod and Rajesh, as well as his brother-in-law Samir Vora, are among those listed in the report for various reasons. The report further states that Vinod Adani and his close allies were purportedly in control of 38 shell firms situated in Mauritius, and he was also "covertly controlling" additional businesses in Cyprus, the UAE, Singapore, and several Caribbean islands. In the report, Hindenburg asked 86 questions to the Adani Group.

On January 29, Adani Group issued a 413-page response alleging that Hindenburg had made misleading claims and that this was not merely an unwarranted attack on any specific company but a calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity, and quality of Indian institutions, and the growth story and ambition of India.

Adani Group hoped that such a nationalistic statement would put all allegations at rest. On the contrary, Adani shares have seen the worst decline in their lifetime.

A day after Hindenburg released its report, Adani Group entities lost about



US\$9 billion in the stock market, and the losses have continued. Despite rapid sell-offs, Adani Enterprises gave the go-ahead for a \$2.5 billion follow-on public offer on January 27. However, the FPO was not received well in the market. Adani Enterprises said it would refund the FPO's proceeds.

In 2017, the Modi government introduced an electoral bonds scheme to cleanse political funding in India. The central idea behind the scheme was to bring about transparency in electoral

funding in India. It allowed political parties to accept money from donors whose identities were kept anonymous if the donation was below 20,000 rupees (US\$240).

The political parties receive electoral bonds issued by the public or corporations. The State Bank of India, India's largest public-sector bank, is the solely authorized to sell and redeem the bonds. The scheme has been challenged on the ground that it lacks transparency. Critics argue that the anonymity of

electoral bonds is only for the broader public and opposition parties.

On the national level, of all electoral bonds purchased since 2017-18, the BJP received two-thirds of the total, or 65% nationally.

According to a report by the Election Commission in 2021, the BJP reported the highest corporate donations for the seventh year in a row. Certainly, there is a conflict of interest. If Modi acts against the corporates, their party donations are likely to decrease. But if no action is taken on corporate misconduct, the party will likely receive better donations. In this way, it will be a win-win situation for both the corporates and BJP, but at the expense of the hard-earned savings and investments of the general public.

Wrestlers' allegations against Brij Bhushan

Following the sexual harassment allegations against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the chief of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and BJP MP, the Delhi Police registered two FIRs based on complaints by six wrestlers.

Allegations by Wrestlers: Wrestlers allege instances of sexual harassment, inappropriate behaviour, groping, stalking, and intimidation allegedly by Singh, according to PTI.

Charges under IPC and POCSO Act: Singh has been charged under sections of the IPC, including assaulting a woman to outrage her modesty (Section 354), sexual harassment (354 A), and stalking (354 D). The FIR filed by the father of a wrestler who is a minor invokes the POCSO Act, the PTI reported.

Promises of Professional Support: Some wrestlers have alleged that Singh allegedly made advances, promising to help them in their careers.

Denial of Charges: Brij Bhushan Singh has denied all the allegations and had recently said that 'he would hang himself if any accusation is proven against him'. He asserted his care for the wrestlers and emphasised his contributions to their success.

WFI Secretary's name in the case: The FIR filed by the wrestlers also reportedly includes the name of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) secretary Vinod Tomar.

Specific Incidents: A complainant described an incident where the 'victim' was allegedly called separately, and was harassed, reported the PTI.

'Harassed' during team photograph: Another wrestler complainant alleged that she was harassed while a team photograph was being clicked, according to the PTI.

Offered to buy supplements: A wrestler claimed that Singh allegedly offered to buy her supplements in exchange for sexual favors, the FIR said, according to PTI report on Friday.

Domestic and International Incidents: The allegations involve incidents occurring during championship events, at the WFI office, and at locations in India and abroad, according to the FIR.

BJP's attempts to topple

non- BJP governments

Operation Lotus refers to "poaching" or "bribing" of MLAs and MPs of other parties by the BJP, mainly of their rival the Indian National Congress party (INC), often to form government in states where they do not have the majority.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged that "BJP has spent Rs 6,500 crore [65 billion] rupees on buying 277 MLAs, they also tried to buy Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) MLAs in Delhi, and they offered 20 crores to each. They brought Rs 800 crores to buy MLAs of Delhi." Kejriwal conducted a floor test in the Delhi Assembly to prove that his government continued to have the majority in the assembly and BJP's alleged Operation Lotus in Delhi had failed to poach AAP MLAs. CM successfully proved his majority in the legislature.

The tactic has 'worked' in the past, but it has also come back to haunt the BJP in states like Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

In the Karnataka elections, where the Congress emerged victorious, 'Operation Lotus' seems to have played a direct role in the BJP's diminished tally of seats—down from 103 in the 2018 assembly polls to just 66 in 2023.

In 2019, the BJP brought down the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government on the back of 'Operation Lotus', which saw 17 of the coalition's MLAs jumping ship to the party.

In a short span of one year, the BJP carried out 'Operation Lotus' twice in Maharashtra, splitting two mainstream regional parties, the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray and the NCP led by Sharad Pawar.

While some have raised questions on ethics, many argue, "Everything is fair in love, war — and politics."

The BJP, which is the single-largest party in Maharashtra with 105 seats out of 288, has often adopted newer strategies to consolidate its organisational base to drive electoral success. In that context, exploiting the unrest within the regional parties to its political advantage was a well-scripted strategy. It was undertaken in both cases with adequate consultation of the central BJP leadership.

In 2014, under then state BJP president Devendra Fadnavis, it emerged number one bagging 122 seats out of 288. The BJP-Shiv Sena coalition was formed with Fadnavis as CM. Five years later in 2019, the BJP won 105 seats. But its alliance partner Shiv Sena (then undivided) decided to join hands with the Congress-NCP.

The BJP termed this an "act of betrayal". After two-and-a-half years, it engineered the split in Thackeray's party through 'Operation Lotus'. It was to avenge betrayal and teach Thackeray a lesson. With 40 Sena rebels along with 10 Independents on its side, the BJP dislodged the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). With Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Fadnavis as his deputy, it has given the state a stable government.

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the Shiv Sena and the BJP have pledged to work together and contest as alliance partners. Thus, the question comes, what was the necessity to split the NCP and get it to join government.

According to state BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, "The BJP believes in political expansion. If



anybody wants to join us we welcome it. Ajit Pawar is a very able leader both as a politician and as an administrator. If he along with his MLAs wanted to join the Shiv Sena-BJP coalition it is an endorsement of PM Narendra Modi's leadership and good governance."

Rahul's conviction and subsequent developments

On August 7th Rahul Gandhi, leader of India's main opposition party, Congress, reclaimed his seat in parliament after the Supreme Court suspended his controversial conviction for defamation. Gandhi's return to the fray, ahead of a general election due next May, looks like a vindication for the many who considered his conviction to have been a political stitch-up orchestrated by supporters of Narendra Modi. It has also increased a spurt of momentum behind the prime minister's opponents, who recently clubbed together to form an anti-Modi alliance.

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), which includes Congress and most other opposition parties, appears to have put Mr Modi on the back foot, a rare occurrence, over his party's handling of ethnic violence in the north-eastern state of Manipur. Though Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party is still likely to win re-election next year, handing the prime minister a third term, a resuscitated opposition could make the election more interesting—and the future of Indian democracy appear more robust.

Sectarian violence in Haryana

The 2023 Haryana riots are a series of ongoing clashes in northern India that originated in the state of Haryana and have subsequently spread to nearby

regions. On 31 July 2023, communal violence erupted in the Nuh district of Haryana between Muslims and Hindus during an annual Brajmandal Yatra pilgrimage organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), a Hindu nationalist organization. By the evening of the same day, fresh incidents of communal violence were reported from Gurugram and Sohna. As of 3 August 2023, the situation has resulted in at least seven fatalities and over 200 reported injuries. The violence started during the annual Brajmandal Yatra pilgrimage through the Muslim-majority district of Nuh; the Muslim community was angered when it was announced that the procession would include Bajrang Dal activist and cow vigilante Monu Manesar, who is wanted by the police as a suspect in the murder of two Muslim men, Nasir and Junaid, though the man did not show up at the procession. Upon hearing that Monu Manesar was attending a religious procession, the local Muslim community organized an attack on the procession, and from 21 July to 23 July met to "lay out a plan to attack the yatra". They executed their attack on the procession on 31 July, pelting it with stones, bottles, and incendiary weapons. This triggered retaliatory actions from the Hindu procession participants. The Hindus taking part in the procession were forced to flee to a nearby temple, which was then besieged by rioters armed with guns, who fired upon the temple. The police believe this attack was premeditated and well-organized.

In response, the government imposed a curfew, suspended Internet services, and sent extra troops to the region to prevent a further outbreak of violence.

Calm and order were said to have been restored on 8 August 2023.

The game of defections - Maharashtra

In a surprising turn of events in Maharashtra, Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar changed his allegiance on July 2, 2023, and joined the Maharashtra Government led by Eknath Shinde.

While Ajit was sworn in as Deputy CM, eight other heavyweights of NCP were also sworn in as ministers, who have been close aides to his uncle and NCP President Sharad Pawar. These leaders include Chhagan Bhujbal, Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Musharif, Dhananjay Mundhe, and Aditi Tatkare. Ajit claims to have the support of 43 of the 53 NCP MLAs. Ajit is now the second Deputy CM of Maharashtra, with Devendra Fadnavis of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being the other.

This is the second tripartite government in Maharashtra, with the BJP, Shinde's Shiv Sena faction, and the NCP sharing governance. The first was formed in 2019 when Sharad Pawar stitched the coalition of the unified Sena, Congress, and NCP. It was known as the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition. In 2022, Shinde's rebellion against the then-CM Uddhav Thackeray brought down the MVA government. Aided by the BJP, Shinde defected with 40 of the 57 Shiv Sena MLAs and eight of the 13 MPs to form government with the BJP. A year later, Ajit has followed in Shinde's footsteps and effected a split in the NCP by defecting with 43 MLAs of the party. This is the third time since the Assembly elections of 2019 that he has taken charge as the Deputy Chief Minister. The BJP has been on a poaching prowl to break up the NCP and Congress after its success with Shiv Sena where it decimated the party, effected a defection, and brought down a stable government. Following the NCP split, the BJP has trained its guns on the disgruntled leaders of Congress Party.

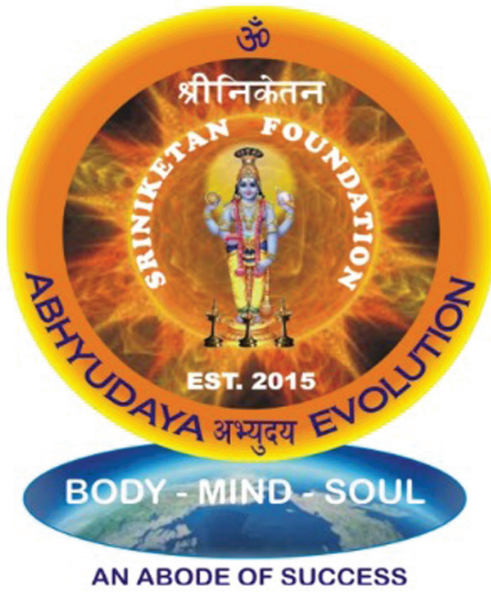
Manipur violence

On 3 May 2023, ethnic violence erupted in India's north-eastern state of Manipur between the Meitei people, a majority that lives in the Imphal Valley, and the Kuki tribal community from the surrounding hills. As of 29 July, 181 people have been killed in the violence. More than 300 wounded, and approximately 54,488 displaced.

On 14 April 2023, acting on a writ petition by the Meitei Tribe Union that demands the Scheduled Tribe status for the valley-based Meitei community, the Manipur High Court ordered the state government to send a recommendation to the central government, [32] a decision later criticised by the Supreme Court. To protest the High Court order, the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur called for a peaceful protest to be conducted on 3 May. After one of these rallies, clashes between Kuki and Meitei groups began near the border between the Churachandpur district and Bishnupur district, followed by house burning. For example, the Kuki people, who predominantly reside in the hill regions surrounding the capital valley, have been viewed as being the target of the present state government's treatment of indigenous land rights concerns. A majority of the Kuki people are Christian. There have been evictions in Kuki communities as a result of efforts to survey forests, which were ostensibly made to stop the cultivation of poppies.

Sriniketan Foundation

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KARUNA REIKI MASTER

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WHOLE BRAIN OPTIMIZATION

THE SCIENCE OF FINGER PRINTS



Mrs. Purnima A. Desai

All these courses were learned from
Reiki Healing Foundation, World's largest Reiki Foundation - Delhi India.
Gurus: Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma



Purnima Desai, Founder President of Shikshayatan and Sriniketan

“My aim is to promote Indian culture”: Purnima Desai

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA

dances. I was quite successful but there is no end to the work. The greater purpose was to make good human beings. That was my goal. Now I am planning to build educational/cultural centers and couple of temples throughout the United States. Temples will be part of educational/cultural centers where students can pray. Hopefully by 2024 it will be done.

TIP: HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ACHIEVE THAT?

I don't want to ask for money for Sriniketan or Sikhshayatan. They should earn on their own merit. I have some real estate properties which I will sell when the time comes. I want to work selflessly for the community. If I get some funds from some genuine people without asking for it, which happened in the past too, then I am blessed. I have organized free musical programs for senior citizens in different senior centers. Your intention has to be pure without any expectations. I silently do my job without expecting any name or fame.



Purnima Desai with her spiritual master the Enlightened Yogiraj Gurnath Siddhanth

Moreover, my spiritual master, the Enlightened Yogiraj Gurnath Siddhanth ji is there to make my task easier.

TIP: YOU HAVE HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL YOU ORGANIZED LAST YEAR. HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO GET THESE ARTISTS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD?

The International music festival was a unique one. I wanted to bring awareness in the community that what classical music is all about. I was born in Kolkata, West Bengal where art is very popular. From my childhood I was crazy about classical music. Classical music does not only give you immense joy and happiness, but it also heals your soul too. It also reduces your physical pain and stress. It was therapy for the listeners who came to the festival. The artists were also very happy to perform. So, both benefited.



Purnima Desai meets the Prime minister of India , Narendra Modi in New York

TIP. YOU HAVE PLANNED AN INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR OCTOBER 14. WHAT ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS?

It's going to be very interesting. We will be having dozens of internationally acclaimed artists from all over the world to display their talent. Top classical artists are coming. It is a day-long event, split into three sessions. It will be a rare treat for lovers of music. I hope the audience will enjoy the event.

TIP. YOU HAVE ANOTHER AREA OF INTEREST. YOU ARE A HEALER, BUT IN A DIFFERENT WAY NOW. EARLIER, YOU WERE HEALING THROUGH MUSIC. NOW YOU ARE REIKI HEALER. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT REIKI AND YOUR EDUCATION AND TRAINING.



Purnima Desai with her Reiki Gurus Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma. L to R: Dr. N.K. Sharma, Ms Tejal Desai, Dr. Savita Sharma, Purnima Desai

Reiki is a Japanese term used for universal healing energy. This energy is actually already gifted to every human being. After a certain meditation, we can activate this energy in ourselves. And we can channelize through our body and then we can transfer to our palm. It is a kind of touch and heal technique in which once your hands get activated, then you can deal with any problem. It is a noninvasive and a kind of non-violent energy. The beauty of Reiki is that it can influence all living and non-living. Reiki also can be used as an alternative medicine everywhere. More when you come to get treatment.



Reiki Gurus Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma at a Reiki session organized by Purnima Desai

I was fortunate to have the training from world renowned Reiki Masters Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma of Reiki Healing Foundation, the world's largest Reiki Foundation. And I am glad to be practicing this art of healing for the good of my brethren.

Purnima Desai is synonymous with Indian classical dance and music. Through her cultural centers-Shikshayatan and Sriniketan, she has been providing education in Indian culture and Sanskrit and Hindi languages for about 4 decades in New York. More recently, she has been organizing cultural events through Sriniketan, and promotion of Sanskrit and Hindi languages and education through Shikshayatan. She says the enormous work that she has planned to undertake required the scheme of handling the two streams separately.

Recently, she completed her training in Reiki under the supervision of Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma of Reiki Healing Foundation, world's largest Reiki Foundation. She is now Kriya Acharya Reiki Grand Master.

Shikshayatan will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in October, 2023. Purnima Ji's Sriniketan Foundation has planned an international Sangeet Mahotsav on October 14, 2023 to mark the happy occasion. It is billed as International Music Festival by internationally renowned artists as a Tribute to Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande.

The International Music Festival will be held at the Community Center, 143-09 Holly Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355. For more information, please see the advertisement on Page 47.

The zeal with which Purnima ji has been promoting Indian culture in a foreign land is absolutely commendable and a source of inspiration to all admirers and lovers of Indian culture. Looking at her enormous work, one wonders from where she gets all the energy, and more importantly resources, to organize the mammoth international events at which dozens of internationally acclaimed artists give their performance.

The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja caught up with Purnima Ji to know about her current and future projects.

TIP: YOU HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING MUSIC FESTIVALS FOR THE LAST 4 DECADES. HOW DO YOU LOOK AT YOUR JOURNEY?

Sikhshayatan Cultural Academy was established on Vijaya Dasami day in 1988. It's a long journey - 35 years we are celebrating on October 14. The purpose of that organization was to promote Indian culture. It was already a very well-known organization in India. We are just trying to promote that culture among the younger generation here so that they can keep connections with their roots and get the best from both the East and the West. That was my purpose and many children benefitted as they learnt Sanskrit slokas, Hindi language, vocal and instrumental music, and

Sriniketan Foundation organizes Sangeet Mahotsav

FLUSHING , NY (TIP): Sriniketan Foundation organized a Sangeet Mahotsav on June 25, 2023 at the Community Center in Flushing . Internationally renowned artist Rosy Dutta sang Raag Kedar - Chhota khayal Kedar, Tarana and also Kajri.

Another great artist Biplab Mookherjee sang Raag and Tarana in Maru- Behag, and Meera bhajan in Raag Kakasree.

Purnima A. Desai sang devotional and patriotic songs. Tejal Desai joined her mother in singing a couple of bhajans and songs.

Suresh Ketwaroe played a different stroke with his singing of famous Hindi film songs.

The mesmerized audience sat glued to their chairs for more than 90 minutes .

Mr. Jayanibhai Shah was the chief guest. Born in 1933 in Petlad ,Gujarat, India, Jayantibhai Shah finished his secondary education in Khambhat, his hometown. He studied Chemistry and Physics at Petlad College and graduated in 1954. He started working as a teacher in Khambhat. In 1957, he completed his B.Ed. from MS University Baroda. There, he won an academic scholarship. In 1975, while in the USA, he got his M.A (ed) from CUNY.

At 87, Jayantibhai is full of energy and optimism, and is involved in senior organizations. He attributes his vibrant health to the blessings of his students in India and the USA, and Seniors that he serves! In 2020 ,Shanti Fund awarded him a plaque in appreciation of his services to the students and seniors.

Dr. Hari K. Shukla and Mrs Kirti Shukla were guests of honor as was Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, publisher and editor of The Indian Panorama .



Sriniketan Foundation President Purnima Desai introducing the event



A view of the gathering



Purnima Desai presented mementoes to the artists



Purnima Desai and Tejal Desai singing patriotic songs and bhajans



Rosy Dutta won the hearts of the audiences with her singing



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja honored the artists Rosy Dutta and Biplab Mookherjee



Biplab Mookherjee mesmerized with his singing



Suresh Ketwaroe singing Hindi film songs



Guest of Honor Dr. Hari K Shukla speaking on the occasion



Artists with Purnima Desai, chief guest, guests of honor, and organizers

The event was attended by many music lovers and admirers of Sriniketan Foundation. Here is the event in pictures.



Sriniketan Foundation



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The dilemma of double-engine governments

THE RIOTING IN NUH AND GURUGRAM REFLECTS BADLY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE FORCE



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

"THE RIOTING IN NUH AND GURUGRAM IN HARYANA REFLECTS BADLY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICE FORCE. WHY HAS MONU MANESAR, A NOTORIOUS BAJRANG DAL ACTIVIST ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING TWO MUSLIM CATTLE TRADERS FROM RAJASTHAN IN FEBRUARY AND LYNCHING THEM IN HARYANA, BEEN ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT LARGE? INSTEAD, MONU AND HIS ASSOCIATE, BITTU BAJRANGI, CIRCULATED THEIR VIDEO CLIPS ON SOCIAL MEDIA, URGING HINDUS TO JOIN A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION ORGANIZED BY THE VHP THROUGH THE STREETS OF NUH. THE BJP SEEMS TO HAVE DEVISED A NOVEL METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNAL STRIFE. IT ALLOWS THE RIOTS TO OCCUR AND THEN SELECTIVELY ENFORCES BULLDOZER JUSTICE TO TEACH THE VICTIMS A LESSON."

One of the first lessons I learnt as a young police officer was that communal clashes were to be put down with a heavy hand. If you needed to open fire, you were free to do so in case no other option was available. Of course, the rule of minimum force was always to be kept in mind.

It's not as if the police were not aware of Monu Manesar's deep hatred of the Muslims and his intentions.

The Chief Minister, whoever happened to be in that position at the time of the clash, was kept informed of the cause of the riot, the action taken by the police and the steps that were needed to be taken to prevent further mayhem. The compulsion of arresting or detaining the instigators on both sides of the divide was paramount on all such occasions. Every police officer was adept at dealing with communal friction and riots. The governments I served in Maharashtra never interfered in the process. On the contrary, they would pull you up if you failed.

The first time I felt that the police had neglected their duty and responsibility to control a communal conflagration was in Gujarat in 2002. Since I had been chosen to restore normalcy in that state in 1985, I knew the officers there and they knew how I had gone about my task. So, when the 2002 riots happened, I decided to go to Ahmedabad to ascertain why the police leadership had failed.

That was the first recorded instance that pitted the political executive's interests against the standard operating procedures laid down in departmental orders. Detaining mischief-makers on both sides of the



Responsibility: It is the bounden duty of the police to disallow provocative processions.

Photo credit / tribune

communal divide and using all the force required to put down the riots - all this just did not happen.

The rioting in Nuh and Gurugram in Haryana reflects badly on the state government and its police force. Why has Monu Manesar, a notorious Bajrang Dal activist accused of kidnapping two Muslim cattle traders from Rajasthan in February and lynching them in Haryana, been allowed to remain at large? Instead, Monu and his associate, Bittu Bajrangi, circulated their video clips on social media, urging Hindus to join a religious procession organized by the VHP through the streets of Nuh. The BJP seems to have devised a novel method of dealing with the problem of communal strife. It allows the riots to occur and then selectively enforces bulldozer justice to teach the victims a lesson.

It is not as if the police were not aware of Monu's deep hatred of the Muslims and his intentions. Monu and his colleagues were cow vigilantes, who had been allegedly empowered by the state government to assist the police in enforcing cow protection laws. Because of the semi-official status accorded to him and his men, all owing allegiance to the Bajrang Dal and the VHP, strong-arm units of the Sangh Parivar, the police were intimidated into permitting this rabble-rouser to operate almost freely.

The ploy of organizing religious processions through Muslim localities has been used in the past also to provoke Muslims. In my ancestral state of Goa, from where communal clashes had never been reported in colonial times right up to the days of the BJP government of Manohar Parrikar, an attempt to provoke Muslims by organizing a religious procession of Hindus through their locality near Vasco was tried sometime after Pramod Sawant was installed as the CM. Mercifully, the native Goan Muslims, who account for just 2 per cent of the state's population, were not provoked but only amazed! They had never seen such a procession.

In Nuh, it was the bounden duty of the police to disallow the procession that was obviously meant to provoke Muslims. That procession set off a chain reaction that crossed the boundaries of Nuh into Gurugram, where many blue-chip companies have set up their offices. If the government was complicit in the activities of its fellow travelers in the Bajrang Dal, it was short-sighted about their effect on the economy.

The white-collar workers and executives of the blue-

chip companies in Gurugram are not going to be amused by the arrival of the rioters on their doorstep. The Haryana Chief Minister should factor this in when he briefs the police chief on how to deal with Monu and his ilk. Of course, it depends on what his priority is. Is he more interested in consolidation of Hindu votes than the state's and the country's economic progress? From present accounts of what is happening in the country, consolidation of votes is uppermost on the Parivar's agenda.

After Narendra Modi was projected as the BJP's PM face in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the party made gains as the votes of poorer Hindus came its way. This was enough to propel the BJP to power in the 'first past the post' method of electing legislators.

In 2019, the BJP made bigger gains because of PM Modi's charisma. That ensured the party 303 seats in the Lok Sabha with a share of 37.4 per cent of the total votes polled. It may not get so many seats in 2024, but because of the absence of a suitable alternative to PM Modi, it still may get more than half the seats in the Lower House. If he does get a third term, the PM has promised to make India a \$5-trillion economy, which would be the third-largest economy in the world after those of the US and China.

Every human heart beats with hope. Promises by politicians are never taken seriously, but they continue to make them and prosper. PM Modi had reportedly promised that every Indian would receive Rs 15 lakh in his/her bank account. He had also promised an end to corruption and black money with demonetization. People will continue to vote for him because the poor have nothing to lose except hope.

The economic miracle PM Modi speaks about may or may not occur. But if at the end of his prospective third term, only the rich become richer and the poor continue to struggle, history may not be kind to him.

On the social front, if Hindutva hotheads insist on going after the minorities, like they are now allowed to do, the hate they have sown will divide the country irretrievably and weaken it to such an extent that no amount of effort would be able to pluck India out of the morass in which it will slowly sink.

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

The G-20 Summit in India

THE 18TH G20 HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI WILL BE A CULMINATION OF ALL THE G20 PROCESSES AND MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AMONG MINISTERS, SENIOR OFFICIALS, AND CIVIL SOCIETIES.



BY ASOKE MUKERJI

On 1 December 2022, India assumed the Presidency of the Group of 20 (G-20). The G-20 represents 19 major economies and the European Union, comprising 85% of global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the global population. The theme of India's G-20 Presidency is "One Earth, One Family, One Future", also encapsulated in Sanskrit by the phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. India's holistic interdependent approach to global issues emphasizes effective and equitable global cooperation. By the time the G-20 Summit is held in India on 9-10 September 2023, about 200 meetings of the G-20 would have been hosted in over 50 cities in India to carry forward the G-20 workplan across 32 different workstreams. This provides a large canvas for global cooperation.

INDIA'S SIX DECLARED PRIORITIES AS THE G-20 PRESIDENT ARE: climate change including climate action; inclusive and resilient growth; acceleration of progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); technological transformation and digital public infrastructure; women-led development; and reformed multilateralism.

India's endeavour is to make G-20 activities "human-centric", with G-20 meetings held in India so far emphasising the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including large numbers of youth. The G-20 Bali Summit held in November 2022 reiterated that the G-20 remains "the premier forum for global economic cooperation". India's Presidency of the G-20 has consciously focused on greater global cooperation within this economic framework.

The main challenges for global cooperation today come from the impact of armed conflicts and unprecedented disruptions like the Covid-19 pandemic on socio-economic development. Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at eradicating poverty represents the only universal framework for global socio-economic development. Two statistics illustrate the current grave human-centric dimension of the challenges facing Agenda 2030.

According to the UN, about 60 million people world-wide were victims of armed conflicts when Agenda 2030 was adopted unanimously in September 2015. By 2022, that figure has risen sharply to 324 million people. In 2015, according to the World Bank, about 700 million people, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, were living below the poverty line. By 2022, about 685 people across the world were below the poverty line, with as many as 150 million, mainly in developing countries, pulled below the poverty line by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In response, the priority for India's G-20 Presidency has been to revive the momentum of global cooperation needed



G20 Leaders' Summit, New Delhi takes place on September 9 - 10, 2023

to achieve Agenda 2030 by its deadline of 31 December 2030. The identified SDGs subsume the six priorities identified by India during its Presidency. In the six areas that India has identified as its priorities, national initiatives taken by India have been shared with other G-20 countries, especially developing countries. India's credentials for pushing greater global cooperation within the G-20 has strong foundations.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The Climate Change pillar has been influenced significantly by India's initiative to champion Climate Action. Two landmark proposals are adapting global Lifestyles for Environment (LiFE) and using renewable solar energy for development. A new multilateral intergovernmental organization based in India, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), has about 120 countries. The ISA aims to mobilize US\$ 1,000 billion in investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in the installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity. During its G-20 Presidency, India has focused on the need for G-20 developed country members to contribute both financially and through non-restrictive transfers of environmentally friendly technologies to enhance the national capacities of developing countries to meet global environmental targets.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH: India's flagship initiative for a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) made at the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit anchors the growing emphasis within the G-20 on the need to sustain economic growth and build resilient supply chains, particularly after the Covid-19 pandemic and a series of natural disasters attributed to climate change. By developing standards and regulations to make infrastructure resilient in confronting disaster and climate risks, the CDRI seeks to expand a multiple stakeholder approach to sustain growth through a two-way knowledge transfer between developed and developing countries.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: To assist developing countries to meet their national targets to implement Agenda 2030 and its SDGs, India and the UN

created the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in 2017. With committed financial support of \$150 million from India, the Fund has prioritized development projects in least-developed countries, landlocked-developing countries, and small island developing states. So far, 36 projects in 37 partner countries have been processed by the Fund.

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION: India's successful experience in using digital technologies for governance and empowerment to accelerate development through a "whole of society" approach has made it a credible thought-leader in this area during its G-20 Presidency. In partnership with the UNDP, India has hosted a series of G-20 discussions to position India as a global hub for using open and interoperable standards to create a human-centric digital public infrastructure with lower implementation costs, especially for developing countries.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: India has prioritized women's digital and financial inclusion through the use of digital technology. The current focus of G-20 meetings being held in India in this sphere includes effective outreach on education for women, greater participation by women in the workforce, larger representation of women in leadership positions, and the continued narrowing of the identified gaps on gender equality.

REFORMED MULTILATERALISM: The Preamble of Agenda 2030 underscored that "there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development". India has taken the lead to implement this by pointing out that "this is not an era of war." However, the ineffectiveness of existing multilateral institutions to ensure peace, security and development has highlighted calls for "reformed multilateralism." The G-20 will need to give a major push to reform multilateral institutions like the UN and its Security Council, responsible under the UN Charter for maintaining international peace and security (where reforms mandated unanimously by world leaders in 2005 continue to be blocked by the five permanent members of the

Security Council); the International Monetary Fund/World Bank, mandated by their Articles of Agreement to ensure global financial coordination for international reconstruction and development (where IMF quota and governance reforms agreed to in 2010 remain unimplemented till now due to delaying tactics by developed countries); and the World Trade Organization, created to ensure the primacy of multilaterally agreed trade rules based on non-discrimination (where reforms to enhance the organization's integrity and effectiveness are being exploited since 2016 by the growing recourse of developed countries to unilateralism and protectionism).

When India assumed the Presidency of the G-20 at the November 2022 Bali Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India's "G-20 priorities will be shaped in consultation with not just our G-20 partners, but also our fellow-travellers in the Global South, whose voice often goes unheard." On 12-13 January 2023, India hosted a virtual "Voice of the Global South for Human-centric Development" Summit. A measure of the importance of India's initiative can be gauged from the fact that 125 countries responded to this initiative, including 47 from Africa, 31 from Asia, 29 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 from Oceania, and 7 from Europe. On 27 March 2023, developing countries in the UN voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution opposing unilateral sanctions due to their "extra-territorial" nature and adverse impact on the "right to development".

The deliberations of the G-20 under India's Presidency will be carried forward through two processes. Within the G-20, three major developing countries (India, Brazil, and South Africa) will lead the G-20 during 2023-2025 creating a three-year window for implementing the priorities of the Global South. Outside the G-20, ongoing processes for enhancing international cooperation will come to a head with the UN's SDG Summit in September 2023, followed by the UN's Summit of the Future in 2024. These Summits are expected to result in the call for a General Conference to review the UN Charter, as recommended in April 2023 by the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, to coincide with the UN's 80th anniversary Summit in 2025.

This represents a golden opportunity for India's G-20 Presidency in consolidating a "human-centric" sustainable development paradigm, which will restore popular support for the principle of international cooperation upholding the functioning of the "world as one family".

(The author, a retired IFS officer, was Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York between 2013-2015)

Council Votes to Establish Permanent Outdoor Dining Program in New York City, Building on Previous Sidewalk Café Law and Emergency Pandemic-Era Program

COUNCIL ALSO VOTES ON LEGISLATION TO PROTECT NEW YORKERS AGAINST LEAD EXPOSURE, CREATE OFFICE OF THE HOMEOWNER ADVOCATE, SUPPORT STRIKING ACTORS AND WRITERS' FIGHT FOR FAIR CONTRACTS, REDUCE BARRIERS TO BUILDING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOMES, DEVELOP A MAP OF BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CALL FOR STATE LAW TO ELIMINATE LEGACY ADMISSIONS PREFERENCES AT COLLEGES IN NEW YORK

AUGUST 8, 2023

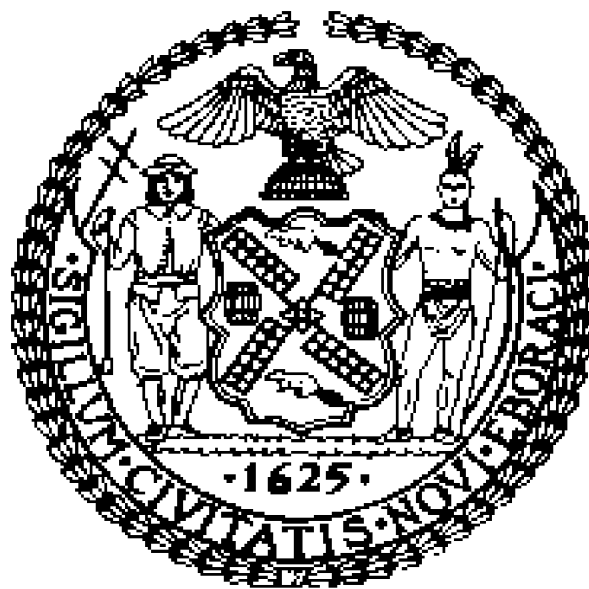
CITY HALL, NY (TIP): The New York City Council, on August 3, voted to establish a newly revised permanent outdoor dining program under local law that incorporates lessons from the emergency pandemic outdoor restaurants program. It helps make the permanent program accessible and inclusive to more restaurants, similar to the temporary emergency program, while addressing concerns with more orderly and uniform regulation. The program allows for year-round outdoor dining options: 12 months of sidewalk dining, similar to the pre-pandemic program, and for the first time will allow permanent roadway dining for the warmer 8 months of the year, from April through November. The legislation eases the application process and lowers the cost of participation for restaurants, compared to the pre-pandemic program. As legal authorization of the emergency open restaurants program was determined to be expired, the Council's approval of the permanent program assures restaurants will be able to continue with outdoor dining uninterrupted.

In addition, the Council voted on legislation that protects New Yorkers against lead contamination, creates the Office of the Homeowner Advocate, supports the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) in calling for fair contracts, reduces barriers to building environmentally friendly homes, develops a map of bicycle infrastructure conditions, and calls for passage and enactment of State Law to prohibit legacy admissions preferences at colleges.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor dining became a lifeline for small businesses and New Yorkers seeking socialization and normalcy," said Speaker Adrienne Adams. "As we move from an emergency program to one under local law, this legislation strikes the right balance for restaurants, neighborhoods, and all New Yorkers. It allows a greater number of restaurants to continue participating, while easing the bureaucratic barriers, making the licensing costs affordable, and providing orderly and uniform regulations that were missing from the temporary program. This permanent program will serve and support our neighborhoods, restaurants, residents and city for years to come."

Establishing a Permanent Outdoor Dining Program in New York City

Introduction 31-C, sponsored by Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, will establish a permanent outdoor dining program that incorporates benefits and lessons from the emergency pandemic-era outdoor dining program. The legislation will make it less bureaucratically prohibitive and more affordable for restaurants to participate in outdoor dining than the previous sidewalk café licensing scheme that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also create more orderly and uniform regulation of outdoor dining that provides reliable consistency for restaurants and neighborhoods alike.



Introduction 31-C will:

- Allow sidewalk cafés to operate year-round, and for the first time permanently allow roadway cafés to operate most of the year, specifically the warmer 8 months of April through November.
- Make the costs for restaurants to participate in the outdoor dining program more affordable and lower, compared to the pre-pandemic outdoor dining licensing and revocable consent process.
- Reduce the required processes and timelines for restaurants to receive approval from city agencies and entities.
- In conjunction with zoning changes approved by the Council in 2022, permit more neighborhoods and restaurants within them to be eligible for participation in outdoor dining than the previous pre-pandemic sidewalk café program.
- Allow restaurants to continue their outdoor dining operations, even after this local law takes effect, as long as they apply for a license and submit a petition for a revocable consent on or before the date set forth by the Department of Transportation (DOT), which cannot be less than three months after the rules go into effect.
- Establish DOT as the agency to administer licensing of both sidewalk and roadway cafes and enforce rules pertaining to their operation, in continued coordination with other city agencies.
- Sheds, or any structure that does not comply with rules set by DOT, must be taken down no later than 30 days after the determination by DOT to grant or deny a revocable consent to operate a sidewalk or roadway cafe, or by November 1, 2024, whichever comes first.

"Outdoor dining helped buoy New York City's economy during the COVID lockdowns, and has been embraced as a creative solution to address the post-pandemic economic crisis. We have spent the past year negotiating and modifying the bill to be as inclusive and equitable as possible, meeting the needs of the different

types of restaurants and eateries across our city. This was not a one-size-fits-all bill, and that's the beauty of it. I am proud to have advocated for our small businesses throughout this process and look forward to seeing them thrive," said Council Member Marjorie Velázquez. "I would like to thank Mayor Adams and Speaker Adams for their support throughout this process; City Council's Legislative Division for their dedication in drafting a bill that will meet the needs of all parties, delivering to New Yorkers by presenting legislation that makes outdoor dining a reality for all. Special thanks to Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and his team for taking on this incredible project; my colleagues at the New York City Council for their sponsorship of this bill, and the countless advocates for being a part of this moment in history."

Protecting New Yorkers from Lead Exposure

Introduction 5-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, would require building owners to produce records of lead-based hazard inspections and investigations and any remediation measures taken whenever an owner is issued a lead-based paint violation.

Introduction 6-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, would expand the current lead-based hazard remediation requirement for buildings at turnover to all units where a child under 6 years old lives prior to turnover of that unit and require owners to conduct this remediation work by July 1, 2027.

Introduction 750-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, would require the Departments of Housing Preservation and Development and Health and Mental Hygiene to annually identify and inspect buildings where children live and where there might be a risk of exposure to lead-based hazards. This would move the city's inspection process for lead-based paint hazards to a proactive one rather than simply a complaint driven process.

"Through this legislative package, we will not only be protecting current residents from the dangers of lead exposure but also safeguarding future generations," said Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala. "Our children deserve to grow up in homes free from harmful substances, and it is our duty to create an environment where their health and safety are paramount. As public servants, it is our ethical and moral obligation to protect the health and well-being of our fellow citizens. By taking action today, we demonstrate our dedication to the principles of public health and the fundamental rights of every New Yorker. Together, we can create a safer, healthier, and more resilient city for all."

Creating the Office of the Homeowner Advocate

Introduction 384-A, sponsored by Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, would create an office of the Homeowner Advocate within the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to provide information, resources and assistance to homeowners.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



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SEVERE FLOODS IN CHINA'S NORTHERN PROVINCE KILLED 29 AND CAUSED TENS OF BILLIONS OF ECONOMIC LOSSES

MORE THAN 1.75 MILLION RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED.

BEIJING (TIP): Severe floods in China's northern province of Hebei brought by remnants of Typhoon Doksuri this month killed at least 29 people and caused billions of dollars in economic losses, its provincial government said on August 11.

Official news agency Xinhua reported that rescue crews were still searching for 16 missing people as of August 10 and the province's reconstruction is expected to take two years to complete. Initial estimates showed the province's direct economic losses amounted to 95.8 billion yuan (\$13.2 billion), state media China News Service said.

LAST WEEK, HEBEI WAS HIT BY SERIOUS FLOODING AS THE REMNANTS OF THE TYPHOON BATTERED THE REGION AND BROUGHT THE HEAVIEST RAINFALL IN NEIGHBOURING BEIJING IN AT LEAST 140 YEARS.

Official preliminary estimates announced Friday showed 3.9 million residents, or about 5% of the province's population, were being affected by the floods and more than 40,000 houses collapsed, China News Service said. A further 155,500 houses and other facilities that provided electricity and communications were seriously damaged, it added.

More than 1.75 million residents have been relocated.

Repairs to damaged power cables and other facilities were underway Friday. According to Xinhua, the government pledged to ensure affected residents can move back to their homes or have new homes before winter.

Earlier this week, officials said the death toll from recent flooding in Beijing rose to 33 and it could take up to three years to restore services completely, given the level of damage.

The Chinese government on Friday further allocated 1.46 billion yuan (\$202 million) of disaster relief funds to support flood-stricken regions, including Beijing and Tianjin, state media CCTV reported. This brought the total amount of the relief funds to 7.74 billion yuan (\$1.07 billion), it added. (AP)

Gunmen ambush a bus carrying Syrian soldiers, killing 20 in the country's east

BEIRUT (TIP): Gunmen have ambushed a bus carrying Syrian soldiers in the country's east, killing at least 20 and wounding others, opposition activists said on August 11.

The Thursday night attack was believed to be carried out by members of the Islamic State group whose sleeper cells in parts of Syria still carry deadly attacks despite their defeat in 2019.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 23 Syrian soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded in the attack on a desert road near the eastern town of Mayadeen in Deir el-Zour province that borders Iraq.

Another activist collective that covers news in eastern Syria said 20 soldiers were killed and others were wounded.

Syrian state news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying that the attack occurred Thursday night, "killing and wounding a number of soldiers." It gave no further details, nor a breakdown in the casualty numbers.

IS controlled large parts of Syria and Iraq where they declared a caliphate in June 2014. Over the years they lost of the



land and were defeated in Iraq in 2017 and two years later in Syria.

In one of their deadliest in a year, IS sleeper cells attacked workers collecting truffles near the central town of Sukhna in February, killing at least 53 people — mostly workers but also some Syrian government security forces.

Experts who follow Jihadi groups say it is too early to say if the new spate of attacks marks a new resurgence by the

extremists that ruled millions of people in Syria and Iraq with terror.

Last week, IS announced the death in Syria of its little-known leader, Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurayshi — who headed the extremist organization since November — and named his successor. He was the fourth to be killed since its founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in 2019 by U.S. troops in northwest Syria. (AP)

At least 385 deported Ukraine children returned from Russia: NGO

VIENNA (TIP): At least 385 Ukrainian children deported to Russia have been returned home, an Austria-based international charity involved in some of the repatriations confirmed on August 11.

According to Kyiv, more than 19,000 Ukrainian children have been deported to Russia since the February 2022 invasion, with many allegedly placed in institutions and foster homes.

RUSSIA DENIES THE ALLEGATIONS. "SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SUPPORTS THE PARENTS, BY MAKING FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE OR BY HELPING THEM PLAN THE ROUTE," CHARITY SPOKESWOMAN ANNA RADL TOLD AFP ON AUG 11.

"A TOTAL OF 385 DEPORTED CHILDREN HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO UKRAINE SO FAR, 84 OF THEM BY SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES AND ITS PARTNER ORGANISATIONS," THE NGO SAID IN A PRESS RELEASE ON AUGUST 10.



The total is based on official Ukrainian governmental statistics, Radl said.

"Often it is the children themselves, who seek help for example via social networks, in other cases (their) families, sometimes residents from occupied territories give indications," it added.

SOS Children's Villages says it is one of three players active in the repatriations.

It also trains social workers and psychologists to assist the children and their families after their return.

In March, the International Criminal Court in The Hague announced an arrest

warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over the war crime accusation of unlawfully deporting Ukrainian children.

SOS Children's Villages International supports about 2.5 million people, mostly children, in over 130 countries through its centres and programmes, helping orphans and others in need.

Financial flows to its Russian branch have been suspended until further notice, after German media revealed accusations that Moscow had taken in Ukrainian children who had allegedly been deported. (AFP)

More evacuations considered in Norway where the level of swollen rivers continues to rise

COPENHAGEN (TIP): More evacuations were being considered on August 11 in southeastern Norway, where the level of water in swollen rivers and lakes continued to grow after days of torrential rain.

Huge amounts of water, littered with broken trees, debris and trash, were thundering down the usually serene rivers. It flooded abandoned houses, left cars coated in mud and swamped camping sites.

One of the most affected places was the town of Hoenefossen where the Begna river had gone over its banks and authorities were considering moving more people downstream for fear of landslides. Up to 2,000 people have already been evacuated.

"We constantly try to think a few steps ahead. We are ready to press an even bigger red button," Magnus Nilholm, a local emergency manager in the Hoenefossen region, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK.

Ivar Berthling of Norway's Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) told Norwegian news agency NTB that the water levels around Hoenefossen, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Oslo, were expected to continue rising and remain high until at least Monday. Up north, near Strondafjorden Lake, the water level was reported to be 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) above normal.

"We are still facing critical days," the Ringerike municipality, where



Hoenefossen lies, said in a statement.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre was to visit Hoenefossen later Friday while King Harald and Queen Sonja were to visit the headquarters of the NVE.

Authorities did not provide a nationwide count of evacuees. According to a rough estimate, the damage could so far amount to 1 billion kroner (nearly \$100 million).

Authorities on Friday urged people not to check on their cabins in the devastated part of the country.

"Hytte," the Norwegian word for the cabin, is part of the Scandinavian country's outdoor lifestyle, and thousands of Norwegians have access to a cabin — some in the mountains, others by the coast — that they use as a retreat from everyday life.

"We fully understand that many cabin

owners are anxious about the cabin's condition after the ravages of the extreme weather, but we hope people will abstain now from making the trip just to check," Lars Aune of the National Police said in a statement. "This is to avoid unnecessary strain on exposed roads."

Storm Hans on Monday and Tuesday battered northern Europe, leading to transportation disruptions, flooding and power cuts across the Nordic and Baltic regions. At least three people were killed.

Southeastern Norway was particularly badly affected. A hydroelectric river dam collapsed Wednesday as water forced its way through, and earlier this week a train derailed in neighbouring Sweden when a railway embankment was washed away by floods. (AP)

GREECE LAUNCHES A RESCUE EFFORT FOR SCORES OF MIGRANTS ON A STRANDED YACHT



ATHENS, Greece (TIP) — A rescue operation is underway to assist more than 100 migrants believed to be on board a stranded yacht off the southern coast of Greece, authorities said on August 11.

Four civilian vessels were ordered to provide assistance while three coast guard boats were heading to the area, south of the Peloponnese region. A navy helicopter was helping coordinate the effort.

The incident occurred near the site of a maritime tragedy in mid-June when hundreds of migrants died or went missing after a fishing trawler sank in international waters while travelling from Libya to Italy.

Also on August 11, a second search operation was underway off the island of Rhodes to look for potentially missing passengers after 22 migrants were rescued from a stranded sailboat.

Turkey-based smugglers in recent years have favoured the longer and more dangerous route to Italy in an attempt to bypass Greek coast guard patrols. (AP)

Tensions rise as West African nations prepare to send troops to restore democracy in Niger

NIAMEY (TIP): Tensions are escalating between Niger's new military regime and the West African regional bloc that has ordered the deployment of troops to restore Niger's flailing democracy.

The ECOWAS bloc said on August 10 it had directed a "standby force" to restore constitutional order in Niger after its Sunday deadline to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum expired.

Hours earlier, two Western officials told The Associated Press that Niger's junta had told a top U.S. diplomat they would kill Bazoum if neighbouring countries attempted any military intervention to restore his rule.

It's unclear when or where the force will deploy and which countries from the 15-member bloc would contribute to it. Conflict experts say it would likely comprise some 5,000 troops led by Nigeria and could be ready within weeks.

After the ECOWAS meeting,



neighbouring Ivory Coast's president, Alassane Ouattara, said his country would take part in the military operation, along with Nigeria and Benin.

"Ivory Coast will provide a battalion and has made all the financial arrangements ... We are determined to install Bazoum in his position. Our objective is peace and stability in the sub-region," Ouattara said on state

television.

Niger, an impoverished country of some 25 million people, was seen as one of the last hopes for Western nations to partner with in beating back a jihadi insurgency linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that's ravaged the region. France and the United States have more than 2,500 military personnel in Niger and together with other

European partners have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into propping up its military.

The junta responsible for spearheading the coup, led by Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, has exploited anti-French sentiment among the population to shore up its support.

On Thursday night after the summit, France's foreign ministry said it supported "all conclusions adopted." U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said his country appreciated "the determination of ECOWAS to explore all options for the peaceful resolution of the crisis" and would hold the junta accountable for the safety and security of President Bazoum. However, he did not specify whether the U.S. supported the deployment of troops.

The mutinous soldiers that ousted Bazoum more than two weeks ago have entrenched themselves in power, appear closed to dialogue and have refused to release the president. (AP)

NEPALI TEENAGE GIRL DIES AFTER BEING FORCED TO STAY IN 'PERIOD HUT'

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 16-year-old girl from Nepal has died after being banished to a 'period hut' - the latest victim of an ancient ritual that still persists in the country - reports The Guardian.

Anita Chand, from the Baitadi district, in the west of the country, is understood to have died on August 9 from a snake bite while she was sleeping. Her death is the latest in a series where teenage girls have died from chhaupadi - a centuries-old belief that women and girls are unclean and untouchable during menstruation. As per chhaupadi, teenage girls are forced to stay alone at "period huts" for the duration.

According to the police of Baitadi, her family have denied she was on her period when she died. They said they are investigating Anita's death.

"We are working to end this practice but still [have] lots to do," said Bina Bhatta, vice-chairperson of Pancheshwar rural municipality in Baitadi.

According to The Guardian, The last reported death from chhaupadi was in 2019. Parwati Budha Rawat, 21, died after spending three nights in an outdoor hut. Her death was the fifth reported case that year. Women and girls have died from animal attacks and from smoke inhalation after lighting fires in windowless huts. Rawat's brother-in-law was sentenced to three months in jail.

After her death, several campaigns started in Nepal to end chhaupadi, and thousands of period huts were destroyed. But during Covid, the campaign took a step back and people started rebuilding period huts. (NIE)

Dengue outbreak in Bangladesh sparks alarm after 364 people die this year and infections rise

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh is struggling to deal with higher casualties and infections from dengue this year, with officials warning that the death toll this month could break records.

The government's Directorate General of Health Services reports the 2023 death toll from the mosquito-born illness has reached 364 in the South Asian country.

More than 78,000 people have been infected since January this year, it said.

Officials warn that the number of deaths and infections this month could set a new, grim record.

In the first 10 days of August, more than 23,000 people were diagnosed with dengue, compared to 43,854 cases during all of July.

More than 100 people have died so far this month, over a third as many deaths from the illness during all of last year.

In 2022, 62,382 people were infected and 281 people died of dengue, according to government figures.

Dengue causes flu-like symptoms that most people recover from, but also can rapidly lead to internal bleeding, organ failure and even death.

There generally is no specific treatment for the disease, but vaccines are available. Other countries, such as Cyprus and Bolivia, also have seen outbreaks this year.

Experts say monsoon season could exacerbate the outbreak in the country of more than 160 million people.

Intermittent rains in August is one of the major reasons for the outbreak, according to experts.

Many people work outside on



Bangladesh's numerous construction projects, including residential and big infrastructure projects across the capital city of Dhaka.

Infected people are overwhelming hospitals across the country, but some doctors and nurses are not sufficiently experienced, or trained, in how to treat dengue cases, experts say.

Mohammed Niatuzzaman, Director of Mugdha Medical Collage Hospital, said on Thursday that they were struggling to provide critical support to serious patients who have other ailments. Many of the critical patients are dying, he said.

People with immune suppression - like cancer patients - or people with comorbidities like diabetes, kidney dialysis or organ transplants are particularly vulnerable, he said.

"People who have weaker immune system are at higher risk to be infected multiple times by a virulent variant (of dengue)," he said.

The Ministry of Health has arranged extra beds in state-run hospitals in Dhaka and outside, but a shortage of IV saline has become a challenge.

The authorities have asked the manufacturers to increase their production of IV fluid.

Niatuzzaman said it's critical to fight the disease on multiple fronts.

"It must start from individual level and rise to our collective effort. Doctors are only a part of it. If we work together and everybody shows awareness and acts responsibly, our collective effort will make dengue prevention possible," he said.

Two city corporations in Dhaka opened emergency teams to coordinate anti-mosquito drive and urged the residents to be aware of the breeding possibilities of Aedes mosquitoes, which thrive in the region.

Mobile teams have been deployed to search homes to see if water is stored where mosquitoes could breed.

But local residents gave the government effort mild reviews. Salma Jahan, a Dhaka resident and mother of a Dengue patient, said that she was worried.

"The government took a lot of measures last time. They applied insecticide in a lot of water bodies and its surroundings in our area. They also went to people's houses and applied liquid insecticide on drains and dirty places. We still have such places but no insecticide is being applied," she said, questioning whether the treatments are even effective. The teams come with insecticide every few days, she added, "but mosquitoes don't die from it." (AP)

'Not your trash, my trash but our trash': Pakistani cleanses K2 peak as shrine to late climber-father

K2 BASECAMP (PAKISTAN) (TIP): Gazing up from K2 Basecamp, Sajid Ali Sadpara sees Earth's second-highest mountain, his father's final resting place, and a blight of litter on the furthest reaches of the natural world.

Sajid dons a down coverall stitched with Pakistan's green flag to scale the 8,611-metre (28,251-foot) spur of rock, clearing an icebound grotesquerie of spent oxygen canisters, mangled tents and snarled rope discarded over decades by climbers questing for the summit.

Over a week some 200 kilograms (400 pounds) of litter is hacked from the pinnacle's frozen grip by his five-strong team and ferried precariously back down, he says, a rare act of charity in one of Earth's most unforgiving environments.

It is a high-altitude tribute to Sajid's father, legendary climber Ali Sadpara, honouring the place where they bonded in nature and where his body remains after a 2021 father-son expedition fell foul of the "savage mountain".

"I'm doing it from my heart," Sajid told an AFP team at K2 Basecamp, where 5,150 metres of elevation labours breathing and avalanches tremor off an amphitheatre of surrounding slopes.

"This is our mountain," the 25-year-old said, sizing up the



task above. "We are the custodians."

K2 was forged when India collided with Asia 50 million years ago, sprouting the Karakoram range of mountains across Pakistan's present-day northeastern Gilgit-Baltistan region.

It was named by British surveyors in 1856 - denoting the second peak in the Karakoram range. Over time nearby mountains with alphanumeric designations became better known by names used by locals.

But sequestered up a glacial cul-de-sac on the Chinese border - days from the faintest suggestion of human settlement - K2 kept its foreboding moniker, stoking a

reputation as a more wild, untamable and technically demanding ascent than Nepal's Everest, which stands 238 metres higher.

First conquered by Italians in 1954, its winter winds scourge up to 200 kilometres per hour and temperatures plunge to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 Fahrenheit).

But it also ignites primal passions with its archetypical triangular silhouette - the shape of a peak a child might draw.

After two days on paths slit through valleys and four more across the Baltoro Glacier - a 63-kilometre hulk frozen in a permanent storm swell and seamed with crevasses - K2's first glimpse ripples frisson through hikers.

It stands like an altar at the end of a colossal aisle. Sundown deepens its rocky reliefs and burnishes snowy slopes to rose gold. Pilgrim paragliders come to whirl in its shadow.

One renowned wilderness photographer labelled this vista "the throne room of the mountain gods".

"We love it more than life itself because there's no place of such beauty on Earth," said Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP) warden Muhammad Ishaq. (AFP)

Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
International and its new Team for 2023-24



CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES AS WE CELEBRATE THE
76TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE.

INDIA



15 August, 2023

Wishing a joyous Independence Day to the land of diversity, India. Let's cherish
our rich cultural heritage and work towards a brighter future together



Top Row, from l. to r. Chairman Dr Thomas Abraham, President Lal Motwani, Exec. VP Umesh Chandra, Vice President Kewal Kanda, Global Ambassador Prakash Shah, Secretary Ram Gadhavi, Treasurer Sohan Joshi, Intl. Coordinators-at-Large Dr. Asha Samant and Jasbir (Nami) Kaur, Intl Coordinators: for Europe- Ved Prakash Goojha
Bottom Row, from l. to r.: Intl Coordinators: for Africa - Roger Laxman, Caribbean - Deo Gosine, North America - Ashok Madan, Oceania - Harmohan Wallia, South Asia - Dhiraj Ahuja, Francophone - Kritilata Ram; Associate Secretaries - Chitransh Sahay Belwariar and Jay Bhandari; Validation Committee Chair - Mahavir Arya and Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair Pramod Kamdar

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Diljit Dosanjh's 'Punjab 95' removed from Toronto Film Festival line-up?

Diljit Dosanjh-starrer 'Punjab 95' has been under the radar ever since it was announced.

Helmed by Honey Trehan, the film is based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Khalra fought against alleged fake encounters of Sikh youths by Punjab Police during militancy.

In July 2023, the makers announced the film's premiere at the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival. However, as per the latest buzz, the movie's name has been dropped from the line-up.

A US-based news outlet, Variety, shared the update. The outlet reported that currently there is no mention of the film on the festival's website.

The film was originally titled, 'Ghallughara', a historic term used to refer to the massacre of Sikhs.

When the production banner RSVP applied for certification from Central Board of Film Certification in late 2022, the process took six months. The film was cleared with 21 cuts and a change of title to 'Punjab 95'.

RSVP appealed the decision in the Bombay High Court. The decision is pending, Variety said.

Actors Arjun Rampal and Suvinder Pal Vicky are also a part of 'Punjab 95'.

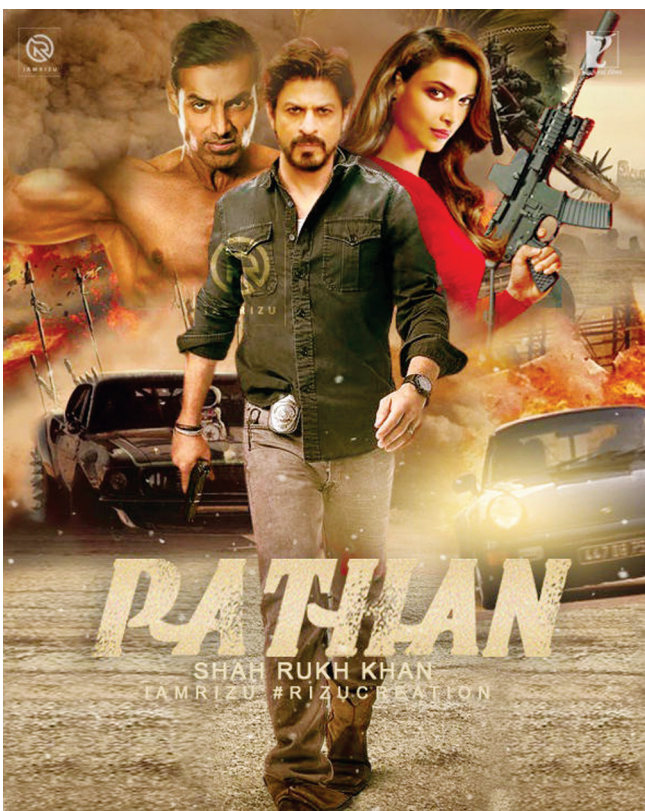
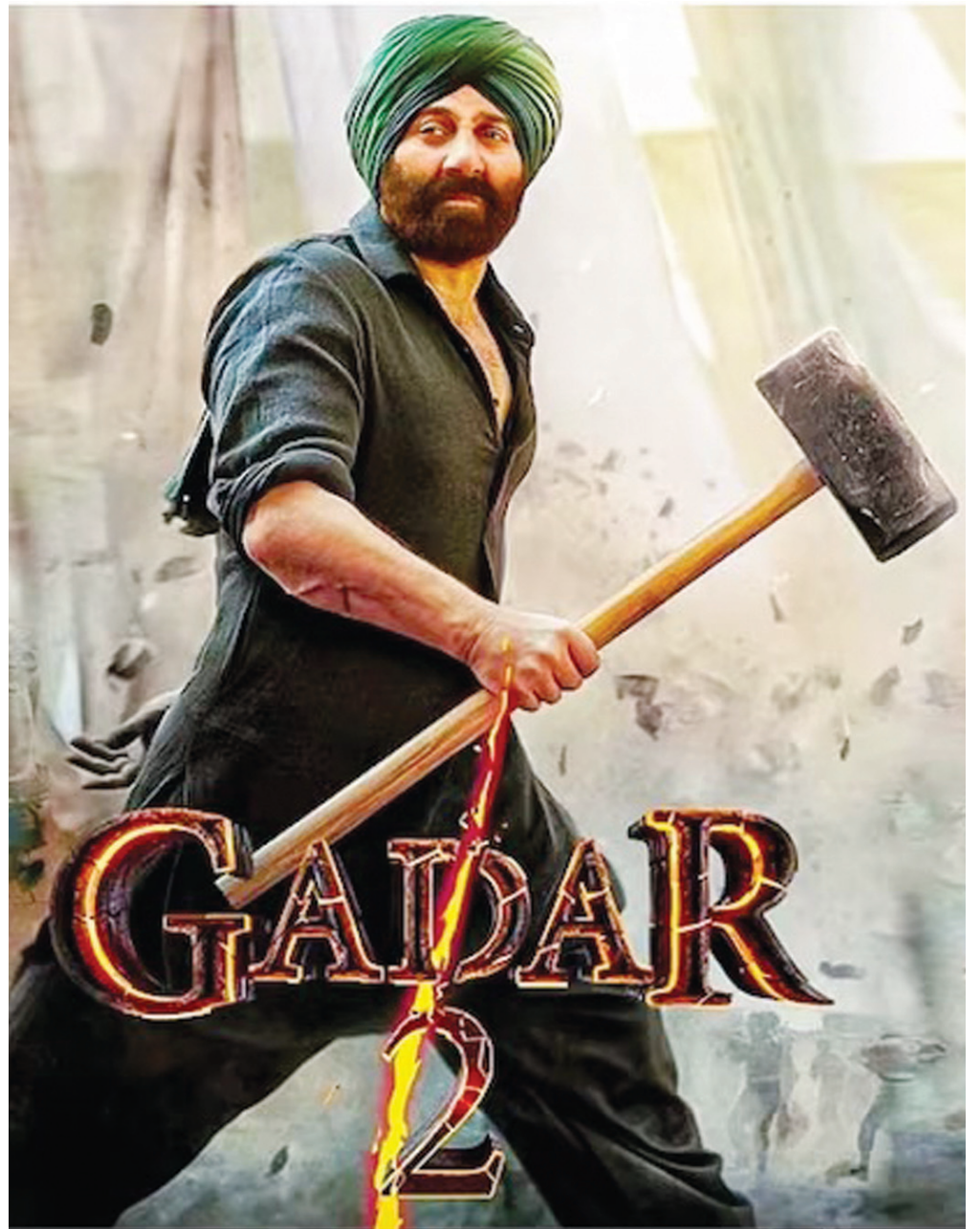
'Gadar 2' box office collection: Sunny's 'dhai kilo ka haath' breaks records

Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel's 'Gadar 2' has taken the box office by storm with its collection. The film directed by Anil Sharma witnessed a grand opening and it looked like it would surpass the lifetime haul of the first 'Gadar' within its first weekend.

Sunny Deol who made his stupendous debut in the film 'Betaab,' has returned to the screen with yet another power-packed film and is delivering hits at 65. With performances by prolific actors and powerful dialogues and the iconic hand pump, 'Gadar 2' showcased Tara Singh and Sakeena's legacy, set amidst the tumultuous Crush India Movement of 1971.

Despite locking horns with Akshay Kumar's 'OMG 2,' 'Gadar 2' emerged to be the second-highest opener of 2023 after Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan.' According to early estimates by Sacnilk, the film earned Rs 40 crore nett India on its first day. 'Gadar 2' was released 23 years after 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha'. Sunny Deol's film, however, outperformed Prabhas' big-budget mythological epic 'Adipurush,' which debuted with Rs 32 crore. Given the weekend, it seems that the film will continue to soar to heights and emerge as another blockbuster of the year.

Apart from Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel, the cast also includes Manish Wadhwa, Gaurav Chopra, Luv Sinha, Simrat Kaur, Mir Sarwar, Rohit Choudhary and Rakesh Bedi, among others. The music for 'Gadar 2' is composed by Mithoon, while the background score is composed by Monty Sharma.



Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' wins top honour at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

'Pathaan' has brought waves of happiness among Shah Rukh Khan's fans once again. The film, on Friday, bagged People's Choice Award at the 14th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).

Helmed by Siddharth Anand, 'Pathaan' starred Shah Rukh Khan alongside Deepika Padukone and John Abraham. The film is the highest-grossing film worldwide in the history of Hindi cinema with over Rs 1050 crore gross at the global box office.

The IFFM Awards night saw honouring the remarkable talents of the Indian film fraternity, spanning across movies and OTT series.

Actor Rani Mukerji was named Best Actor for her performance in 'Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway'. Actor Mohit Agarwal took home the Award for Best Performance (Male) in Film for 'Agra'.

Upon receiving the award, Rani said, "I feel incredibly proud and grateful that Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway has been embraced and loved by audiences worldwide. It's a universal story that showcases the power of a mother's Shakti. Winning the Best Actress

Award is a true honour, and I sincerely thank everyone for their applause and appreciation of my performance."

Meanwhile, filmmaker Karan Johar was at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry.

Kartik Aaryan was also felicitated with 'The Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema' award.

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Drew Barrymore keeps daughters' iPads locked in her safe

Despite saying she loves keeping her daughters entertained, Hollywood star Drew Barrymore draws the line at her girls' iPads and keeps them locked away in a safe to stop them getting hooked on to the screens.

The ET actress, 48, has daughters Olive, 10, and nine-year-old Frankie with her ex-husband Will Kopelman, and has admitted she is a strict mum when it comes to monitoring their use of electronic items. "We watch a ton of movies and shows, so I'm not judging anyone about screens. But when it comes to my kids, I'm not a huge fan of personal electronics, like iPads. During the pandemic when schools were virtual we were forced into all being on our separate devices and I didn't like it," she said. "Now, I keep the iPads in a locked safe and they only come out for special occasions," she added.

Leonardo DiCaprio spotted cruising with Love Island star Arabella Chi in Spain

Leonardo DiCaprio was spotted holidaying with pal Tobey Maguire on a yacht in Formentera, Spain. Accompanying them was Love Island star Arabella Chi, as reported by The Sun. The 32 year-old was spotted in a leopard-printed thong bikini as pictures of her with Leonardo went viral on X.

As per a report by The Sun, The Great Gatsby co-stars and longtime pals Leonardo and Tobey were seen soaking in the sun as they cruised the Mediterranean Sea. 32 year-old Arabella Chi, star of Love Island, was seen with them, sporting a leopard-print bikini with a matching sheer sarong around her waist. More pictures emerged of the Love Island star on the deck of the cruise.

Leo kept a low profile in a white tee and shorts. They were also joined by British Vogue editor Edward Enninful and Chief Creative Officer of Burberry Group, Riccardo Tisci. It was also reported that the group later dined together at the Es Moli de Sal Mediterranean restaurant.

In the past few months, Leonardo was linked to Gigi Hadid and even Indian-origin British model Neelam Gill. Last month, there were reports of Leo and Gigi attending a party in the Hamptons. Meanwhile, Neelam and Leo were also spotted on a yacht in Sardinia.

Later, Neelam responded to the dating



reports on her Instagram Stories. "Just to clear up any rumors... I am not Leonardo DiCaprio's 'new flame'. In fact, I am in a committed relationship with his good friend, and have been for many months now. The only reason we have been pictured in the same vicinity is because I have been there with my partner. I hope this clears up all the false stories," she wrote in the

post.

On the work front, Leonardo will be next seen in Killers of the Flower Moon, where he reunites with his The Wolf of Wall Street collaborator, filmmaker Martin Scorsese. The film also stars Robert De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Brendan Fraser and Lily Gladstone in pivotal roles. It releases in cinemas on October 6.



Bella Hadid posts about her 1st day back at work after recovering from ailment

Supermodel Bella Hadid took a break from her career in order to undergo treatment for Lyme disease, which she was first diagnosed with in 2012, but she revealed to fans on Wednesday, August 9 night she was back on set for a new job.

On TikTok, Bella shared a video in which she lip synced to Dave and Central Cee's song 'Sprinter' while sitting in a make-up chair wearing a white top and shorts. She captioned the post, "First day back on set in 5 months!" reports aceshowbiz.com.

Bella's update came a few days after she reflected on everything she had been through with the disease, admitting she is "finally healthy" again.

In a lengthy post, she wrote on Instagram, "The little me that suffered would be so proud of grown me for not giving up on myself (heart emoji)."

"Thankful to my mommy for keeping all of my medical records, sticking by me, never leaving my side, protecting, supporting, but most of all, believing me through all of this Living in this state, worsening with time and work while trying to make myself, my family and the

people who support me, proud, had taken a toll on me in ways I can't really explain."

"To be that sad and sick with the most blessings/privilege/opportunity/love around me was quite possibly the most confusing thing ever. One thing I want to express to you all is that 1, I am okay and you do not have to worry, [heart emoji] and 2, I wouldn't change anything for the world."

"If I had to go through all of this again, to get here, to this exact moment I'm in right now, with all of you, finally healthy, I would do it all again. It made me who I am today."

And the brunette beauty later slammed speculation she had been in rehab. Taking to TikTok, she shared various pictures including herself on an IV, cuddling up with her puppy Miss Beans and various health documents.

She captioned the post, "Me n miss beans taking our mental health walk in between treatments (i know i look sick u dont have to tell me twice ok!!) And no i wasnt in rehab and no i dont do drugs so we can all drop it now that ive filled you in love you."

Bedtime hacks to wake up with beautiful skin

If you don't feel picture-perfect when you first wake up in the morning, you're not alone. Most people don't wake up with glowing skin and perfect hair, at least not without some effort the night before. With a few skincare tips and plenty of sleep, you'll be showing off your natural beauty before you know it.

Remove Make-Up

This one is probably the biggest beauty blunder we make. Removing every hint of make-up from your face is really important as it lets your skin breathe and avoids chances of infections, especially zits. You can buy make-up removing pads, micellar water or use olive oil to make your own DIY make-up remover.

Cleanse

Don't assume using a make-up remover will completely cleanse your face as well. Invest in a good cleanser, depending upon your skin type, and make sure to use it after removing your make-up. It will help in deep cleaning your pores by removing dirt and oil.

Moisturise

A night cream is a must have in beauty kit. It helps to hydrate, nourish and repair the damaged skin cells. Apply a thick layer of it before sleeping and provide the much-needed care. P.S. - night creams are different from day ones. They are sans SPF, and may have a thicker texture.

Under Eye Cream

The area under your eyes is the thinnest skin of your body and hence needs special care. An eye cream will help to reduce dark circles and puffiness under your eyes. Plus, it will keep the area



hydrated and keep wrinkles away!

Face Mask

Depending upon your skin condition, applying a face mask once or twice a week is a good idea. It will help in keeping your skin supple, and complexion luminous.

Sleep

The importance of sleeping for 7-9 hours every day cannot be overstressed. A good skincare regimen starts with a good snoozing time and a healthy diet. It is the only time when your skin gets to revitalise, and gear up for the next day!

Sleep on your back

Lying on your stomach is bad for "beauty sleep." The average head weighs 7 to 8 pounds—a lot of pressure to be putting on your face every night. In fact, many dermatologists say they can tell

what side of the face people sleep on by the number of wrinkles there.

Get a lift

Sleep with your head elevated on two pillows, or put the headrest area of your bed on 2- to 4-inch pieces of wood. Gravity helps lymph and blood flow so fluid won't accumulate, Polis says.

To wake with defined cheekbones, eat a high-protein, low-sugar dinner (try salmon and asparagus, a natural diuretic). Skip the rice, pasta and potatoes. When our diet's high in glycemic carbohydrates, our features take on a soft, doughy appearance.

Wrap it up

To minimize A.M. frizz, sleep on a satin pillowcase or put your hair in a silk scarf. Those fabrics are much softer than cotton, so there's less friction.



Home remedies to repair split ends

Our hair is the one thing that beautifies the entire personality. Long, lustrous locks are often associated with good health. However, "split ends" is something we talk about often, and is not a sign of healthy hair.

Being a common concern, split ends in hair is a result of fraying or splitting of the hair fibre which is most typically at the end of the strand. However, splitting can occasionally also occur further up the hair. This happens because the ends of your hair are also the oldest part of the hair shaft. As time passes, this hair shaft weakens, thus losing its protective layer. In many ways, split ends in hair essentially expose the hair's inner cortex.

Onion Juice Oil

Onions are rich in sulphur which is an excellent way of preventing hair from structural damage thus not causing split ends. Onion juice is probably one of the easiest DIY remedies for split ends hair.

Procedure – Make a paste of small onions and squeeze out the juice. Add some almond oil/coconut oil to this and apply it through the length of your hair. Leave it for 20 minutes and then wash it off.

Hibiscus Flower, Fenugreek, Curry Leaves Hair Mask

This magical hair mask enriched with the best of Ayurvedic herbs not only acts as the best split ends treatment at home but also prevents your hair from more damage by strengthening your hair shaft. Hibiscus is known for its hydrating properties and is used in the treatment of dryness. Fenugreek, on the other hand, contains high protein which prevents hair thinning and dryness and brings back your hair's natural bounce. Curry leaves are rich in beta carotene and protein while Amla has vitamins and minerals which strengthen hair from the inside and prevent breakage.

Procedure – Take 5-6 hibiscus flowers and 2 Hibiscus Leaves, Curry Leaves, Fenugreek, and Amla, and blend the ingredients to make a smooth paste. Add your favourite essential oil to it, preferably Sesame Seed Oil or Almond Oil and apply it through the length of your hair. Leave the mask for about 30 mins if you have time or 10-15 mins and then wash off with a natural cleanser.

Bhringraj – The King Of Hair

There are many reasons for split ends, and Bhringraj which is popularly known as 'food for the hair', is a versatile ingredient in Ayurveda and helps to promote healthy hair growth. Bhringraj can be an effective treatment for hair breakage and helps overcome split ends.

Procedure – Start by blending the Bhringraj leaves with sufficient water to form a paste. Next, apply the Bhringraj paste to your hair and scalp and then leave it for 20 to 30 minutes. Once done, wash your hair with any sulphate-free cleanser.

FOOD CORNER

Chole Palak

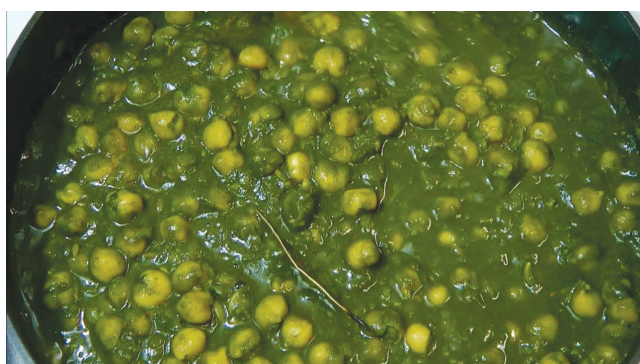
Chole Palak is a scrumptious North Indian recipe which will be a treat to your taste buds. This dish is a perfect one pot recipe that is popular among all age groups. Make this easy-to-make recipe with simple ingredients that are easily

INGREDIENTS

1 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, 2 tablespoon coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon, asafoetida, 2 green chilli, 4 medium tomato, 400 gm chickpeas, salt as required, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 6 tablespoon refined oil, 1 piece ginger, 6 cup spinach

Method

- To prepare this recipe, chop tomatoes and spinach. Keep them aside for further use. Wash the chickpeas under running water. Put them in a pressure cooker on medium flame and fill adequate water in it. Boil them for 10-15 minutes or until soft.
- Blend tomato, ginger and green chili to make a puree. Next, heat oil in a saucepan on medium flame and add cumin and asafoetida in it. Once the cumin seeds crackle,



add the prepared tomato puree, turmeric, coriander powder and red chilli in the mixture. Cook for 4 minutes until the tomato puree reduces to half its size and separates from the oil.

- Add some chopped spinach, salt and water to the mixture and cover the pan. Cook this for at least 5 minutes.
- Finally, add chickpeas to the to the gravy and mash them with a spatula. Feel free to add some more water to get a desired consistency of the gravy. Once done, add garam masala powder and serve.

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Banana and avocado: These 2 fruits can help you beat stress

In our daily rush, we face many challenges that bring stress. Health experts say stress can harm our overall health in many ways. Uncontrolled stress can negatively affect your physical as well as mental health. Nutritionist Lovneet Batra, in her latest Instagram Stories, talks about how two simple fruits can act like stressbusters. And these are: bananas and avocados. According to nutritionist Batra, "Both these fruits help the mind relax, instantly making you happier." Let's find out how.

Bananas

Bananas stand as a valuable vitamin B6 source, essential for generating serotonin - an influential neurotransmitter that aids mood regulation and induces relaxation. Furthermore, bananas naturally encompass tryptophan, fostering a serene sense of calmness and overall well-being.

Avocados

Avocados are rich in an array of B vitamins, encompassing B5, B6 and folate at significant levels. All these B vitamins and folates are essential for energy production and stress reduction.

As per Batra, these are important nutrients for mental health. In the caption of that post, she says, "The foods we consume provide more than just physical sustenance; they hold the potential to fuel our minds, uplift our spirits, and promote emotional balance."

- Magnesium: This trace element's impact on the nervous system extends to neurotransmitter metabolism and release. Its presence ensures relaxed muscles, stable blood pressure, and robust bone health.
- Complex Carbohydrates: They prompt heightened serotonin production in the brain, aiding stress reduction by stabilising blood pressure.
- Vitamin B6 (Pyridoxine): Within the essential B vitamin group, B6 stands out for its role in managing depression physiologically. Acting as a cofactor, it assists in synthesising serotonin, a



mood-regulating hormone derived from tryptophan. The metabolite of folate, itself vital for brain-body communication, further contributes to its impact.

- Vitamin C: A substantial reservoir resides in adrenal glands, responsible for stress hormone production. Vitamin C's role in lowering cortisol levels (stress hormone) and reducing blood pressure during high-stress situations is noteworthy.
- Essential Fatty Acids: Integral to effective bodily functions, especially brain health. Omega-3s not only aid in managing psychological and physical stress but also help temper cortisol surges.
- Probiotics: Emerging research ties gut health to mental well-being. Microorganisms, including probiotics in the gut, are linked to mood regulation by curbing inflammation, generating positive neurotransmitters, and influencing stress responses.
- Folate: Enhance concentration and counteract free radicals' effects.
- Zinc: Crucial for optimal brain and nerve functioning.

Source: NDTV



Thymus plays an important role in cancer prevention: Study

According to a new study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the thymus is important for adult health in general, as well as preventing cancer and possibly autoimmune disease.

The thymus gland, which produces immune T cells before birth and throughout childhood, is frequently thought to be nonfunctional in adults, and it is occasionally removed during cardiac surgery to allow easier access to the heart and major blood vessels.

The researchers compared the risk of death, cancer, and c in 1,146 adults who had their thymus removed during surgery to 1,146 demographically matched patients who underwent similar cardiothoracic surgery without thymectomy to see if the thymus benefits adults' health.

The researchers also measured T-cell production and blood levels of immune-related molecules in a subset of patients.

"By studying people who had their thymus removed, we discovered that the thymus is absolutely required for health. If it isn't there, people's risk of dying and risk of cancer is at least double," said senior author David T. Scadden, MD, director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine at MGH and co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

"This indicates that the consequences of thymus removal should be carefully considered when contemplating thymectomy."

An additional analysis involving all thymectomy patients with more than five years of follow-up found that the overall mortality rate was higher in the thymectomy group than in the general US population as was cancer mortality.

Although Scadden and his colleagues discovered that the risk of autoimmune disease did not differ significantly between the thymectomy and control groups overall in their study, they did notice a difference when patients with infection, cancer, or autoimmune disease prior to surgery were excluded from the analysis. T cell production and immune-related molecules were measured in a subset of patients (22 in the thymectomy group and 19 in the control group, with an average follow-up of 14.2 postoperative years), and those who had undergone thymectomy had consistently lower levels of new T cells and higher levels of pro-inflammatory molecules in the blood.

Source: ANI

Pecans can curb obesity, reduce inflammation

Researchers discovered that pecans provide health benefits that may reduce inflammation and prevent obesity. The findings of the study were reported in the journal Nutrients.

Obesity and diabetes numbers are increasing in modern society worldwide, and the trend in high-fat diet consumption is one of the main reasons besides lifestyle and genetic predisposition, said Luis Cisneros-Zevallos, Ph.D., professor of horticulture and food science in the Department of Horticultural Sciences in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and affiliate scientist in the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture.

People are searching for healthier options, and we have now shown pecans are a healthy tool consumers have in their hands. According to Amit Dhingra, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Cisneros-Zevallos' investigation "provides scientific evidence supporting the traditional knowledge in the Americas that pecans are highly nutritious." Thanks to Dr. Cisneros-Zevallos work, we now know what potential mechanisms underlie that nutritional benefit, he said. Our department is focused on the areas of sustainability, wellness and food security, and this research illustrates the relevance of horticultural crops for human health.

According to Cisneros-Zevallos, researchers used pecans and high fat diets on mouse models and discovered that nuts enhanced energy expenditure



while decreasing dysbiosis and inflammation. The research found that pecans influence adipose tissue lipolysis as well as mitochondrial oxidative metabolism in the liver and skeletal muscle.

He also mentioned that the anti-inflammatory effects of pecans shown in the study lowered low-grade inflammation, which contributes to chronic inflammation and the development of a variety of common ailments. He further stated that pecans help people maintain their weight and prevent diabetes while eating a high-fat diet.

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Google News expands to include Punjabi, Gujarati as additional languages

Google India has announced two significant developments to augment their ongoing efforts to support the Indian language news ecosystem and expand the Indian language web more broadly.

Google News will now be expanding to include two additional Indian languages: Gujarati and Punjabi. These new languages will be available in the coming weeks, bringing the total number of languages to ten in India. The languages earlier available on Google News included Bengali, English, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu.

The GNI Indian Languages Program, announced earlier this year, has received over 600 applications from news publishers across India. Of these, 300+ publishers have been selected to participate in the program, which will provide them with support to modernize their digital ecosystem and improve the user experience across web, mobile and app.

The program delivery will be in nine languages, including English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Marathi, making it Google's most diverse technology program for news publishers.

Sanjay Gupta, Country Manager and Vice President, Google India, said, "The addition of supported languages on Google News is one way in which we want to keep driving the expansion of the Indian language internet, so that more and more users are able to harness the power of information. News publishers are core to this effort and we remain committed to partnering with the news ecosystem."

Russia may beat India in race to moon's south pole

Russia will launch its first lunar landing spacecraft in 47 years on Friday in a race with India to the south pole of the moon. The launch will take place nearly four weeks after India sent up its Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander, due to touch down at the pole on August 23.

Russian space agency Roscosmos said its Luna-25 spacecraft would take five days to fly to the moon and then spend five to seven days in lunar orbit before descending on one of three possible landing sites near the pole — a timetable that implies it could match or narrowly beat its Indian rival to the moon's surface.

YouTube's enhanced 1080p option now available for Premium users

Google-owned YouTube's enhanced 1080p option is now available for all Premium subscribers on desktop globally.

Spokesperson Paul Pennington confirmed this information to The Verge.

According to the company, the enhanced bitrate version of 1080p HD video quality makes things "look extra crisp and clear, especially for videos with lots of detail and motion."

Pennington confirmed that the enhanced 1080p for Premium subscribers is also rolling out on YouTube on living room-focused devices such as Chromecasts and video game consoles.

However, this feature is not available on Android yet, Pennington claimed.

The non-enhanced 1080p option is still available for non-Premium users.

In April this year, the company first launched the enhanced bitrate version of 1080p HD video quality on iOS.

ISRO successfully conducts another test for its first manned mission - Gaganyaan

ISRO has successfully conducted a series of tests on drogue parachutes, which would play a pivotal role in stabilising the crew module and reducing its velocity to a safe level during re-entry in the planned Gaganyaan human space flight mission. The Gaganyaan mission hopes to safely transport astronauts to Space and back.

Drogue parachutes are deployed to decrease speed and stabilise rapidly moving objects. ISRO's Thiruvananthapuram-based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) successfully conducted a series of Drogue Parachute Deployment Tests at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory in Chandigarh during August 8-10, the national space agency said in a statement here on Friday.

The tests were conducted in collaboration with Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE)/DRDO. The drogue parachutes, packed within pyro-based devices known as mortars, are cleverly designed to eject the parachutes into the air upon command. These conical ribbon-type parachutes, boasting a diameter of 5.8 metres, employ a single-stage reefing mechanism, ingeniously minimising canopy area and mitigating opening shock, ensuring a smooth and controlled descent, the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) explained.

During the three comprehensive tests conducted at the RTRS facility, a range of real-world scenarios were simulated to rigorously evaluate the performance and reliability of the drogue parachutes. The first test simulated the maximum reefed load, marking a groundbreaking introduction of reefing in a mortar-deployed parachute within India. The second test emulated the maximum dis-reefed load, while the third test showcased the deployment of the drogue parachute under conditions mirroring the maximum angle of attack experienced by the crew module during its mission.

"These successful RTRS tests serve as a critical qualification milestone for the drogue parachutes,



ISRO conducts tests on drogue parachutes (ISRO)

confirming their readiness for integration into the upcoming Test Vehicle-D1 mission," the statement said.

Notably, earlier this year, the RTRS tests of Pilot and Apex cover separation parachutes were also conducted, further accentuating the progress of the Gaganyaan mission's parachute system development. The intricate parachute sequence for the Gaganyaan crew module's deceleration system encompasses a total of 10 parachutes.

The sequence commences with the deployment of two apex cover separation parachutes, followed by the stabilisation achieved through the deployment of two drogue parachutes. Upon release of the drogue parachutes, the mission transitions into the extraction phase, with three pilot chutes individually extracting three main parachutes, a pivotal step in reducing the Crew Module's speed to safe levels for a secure landing, the statement said.

Source: PTI

WhatsApp rolling out admin review feature for group chats on Android beta

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out an admin review feature for group chats on Android beta. The new option will be available within the group settings screen for group admins, reports WABetaInfo.

Once this option is enabled, everyone in the group chat will be able to report messages shared in the conversation to the group admins.

After a message is reported, the group admin will have the choice to either remove the message for everyone or take necessary action given the significance of the reported content.

"This feature empowers the group to maintain a safe and respectful environment within the conversation," the report said.

With the new feature, the group admins can gain assistance in monitoring the group even when they are not there.

The messages that need to be reviewed will be listed in a new section in the group info screen.

The new admin review feature for group chats is currently available to some beta testers that install the latest WhatsApp beta for Android update, and is rolling out to more users over the coming days.

Last month, the messaging platform had released new safety tools for when users receive messages from



unknown phone numbers, on Android beta.

The platform also rolled out a 'link with phone number' feature on Android beta, which allows users to link their account to WhatsApp Web by using their phone number.

In June, the Meta-owned platform had launched a feature which allows users to send high-quality videos, on Android beta.

While this feature preserves video dimensions, minor compression will still be applied to the video, thus sending videos in their original quality is not possible.

Source: IANS

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At Rs 5.84 lakh crore, net direct tax kitty up 17%

Net direct tax collection swelled 17.33% to Rs 5.84 lakh crore up to August 10 this fiscal, reaching 32% of the full-year Budget Estimates (BE).

The Income Tax department in a statement said the collection from direct taxes, which include personal income tax and corporate tax, up to August 10, 2023, continue to register "steady growth".

On a gross basis, direct tax collection grew 15.73% to Rs 6.53 lakh crore till August 10 in the current fiscal. Refunds to the tune of Rs 69,000 crore have been issued so far, 3.73% higher than last year.

Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at Rs 5.84 lakh crore, which is 17.33% higher than the net collection for the corresponding period of last year, it said.

The net collection is 32.03% of the total Budget Estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal of Rs 18.23 lakh crore.

The 2023-24 Budget has pegged direct tax collection at a little over Rs 18.23 lakh crore, 9.75% higher than Rs 16.61 lakh crore mopped up last fiscal.

Factory output growth dips to 3-month low of 3.7% in June

India's industrial production growth declined to a three-month low of 3.7% in June mainly due to poor showing by the manufacturing sector, according to the official data released on Friday, August 11.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 12.6% in June 2022 on account of a lower base effect.

During the first quarter (April-June) of 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 4.5%, down from 12.9% in the corresponding period a year ago.

Adani ready to go solo with \$50-bn hydrogen project

Billionaire Gautam Adani's Group is prepared to go ahead alone on the \$50 billion green hydrogen project after its French partner, TotalEnergies SE, put investment in the venture on hold following allegations of fraud.

Adani Group CFO Robbie Singh in an investor call on first-quarter earnings of Adani Enterprises Ltd last week said the project is not dependent on the equity from TotalEnergies and the group is going ahead with the investment with or without the French giant.

TotalEnergies had last year agreed to take a 25% stake in Adani New Industries, which is building the project.

Moody's downgrades US banks, warns of possible cuts to others

NEW YORK (TIP)

Moody's cut credit ratings of several small to mid-sized U.S. banks on Monday and said it may downgrade some of the nation's biggest lenders, warning that the sector's credit strength will likely be tested by funding risks and weaker profitability.

Moody's cut the ratings of 10 banks by one notch and placed six banking giants, including Bank of New York Mellon (BK), US Bancorp, State Street (STT) and Truist Financial (TFC) on review for potential downgrades.

"Many banks' second-quarter results showed growing profitability pressures that will reduce their ability to generate internal capital," Moody's said in a note.

"This comes as a mild U.S. recession is on the horizon for early 2024 and asset quality looks set to decline, with particular risks in some banks' commercial real estate (CRE) portfolios."

Moody's said elevated CRE exposures are a key risk due to high interest rates, declines in office demand as a result of remote work, and a reduction in the availability of CRE credit.

The downgraded banks by Moody's include M&T Bank, Pinnacle Financial Partners, Prosperity Bank and BOK Financial Corp.

The agency also changed its outlook to negative for eleven major lenders, including Capital One, Citizens Financial and Fifth Third Bancorp.

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank earlier this year sparked a crisis of confidence in the U.S. banking sector, leading to a run on deposits at a host of regional banks despite authorities launching emergency measures to shore up confidence.

Still, Moody's cautioned that banks with sizable unrealized losses that are not reflected in their regulatory capital ratios are vulnerable to a loss of confidence in the current high-rate environment.

The sweeping report comes against the backdrop of tightening monetary conditions after the fastest pace of interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve in decades slows demand and borrowing.

The higher rates have also raised the spectre of recession and put pressure on sectors such as real estate to adjust to post-pandemic realities.



Moody's said elevated CRE exposures are a key risk due to high interest rates, declines in office demand as a result of remote work, and a reduction in the availability of CRE credit.

Federal Reserve survey data released last week showed U.S. banks reported tighter credit standards and weaker loan demand from both businesses and consumers during the second quarter.

Morgan Stanley analysts said the loan demand is likely to continue to weaken, with the rate of change slowing further.

Rating agency peer Fitch has downgraded the United States by a notch to AA+ due to fiscal deterioration over the next three years and repeated down-to-the-wire debt ceiling negotiations.

Source: Reuters

'Maharajah' gets makeover, Air India's new logo unveiled

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Air India on Thursday, August 10, unveiled a new brand identity and aircraft livery as the airline moves ahead with its transformation plan since being taken over by Tata Group more than one-and-a-half years ago.

The new look re-imagines the iconic Indian window shape, historically used by Air India, into a gold window frame that becomes central to the new brand design system. It symbolises a 'Window of Possibilities', according to a release.

Air India's new logo symbol 'The Vista' is inspired by the peak of the gold window frame, signifying limitless possibilities, progressiveness, and the airline's bold, confident outlook for the future, it said.

The airline said the new aircraft livery and design features a palette of deep red, aubergine, and gold highlights and a chakra-inspired pattern.

"It also boasts a striking new custom-made 'Air India Sans' font, marrying confidence with warmth to position Air India as premium, inclusive, and accessible," the release said.

The new brand identity has been designed in partnership with the brand transformation company FutureBrand.



The new look re-imagines the iconic Indian window shape, historically used by Air India, into a gold window frame that becomes central to the new brand design system. It symbolises a 'Window of Possibilities'

The aircraft livery and design features a palette of deep red, aubergine and gold highlights, and a chakra-inspired pattern



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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 14 TO AUGUST 20, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, you'll be going with hard graft plans for an unfinished task. You will be enabled to profit from an excellent opportunity. The free time frames this week will be a lifesaver for you. This week, you'll be extremely emotional. Avoiding reaching any judgments about your love life this week since your head will be filled with competing feelings. Individuals are probably just passingly interested in their really close friends. This week, you must refrain from doing anything by yourself. You're more liable to get a major accident this week, so exercise caution.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, this week, you will be able to ensure that your professional skills are at peak. You will be able to make sure that you are getting good profits from the work you do. You will be able to take charge of your domestic issues and the situation will improve this week. you will step in new year with confidence. You will be able to make your partner feel loved and cared for this week. You will get time for yourself which will help your individual growth also. Your health will be alright this week. Do not worry and enjoy the flow!

GEMINI



Ganesha says, you'll be affected by the financial slump this week if you work for an import-export firm, which will hurt your earnings. Individuals that are employed this week will be okay and pick up new abilities. You will be the object of your partner's interest this week. Somebody surprising will pursue couples this week. Husbands and wives will have a busy week this week. You will engage with bodily intoxication this week, which will be quite advantageous for you. Never undertake something without seeking specialist advice.

CANCER



Ganesha says, this week, your monetary strategies will be accorded more consideration. This week if you have an appointment, you need to be aware of your physical communication. If you own a corporation, you may also think about buying property land. You and your buddy will have some light conversation this week. Meeting a kind, funny person may make a single person's week better. Without a sure, love will astound you in this symbol. This week, your wellness is going to be excellent. You won't have to stress sticking to your fitness objectives.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, you will take a stand for a teammate since doing so will contribute to your employment satisfaction. You'll have a very successful week in regards of your profession. This week, your mate has to be particularly cautious about their wellness. You need to monitor their condition this week. If you're wedded, this week will be filled with a wonderful time spent with your partner. This week, you'll be in excellent form. You will easily be able to advance your job and lessen your anxiety this week.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week, you will hear back from the organizations where you submitted applications for assessments. You'll be capable of boosting your major stream of revenue with revenue from other streams. This week, your partner will make you seem confined by trying to squeeze you into the mound they've created for the perfect partner. You and your companion will quarrel about a subject this week. This week, you should consume more vegetables and drinks because your body will require a sufficient amount of stimulation.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week, you'll employ a bunch of your special professional skills. You will discontinue your judicial efforts, which is for the benefit. This week, you need to take greater precautions with your wellness if you operate in the fields. Your partner and you will need to assign a few of your duties to one another this week so that you may enjoy time alone together. You ought to invest some effort learning to understand your spouse before you are married. There will be a lot of casualties this week. You should not approach big autos this week. Get first aid materials on hand at all times.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, this week, you'll be extremely confident and agile in professional situations. You will be capable of deciphering the credentials to the barriers in your way this week thanks to your product characteristics. Your buddy and you will enjoy some much-needed downtime this week. Your romantic life will be relaxed, and you won't doubt your relationship. You need to be very careful this week with regard to your hypertension issues. If you experience any pulmonary issues, you need to use extra caution this week.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, your eighth sector will see some unrest, which will damage your commercial relationships. You'll need to keep an eye on a shifting chart of your corporation's earnings this week to determine your profitability, and the similar is valid for the financial markets. This week won't bring you any particularly exciting encounters, but there's a good chance that your acquaintance will turn into a romantic relationship. This week, your anxieties will go away and you'll feel at peace.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, you'll anticipate encountering people this week that you haven't thought about collaborating with in the past. In this week's marketplace, having a well-known brand associate will give you the upper hand. The best time to sell your shares is not this week. Additionally, you'll be able to address problems that have been bothering you for a while. You're excited to begin a primary care routine this week, which will take up a large portion of your afternoons this week.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, somebody's viewpoints and yours will diverge on a business-related issue. You'll require more effort if you want to establish an authority in your field. At the conclusion of the week, if you provide wholesale goods, you will get a sizable purchase. This week, your friend will remind you that you are currently giving it your all and this will fill you with delight and satisfaction. this week, you must not travel with your spouse if you just got wedded. These days, if you don't want your diastolic pulse to vary, you need to stay away from excessive glucose and sodium consumption.

PISCES



Ganesha says, you'll have the opportunity to acquire some profitable large objects this week. Since values are anticipated to increase once more this week, buying silver is a wise move. You'll outwit your commercial rivals this week. This week, your partner will decide to hang out with friends during spare period. You will be introduced to this company, but it will be challenging for you to fit in. This week, you'll need to be more careful with your cardiovascular problem. If you utilize dangerous substances, you can run into issues.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 14 TO AUGUST 20 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 14

Ganesha says although you have a pleasant disposition and are highly diplomatic, you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act spendthrift, fickle-minded, and restless. You may face unexpected issues at work that are to be expected. You must approach these issues with more poise and tact. Traveling during this time will not only provide you with crucial information, but also guarantee financial rewards. Later in the year, some couples will tie the knot.

AUGUST 15

Ganesha says you live each day to the fullest and have the potential to become a writer, philosopher, or thinker, but you need to learn to regulate your often restless and stubborn behavior. If you mingle with your coworkers, clients, and clients after work this year, you will build stronger relationships with all of them. Your investments will soar to new heights, and your financial situation will improve, causing you to spend more on comforts and luxuries.

There will be nice romantic entanglements and good opportunities to form a marriage union.

AUGUST 16

Ganesha says you'll face new problems this year, but your perseverance and the support of your friends and family will assure your success. With time, your financial situation will get better. Gains from investments and speculation are both possible. Being a responsible parent, you'll provide your kids with nothing but the best. Towards the middle of the year, some unsettling news from a faraway location is to be anticipated. A spiritual person offers consolation and mental calm.

AUGUST 17

Ganesha says if you put your best effort forward, you can turn sand into gold. However, you need to curb your tendency to act vindictively, stubbornly, and moodily at times. Your international business activities will be very profitable and prosperous for you. Your financial situation will

improve and your confidence level will be at its highest if you find new sources of income. Professional modifications that are made in the middle of the year will be advantageous.

AUGUST 18

Ganesha says if you have been concerned about the lack of advancement in your professional career, now is the time to rejoice and celebrate. Your work will be much valued and will earn you the respect of your superiors, coworkers, and clients. Gains will also come from property-related issues. The home's renovation and other construction-related tasks will likewise be high on your priority list. Patients with chronic conditions need to pay closer attention to their health. At all costs, preventative medications shouldn't be ignored.

AUGUST 19

Ganesha says you have a fantastic personality and may quickly make friends because of your helpfulness, but you need to curb your tendency to

occasionally act gloomy, wasteful, and inconsiderate. Gains and rewards are guaranteed this year, but you must remain entirely committed to your objectives. You will suffer losses or suffer a great deal of embarrassment if you are unable to obtain appropriate and reliable information. Financial transactions will go much smoother during the second half of the year, but partnerships and joint ventures should be absolutely avoided.

AUGUST 20

Ganesha says although you have a fantastic imagination and can easily outsmart your competitors, you need to curb your occasionally vengeful, impulsive, and stubborn behavior. Gains in both health and wealth are anticipated in the upcoming year. There will be lots of praise and incentives for your achievements. Your self-assurance and tenacity will grow, helping you to complete challenging tasks with ease. You'll spend more money on entertainment at this time, and you'll also buy costly items for your home.

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Hariyali Teej

Hariyali Teej is one of the three major teej festivals that Hindu women celebrate (the others are Kajari Teej and Hartalika Teej). According to the Hindu calendar, the festival is celebrated on the Tritiya (third day) of the Shukla paksha (bright fortnight of the moon) of Shravan month (Sawan month). A fast is performed by married women for the sake of their husbands' lifespan and well-being.

Hariyali Teej 2023 will fall on August 19, 2023, two days before Nag Panchami, which falls on August 21. On the Shukla paksha Tritiya of Bhadrapad, on September 18, Hartalika Teej will be celebrated.

The Hariyali Teej festival takes place during the monsoon season, when the grounds are lush with greenery, hence the name (Green Teej). Sawan Teej (or Sawan ki teej), Choti Teej, and Madhusrava Teej are other names for the same festival. Hariyali Teej has the same significance as Karwa Chauth, which is celebrated by married Hindu women.

Hariyali Teej is a celebration honouring Goddess Parvati and her union with Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva welcomed Goddess Parvati as his wife on this auspicious day. As a result, Goddess Parvati is also known as 'Teej Mata.'

This festival is celebrated throughout the north Indian states with considerable fanfare. Teeyan is the Punjabi word for it, and Shingara Teej is the Rajasthani word for it. Hariyali Teej festivities may differ slightly from place to place, but the passion and excitement are universal.

Rituals

Married ladies are given Shringara things such as traditional costumes, bangles, henna, sindoor, and sweets by their respective in-laws on the day of Hariyali teej.

Green lehengas or sarees are worn by women in particular. These Shringara objects represent marriage and have a lot of meaning for married women. Wearing them is also considered auspicious. According to Hindu belief, a lady can safeguard her husband from all dangers by wearing all 16 adornments. This tradition of giving 'Sindhara' is especially important for newlyweds. Women then go to their parents' residence to celebrate this festival as part of the ceremony. Everyone enjoys the delicious cuisine that is served.

On the day, the ritual of applying henna to the hands and feet is especially important. Without performing this ritual, the Shingara Teej festival is incomplete. It is a common idea that the colour of Mehendi on the hands indicates how much love a husband has lavished on his wife. The darker the henna colour on her palm, the more her fiancé or husband will adore her. In some locations, ladies use henna to write their husband's or beloved's name on their hands.

The Vat Vriksha tradition is also an essential aspect of the 'Shravani teej.' Swings are hanging from the branches of Banyan trees or Vat Vriksha in most areas and even in residences. Women spend the day swinging, singing, and dancing with one another. On this day, women are given the freedom to enjoy themselves and have a good time. The Banyan tree is considered sacred in Hindu mythology, and its hanging branches represent knowledge. As a result, worshipping the Vat Vriksha on Hariyali Teej is also considered auspicious.

Women also follow a severe fast known as 'Nirjala Vrat' on this day, during which they are not allowed to drink even water for the entire day. Both married and unmarried ladies can participate in the Hariyali Teej vrat. After worshipping the moon, the fast is broken. Teej Mata (Goddess Parvati) is worshipped by women on this day for the prosperity and well-being of their husbands. Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati's idols are worshipped, and hymns dedicated to them are sung.

Hariyali Teej is a festival that honours the nuptial connection of marriage. The celebration of this holiday by Indian women symbolises their love for their families and how they are always ready to protect them from all dangers. Hariyali Teej festivities are quite complex in all of Vriddavan's Krishna Mandirs. The ceremony is termed as the 'Jhullan Leela,' and it involves laying swings for their goddess.

In all of the mandirs, religious hymns and songs are chanted, and devotees celebrate this holiday with zeal and enthusiasm. The statues of Lord Krishna and Radha are ornately decked, and water is poured over the devotees after the celebrations to signal the arrival of the monsoons.



Important information

Shravan Shukla Teej, Hariyali Teej

Saturday, 19 August 2023

Tritiya Date Start - 18 August 2023 at 08:01 PM

Tritiya Date Ends - 19 August 2023 at 10:19 PM

Hariyali Teej Vrat Katha

It is believed that this story was told by Lord Shiva to remind Parvati ji about her past birth. The story goes like this--

Shiva says: O Parvati. A long time ago you did extreme tenacity on the Himalayas to get me as a groom. During this time you had to spend the day chewing dried leaves after giving up food and water. You meditated continuously, regardless of the weather. Seeing this situation of yours, your father was very sad and angry. In such a situation Naradji came to your house.

When your father asked him the reason for his arrival, Naradji said - "O Giriraj! I have come here after sending Lord Vishnu. Pleased with your girl's severe penance, he wants to marry her. I want to know your opinion about this." On hearing Naradji, Parvataraj said with great pleasure- O Naradji. If Lord Vishnu himself wants to marry my daughter, then nothing could be more important. I am ready for this marriage. "Shivji says to Parvati ji, "Naradji, after getting the approval of your father, went to Vishnu and told this good news. But when you came to know about this marriage, you were very sad. Husband had agreed.

You told your distraught mind to your friend. He suggested to your friend that she will hide you by taking you to a dense forest and do the meditation to get Shiva there. After this, your father was very worried and sad because he could not find you at home. He started thinking what would happen if Vishnu brought a procession and you did not get it at home. They made you search the earth, but you could not be found.

You were absorbed in my worship inside a cave in the forest. You worshiped me on Bhadrapad III Shukla by constructing a Shiva lingam from the sand, which pleased me and I fulfilled your desire. After this you told your father that 'Father, I have spent a long time of my life in the penance of Lord Shiva. And Lord Shiva has accepted me, pleased with my penance. Now I will follow you on the same condition that you will marry me with Lord Shiva only. "Parvat Raj accepted your wish and took you back home. After some time he married us with full legal practice."

Lord Shiva then told that - "O Parvati! As a result of the fast you worshiped on Bhadrapad Shukla Tritiya by worshipping me, the marriage of both of us was possible. The significance of this fast is that I give the desired fruit to every woman who observes this fast with full devotion.

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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."



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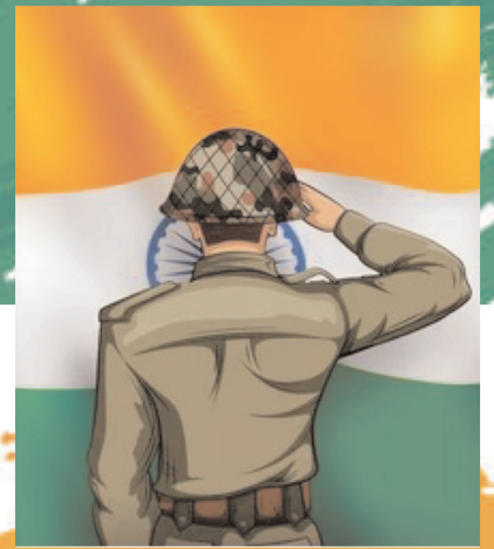
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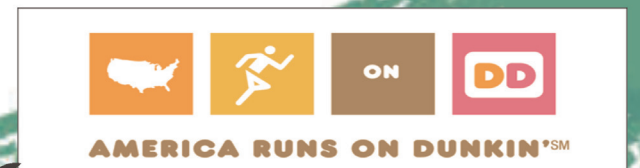
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Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 11, 2023, TO AUGUST 17, 2023

11th August

1635 Sain Mia Mir passed away at Lahore. SIAN MIAN MIR was an exemplary and accomplished saint who was a close associate of Guru Arjun Dev and Guru Har Gobind Sahib. Sian Mia Mir witnessed the torture of Guru Arjan Patshah at the hand of Mughal rulers of the time. He laid the foundation stone of Sri Harmandir Sahib that is still burried intact.

Mian Mir was a descendant of Khalifa Umar. He was born in 1550 at Seesthan but lived in Lahore for most part of his life. He died on 11 August 1635 in Lahore. His grave is in Hashimpur near Lahore. His famous disciple MullahShah was the Peer for Shahjada Darashikoh.



1664 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Ninth, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, ascended to Guru Gadhi. Guru Hargobind died in 1644 and appointed his grandson and Tegh Bahadur's nephew, Har Rai, as the seventh Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Har Rai died in 1661 and appointed his younger son and Tegh Bahadur's grand nephew, Har Krishan, as the eighth Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Har Krishan's pontificate lasted for only three years. Just before his death in 1664, Guru Har Krishan, on request of the Sikhs, in his semi-conscious state, told his followers to go Bakala and anoint his great grand uncle as the next Guru of the Sikhs. He did not mention any name. The ctual words he used were Baba Bakale. To take advantage of this apparent ambiguous pronouncement all the great grand uncles of the Guru rushed to Bakala and declared themselves to be the ninth Guru of the Sikhs.

There were 21 claimants and also included Dhirmal, the older son of Baba Gurditta and the older brother of Guru Har Rai. The Sikh elders including Diwan Dargah Mal, Baba Gurditta the high priest, and Mata Sulakhani (widow of Guru Har Rai and mother of Guru Har Krishan) reached Bakala on this day. They were besieged by the pretenders and their agents; and were offered all kind of gifts, bribes, and threats. They ignored all of them and went to Mata Nanaki's house and formally anointed Guru Tegh Bahadur, declaring him to be the ninth Guru of the Sikhs. Baba Gurditta applied saffron mark and presented the coconut five pice consecrated by Guru Har Krishan to Guru Tegh Bahadur. However, Guru Tegh Bahadur extracted a promise from them to maintain a dignified silence for the time being.

1984 Government of India conducted a false Sarbat Khalsa. In response, instead, Singh Sahiban called for a World Sikh Conference on September 2, 1996.

1976 The SGPC unanimously endorsed the Constitution of the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood, including the Articles of Organization, in its Resolution No. 697

12th August

1922 Marked the begining of arrests and ruthless torture of GurSikhs in Guru Kae bagh Gurdwara. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC

on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affait. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

1988 Through Aug. 12, a symposium entitled Sikh Canadians: The Promise of the Challenge, was held in Tornto. The objective of the symposium, apart from promotion of the Sikh image among Canadians and logging various levels of government, was to approve the Constitution of the Institute by the Sikhs gathered at the Symposium. A Cabinet Minister participated at the reception which was very well organized. Subjects discussed at the workshops were: Being Visible; Networking; Media Relations; and New Directions in Sikh Studies.

13th August



1986 Sardar Kapur Singh, National professor of Sikhism, passed away.

15th August

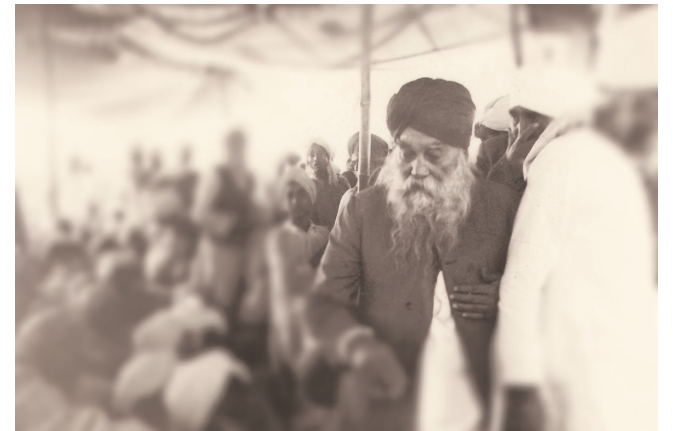
1923 The case of the Babbars was initiated.
1924 10th Shahidhi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sardar Visakha Singh Daftur (Lahore), courted arrest on reaching Jaito.

1947 Punjab was divided into East and West Punjab. A major segment of the Sikh community was uprooted from their ancestral land and forced to migrate to India. This day marks the Independence day for India. Though citizens of India, the Sikh coumminty encoutered organized and pre-meditated killings of their members, lootings of all their worldly possessions, and general human suffering and deprivation that is unparalleled in the history of humankind. Over two lakh Sikhs gave their lives in search of freedom while being forcibly migrated to East Punjab. However, untill today the independence promise remains unfulfilled for the Sikh community. The community itself continues to persists in petty internal squibled, allow others to dictate terms, and is unable to establish its own sovereign state where Sikhs may prosper without any restriction. More than the lost lives, dearer than homes and lands left behind, was the Holy Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev. Numerous other historical gurudwaras were also left behind with their fates unknown. For more information refer to History section on page 29 of the September 1994, Volume 42:9, No. 489, issue of The Sikh Review.

1951 The Times of India reported that the Sikhs were opposed to Hindu-Congress because each and every demand of the Sikhs was opposed by the Congress.

1960 Sikhs observe Indian independence day as

Ghulami (Slavery) day.



1960 Master Tara Singh begins fast unto death.

Master Tara Singh begins fast unto death to protest against the discriminatory attitude of the government in not forming a Punjabi Speaking State demanded by the Sikhs although the rest of India had been reorganised on linguistic basis. On Aug. 28th, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, made a statement in the Indian Parliament declaring:

1969 Shaheed Darshan Singh Pheruman launched his fast until death to force resolution of Punjab demands from Indian central government.

1980 Dal Khalsa hoisted Khalistan flag throughout the Sikh Homeland.

16th August



1604 SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB first installed in Sri Harmindar Sahib

The Holy Sri Guru GRANTH SAHIB was ceremonially installed in Sri Harmindir Sahib, Amritsar. Guru Arjan, shortly after Akbar's visit, early in 1599, began the project of compilation of Adi Granth. Bhai Gurdas was appointed amanuensis. Guru Arjan took five years to complete the project. Adi Granth was ready in 1604 when it was installed in Sri Harimandir Sahib. Baba Buddha Ji was appointed the first priest. Today is the actual date of the event, however, it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth.

1940 Gandhi wrote a nasty letter to Master Tara Singh. It contained some of his prececeived notions about Sikhs and the Akali movement. It was also influenced by the Punjab Congress's solid support of Subash Chandra Bose for the Presidentship of the Congress vis a vis Patabhi Sitaramayya, Ghandhi's nominee.

17th August

1931 The foundation stone was laid for Sri Guru Ram Das Sarai.

1947 Radcliffe Award decided the boundary between Pakistan and the Sikh Homeland.

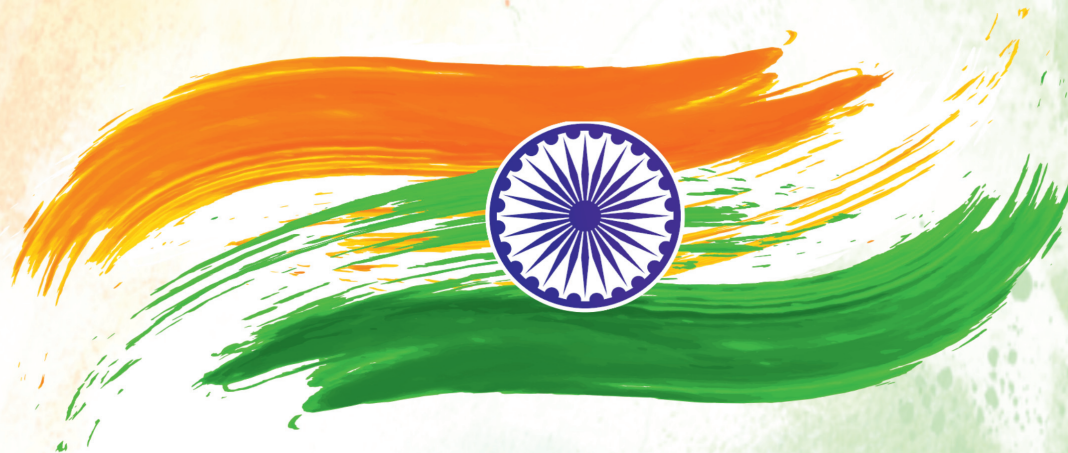
1994 Principal Satbir Singh, a renowned scholar of GurSikhism passed away in Patiala.



Indian Diaspora Council International

Salutes

India's 77th Independence Day



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Ashook Ramsaran, President

Indian Diaspora Council International
www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org

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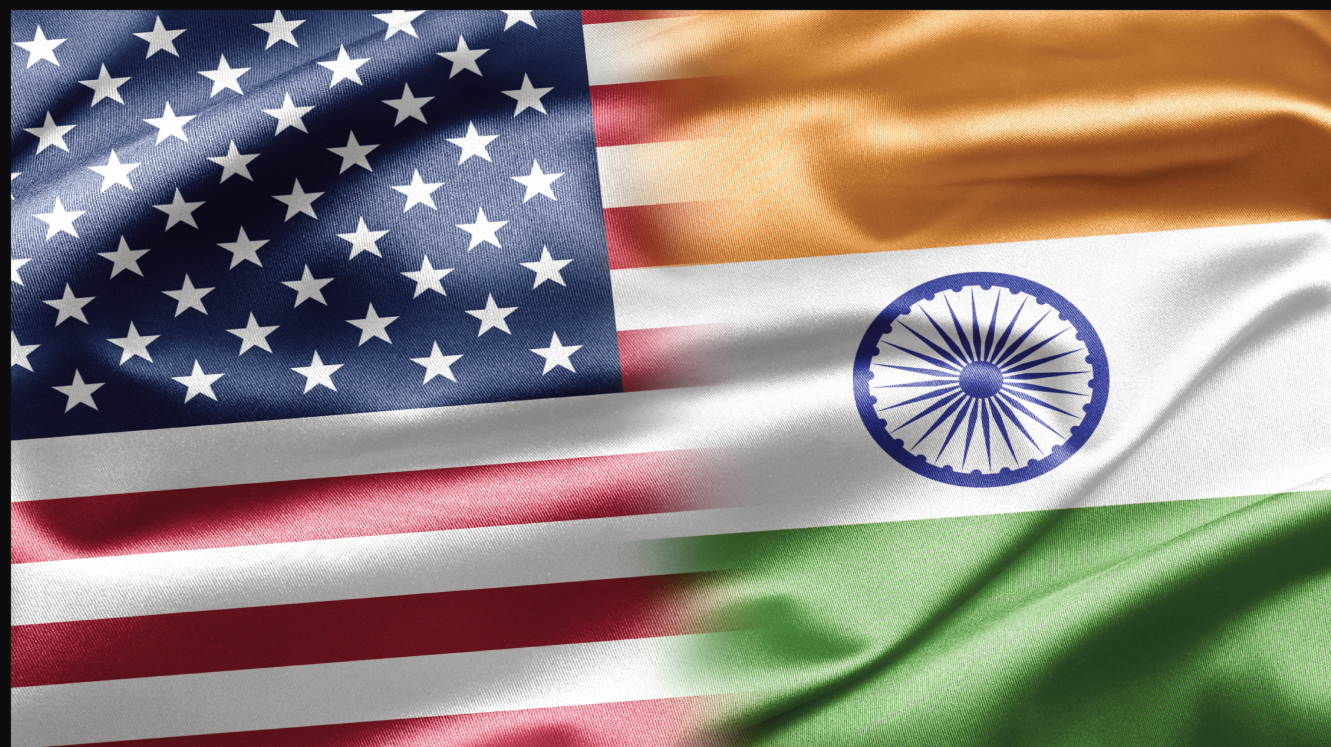
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LIFE LESSONS

**TAKE A 10-30 MINUTE WALK EVERY DAY.
WHILE YOU WALK, SMILE. IT IS THE ULTIMATE ANTIDEPRESSANT.**

.....
SIT IN SILENCE FOR AT LEAST 10 MINUTES EACH DAY.

.....
**WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN THE MORNING,
PRAY TO ASK GOD'S GUIDANCE FOR YOUR PURPOSE.**

.....
EAT MORE FOODS THAT GROW ON TREES AND PLANTS.

.....
**DRINK GREEN TEA AND PLENTY OF WATER.
EAT BLUEBERRIES, BROCCOLI AND ALMOND.**

.....
TRY TO MAKE AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE SMILE EACH DAY.

.....
**DON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS ENERGY ON GOSSIP,
NEGATIVE THOUGHTS OR THINGS YOU CANNOT CONTROL.**

.....
**EAT BREAKFAST LIKE A KING, LUNCH LIKE A PRINCE AND
DINNER LIKE A PAUPER.**

.....
LIFE ISN'T FAIR, BUT STILL GOOD.

.....
**LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO WASTE TIME HATING ANYONE.
FORGIVE THEM FOR EVERYTHING!**

.....
DON'T TAKE YOURSELF SO SERIOUSLY. NO ONE ELSE DOES.

ENVY IS A WASTE OF TIME. YOU ALREADY HAVE ALL YOU NEED.
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WIN EVERY ARGUMENT. AGREE TO DISAGREE.
.....

MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST,
SO IT WON'T SPOIL THE PRESENT.
.....

DON'T COMPARE YOUR LIFE TO OTHERS.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEIR JOURNEY IS ALL ABOUT.
.....

NO ONE IS IN CHARGE OF YOUR HAPPINESS EXCEPT YOU.
.....

FRAME EVERY SO-CALLED DISASTER WITH THESE WORDS:
'IN FIVE YEARS, WILL THESE MATTERS?'
.....

HELP THE NEEDY, BE GENEROUS! BE A 'GIVER', NOT A 'TAKER'.
.....
WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF YOU IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
.....

TIME HEALS EVERYTHING.
.....

HOWEVER GOOD OR BAD A SITUATION, IT WILL CHANGE.
.....

YOUR JOB WON'T TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU ARE SICK.
YOUR FRIENDS WILL. STAY IN TOUCH.
.....

EACH NIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED, PRAY TO GOD AND
BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH TODAY.
.....

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contd from page 1

India has zero-tolerance policy...

prevents "us from realizing the truth". Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed dignitaries to the city of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Referring to the writings of Tagore, Modi cautioned against greed as it prevents us from realizing the truth.

He also touched upon the Upanishads that strive for 'Ma Ridha', which translates to 'let there be no greed'.

Referring to Kautilya in Arthashastra, the PM said it is the government's duty to enhance the state's resources to maximize the welfare of its people. "India has a strict policy of zero tolerance against corruption," the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that India is leveraging technology and e-governance to create a transparent and accountable ecosystem.

He mentioned that leakages and gaps in welfare schemes and government projects are being plugged. As a result, the Prime Minister said hundreds of million people in India have received direct benefit transfers into their bank accounts amounting to more than 360 billion dollars helping save over 33 billion dollars. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Judge warns Trump against...

"The fact that the defendant is engaged in a political campaign is not going to allow him any greater or lesser latitude than any defendant in a criminal case." What Mr Trump can reveal publicly is one of several battles being fought between the former president's legal team and federal prosecutors.

WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER? : Requests for protective orders are fairly routine in criminal cases. In many cases, defense teams are reluctant to oppose the orders because doing so would slow down "discovery" - the process in which prosecutors hand over evidence.

In this case, however, Mr Trump and his lawyers argued that his free speech was being stifled and argued that only sensitive information should be kept under wraps. Judge Chutkan agreed. However, she said that his First Amendment right was "not absolute" amid the ongoing case - and warned that she would not allow a "carnival atmosphere" at his eventual trial. The former president is already subject to a protective order in a separate upcoming New York case about alleged hush money payments to former adult film actress Stormy Daniels. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

BJP weaponizing parliamentary...

member was suspended and the matter was referred to the Privileges Committee afterwards. Mr. Chowdhury's suspension, he said, was aimed at disabling him from participating in various parliamentary committees he is part of, including the Public Accounts Committee that he heads.

NOT CODIFIED : Indian parliamentary privileges are not codified. The Constitution makers left it to the Parliament to decide it on a case-to-case basis. Article 105, that deals with the subject, says, "the powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament and of the members and the committees of each House shall be such as may from time to time be defined by Parliament by law."

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O' Brien, in a video message posted on social media, said, "Suspending members of Parliament, weaponizing privilege motions to throttle every voice of dissent, Prime Minister Modi, listen to this carefully this assault on democracy will not deter INDIA, it will only strengthen."

Heartiest Greetings on the 77th Independence Day of India

सारे जहाँ से अच्छा हिन्दोस्तां हमारा
हम बुलबुलें हैं इसकी ये गुलिस्तां हमारा



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Starting from river Teesta in the East to river Sankoshi in the west, Dooars is a local name given to the floodplains of North-East India around Bhutan. The name 'Dooars' has emerged from 'door' as Dooars is the gateway to Bhutan.

Dooars comprises of several towns and districts in this region including Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Siliguri, etc. Geographically, Dooars is blessed with such brilliance in its relief, imagine, the mighty range of mountains of the Eastern Himalayas in the backdrop, a band of thick forests, rich in species of Flora and Fauna, continued with tea gardens, and cut here and there by water body. Somewhere in the middle of all this is Dooars. The gateway you wouldn't want to cross heartlessly.

Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary

Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary is a must if you are into wildlife. Located at the foothills of Himalayas in the Terai region, it is spread across the lower catchment area of river Mahanada.

With a thick forest cover, Mahanada homes rare species of animals like one horn Rhino, Bison, Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Sambar and Cheetals.

Sumsing and Suntalekhola

81km from Siliguri, this place is considered heaven for Nature lovers, two forest bungalows in the middle of a forest, with hills in the backdrop and the constant splashing noise of the numerous streams as they flow, step out of the bungalow and listen to early morning chirping of birds and whispers of the forest as it tells something to the noisily moving river water.

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary

Located at a distance of about 20 km from the Gorumara National Park, this Wildlife Sanctuary is another spectacle of nature's magnificence. With Kanchanjungha and other Himalayan peaks painted across its backdrop, tourists can see a wide diversity of animals like elephants, gaur, leopards in their natural habitat.

Do not visit the Sanctuary in the rainy season as it stays closed to visitors from June to September. Overnight accommodations are also available in the Rest House

Latpanchore

A small village at the top of a hill top on the Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary, surrounded by forest and rich in the Cinchona plantation, a British bungalow in the middle of this, which now serves as a forest bungalow.

It is as much vintage as it is heaven like to stay be here. Trekkers trek from here up to Namthing Pokhri. Sunrise from the Aahal Pick is a delight to watch, so soothing and unreal.

Alipurduar

Alipurduar is the newly formed district of West Bengal. It is located in the north-eastern side of West Bengal bordering Assam and Bhutan and it covers the distance of 113kms from Siliguri. Basically Alipurduar town is called a gateway to Bhutan and northeastern states of India. The entire town fully covered with scenic beauty as it is the most important town of the district. Before entering the places like Assam, Bhutan and Coochbehar alipurduar district is the most ethnic places of east zone West Bengal, one cannot cross the border without visiting the essence beauty of the town. It is a very old

Dooars: India's gateway to Bhutan



trading route center also and had a trading route popularly known as silk route with Bhutan and Tibet.

Banarhat

Banarhat is a small town in Jalpaiguri district in the state of West Bengal, India. Banarhat is 75km distance from Siliguri and 65km from Jalpaiguri, the town is surrounded by 23 Tea gardens in the Dooars region of Jalpaiguri district in the state of West Bengal. People of 23 tea gardens are dependent on this town for their essentials. The population of Banarhat is about 25,000 and it is spread in an area of about 900sq.km. Banarhat is connected by the state road to the district city of the Jalpaiguri and other nearby towns of Dhupguri, Gairkata, Mainaguri etc, Banarhat has one of the important railway station also. Actually this is a place where different culture of Tea Garden workers are gathered Marwaris, Bengalis Asamese, Oriya from the other side of the border and Nepalese leave together in Harmony.

Batabari

Batabari is a beautiful small village in Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal. It is located 53 km distance from Jalpaiguri. Basically Batabari is famous for its popular Batabari Tea Estate. The houses in the Batabari was made by particular bamboo species known as 'Bata' which is interesting and amazing to see from outside. Basically Batabari is a small population village located near Gorumara national park. The main attraction of this village is beautiful landscape and the Tea Garden. It is in the mid of Darjeeling district and Jalpaiguri district where tourist can enjoy both sites attraction. The Batabari Tea Estate has struggled to keep its commitments towards protecting the environment and contributing in its own way to sustain nature.





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Punjab and Haryana HC stays wrestling body polls

The Punjab and Haryana high court stayed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections barely 24 hours before the body was due to elect fresh members for its 15-member executive committee in the Capital.

The court directive came on a petition by the Deepender Hooda-led Haryana Wrestling Association (HWA), which challenged the decision of the returning officer to not recognise it and allow the rival Haryana Amateur Wrestling Association (HAWA) to take part in the polls. The stay has been granted until August 28, the date of the next hearing.

"As the counsel for the respective parties contend that they have the crucial right to cast vote for the elections to the Executive Committee of the WFI which is scheduled to be held tomorrow, i.e. 12.08.2023, the election of the Executive committee of WFI is ordered to be stayed till the next date of hearing," the bench of Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj said in its interim order.

"HWA challenged the RO's order and contended that since HAWA is not associated with the Haryana Olympic Association (HOA), they do not have the right to vote," Ravinder Malik, counsel for the petitioner, said.

Hooda's HWA, considered close to the protesting wrestlers, was deemed ineligible to contest the elections by RO when he heard both sides on July 21. On July 24, HWA's RK Hooda wrote to the RO claiming that HAWA's certificate of affiliation with the Haryana Olympic Association (HOA) was fabricated. The RO, upon examining the documents, cleared HAWA's candidature on July 25.

HWA challenged RO's order in HC on August 3, arguing that the signature of HOA's treasurer on the affiliation certificate does not guarantee HAWA membership as it can only be granted by the general body. On August 7, HOA filed an affidavit through its general secretary Neeraj Tanwar, claiming HAWA is not affiliated to it. The court ruled HAWA ineligible to vote. The stay was granted at Friday's, Aug 12, hearing. The latest delay in the poll process may raise the hopes of top wrestlers Sakshi Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat to bolster more support for candidates contesting against the panel of former WFI president, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh – his panel is expected to sweep the polls.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

India maul Japan 5-0 to set up final date with Malaysia

CHENNAI (TIP)

A dominant India mauled reigning Asian Games champions Japan 5-0 to enter their fifth Asian Champions Trophy final hereon August 11.

India will take first-time finalists Malaysia tomorrow, while Japan will be up against South Korea in the third-place match.

India got the first scoring chance of the match in the form of a penalty corner but Japan goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa made a confident save to deny home team skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

The Indians enjoyed the bulk of the possession, while Japan played catch-up hockey. After a barren first quarter, India finally took the lead in the 19th minute through Akashdeep Singh. The veteran forward slapped in a rebound after Hardik Singh's initial shot was saved by Japan's second goalkeeper Takumi Kitagawa.

India kept up the tempo and earned their second, and final, penalty corner in the 23rd minute and Harmanpreet sounded the board with a fierce low flick to the left of the Japanese goalkeeper.

Just at the stroke of half-time, India tripled their lead through Mandeep Singh. It was Manpreet Singh who was instrumental in getting the third goal as he intercepted the ball in the midfield and then beat three Japanese defenders to set it up for Mandeep,



who just had to direct the ball in.

The trend continued after the change of ends. Sumit probably scored the goal of the tournament with a reverse stick flick into the net from a tight angle after being set up by Manpreet from the right flank.

Young Karthi Selvam made it 5-0 in India's favour in the 51st minute after being fed by an unselfish Sukhjeet Singh, who received a perfect aerial ball from Harmanpreet. While the goals came easily, it was the defence that stood out for the hosts, who didn't concede a single penalty corner.

Malaysia knock out defending champions

Earlier, Malaysia blew away

defending champions South Korea 6-2 with a superlative performance. Najmi Jazlan (9th and 21st minutes) and Shello Silverious (47th and 48th) scored a brace each, while Faizal Saari (19th), and Abu Kamal Azrai (3rd) scored a goal each.

For South Korea, Woo Cheon Ji (2nd) and skipper Jonghyun Jang (14th) found the back of the net.

Meanwhile, Pakistan ended their campaign with a 6-1 win against China in the fifth-place playoff match. Muhammad Ahammad (10th and 52nd minutes) and Muhammad Khan (11th and 12th) and struck a brace each for Pakistan while Abdul Shahid (15th) and Abdul Rana (55th) scored one apiece. Source: PTI



Andy Murray makes shock hint at retirement after injury withdrawal from Canadian Open

Andy Murray on Thursday, Aug 10, night had the chance to go another step closer to guaranteeing himself a seeded position in 2023 US Open, when he was slated to face Jannik Sinner in the round of 16 of the Canadian Open. However, moments before the start of the match, he pulled out citing an abdominal strain which now puts concerns over his fitness as the ATP field builds up towards the final Grand Slam of the year in US Open. But what left fans more emotional was the shock hint he made towards retirement during his on-court interview.

Murray was in an impressive form in Toronto having beating Lorenzo Sonogo and Max Purcell in his first two rounds to script his best ever run in a Masters event since 2017. However, owing to the injury, in his first appearance in the city since 2014, Murray failed to make his maiden Masters quarters since 2016.

After pulling out of the match, he took to Centre Court to make the announcement when he hinted that it might just be his final appearance in the tournament.

"I know I have disappointed you. I have rarely been in this situation in my career and I feel terrible," the

36-year-old told the Toronto crowd. "I have always loved playing here, the support from the people is phenomenal and it feels special. It might be my last time playing here, and ending up like this is rubbish."

He then thanked the crowd in Canada for their constant support throughout his career. The three-time Rogers Cup winner said: "The fans have made this tournament special, whether it's in Toronto or Montreal, and I'm so sorry about tonight."

With US Open a little over a fortnight away, one of the major questions posed to Murray during his on-court interview

was the seriousness of the injury and he explained that he had incurred a similar during Stuttgart Open final last year which forced him out of Queen's event and hence failed to prepare for Wimbledon much.

"I had a similar problem last year in Stuttgart and it took me about 10-12 days to feel good again," he said. "It's not that bad, but if I keep playing I can do worse, and hopefully I'll feel better in a few days. Very sorry."

Murray is slated to participate in Cincinnati Masters next week before heading for New York at the end of August.



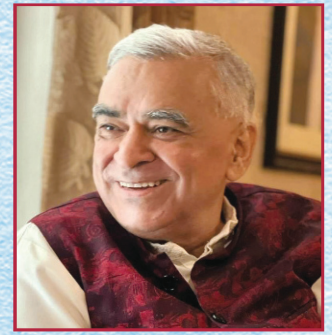
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History This Week **AUG 11 - AUG 17**

AUGUST 11

August 11-16, 1965 - Six days of riots began in the Watts area of Los Angeles, triggered by an incident between a white member of the California Highway Patrol and an African American motorist. Thirty-four deaths were reported and more than 3,000 people were arrested. Damage to property was listed at \$40 million.



Birthday - Roots author Alex Haley (1921-1992) was born in Ithaca, New York. His Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, published in 1976, explored seven generations of his family from its origins in Africa through slavery in America and eventual hard-fought freedom. Roots was translated into 37 languages and also became an eight-part TV miniseries in 1977 which attracted a record American audience and raised awareness concerning the legacy of slavery.

AUGUST 12

August 12, 1676 - King Philip's War ended with the assassination of Metacom, leader of the Pokanokets, a tribe within the Wampanoag Indian Federation. Nicknamed 'King Philip' by colonists, he led a Native American uprising against white settlers which resulted in a war that raged for nearly two years, now known as King Philip's War.



Birthday - Film pioneer Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959) was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts. He produced over 70 major films including Cleopatra, The Ten Commandments, and The Greatest Show on Earth.

AUGUST 13

August 13, 1961 - The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German

government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.



Birthday - Women's rights pioneer Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was born near West Brookfield, Massachusetts. She dedicated her life to the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women and aided in the founding of the American Suffrage Association.

Birthday - Wild West performer Annie Oakley (1860-1926) was born in Darke County, Ohio. Famous for her shooting ability, she joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1885 and was one of the star attractions for 17 years.

Birthday - British film director Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) was born in London. His suspenseful films included classics such as The 39 Steps, Rebecca, Suspicion, Notorious, Rear Window, The Birds, Psycho and Frenzy, in addition to his American TV series Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

Birthday - Cuban President Fidel Castro was born in Mayari, Oriente Province, Cuba, August 13, 1927. He led a rebellion in 1959 that drove out Dictator Fulgencio Batista, and remains one of the last outspoken advocates of Communism.

AUGUST 14

August 14, 1935 - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act establishing the system which guarantees pensions to those who retire at age 65. The Social Security system also aids states in providing financial aid to dependent children, the blind and others, as well as administering a system of unemployment insurance.

August 14, 1941 - After three days of secret meetings aboard warships off the coast of Newfoundland, the Atlantic Charter was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime

Minister Winston Churchill. The Charter, a foundation stone for the later establishment of the United Nations, set forth eight goals for the nations of the world, including; the renunciation of all aggression, right to self-government, access to raw materials, freedom from want and fear, freedom of the seas, and disarmament of aggressor nations. By September, fifteen anti-Axis nations signed the Charter.

August 14, 1945 - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on July 26, 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender, without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on September 2, 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.



August 14, 1945 - V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

AUGUST 15

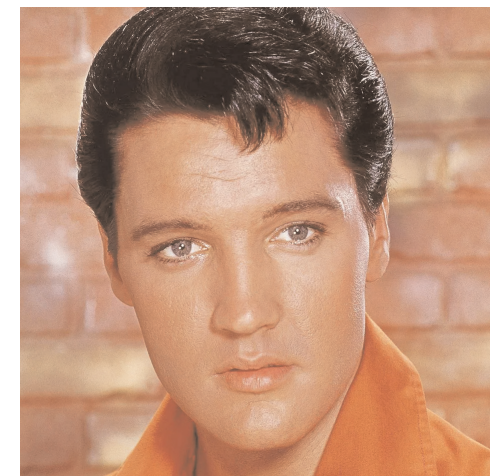
August 15, 1969 - Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.



Birthday - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was born on the

island of Corsica. Originally an officer in King Louis' Army, he rose to become Emperor amid the political chaos that followed the French Revolution. He built a half-million strong Grand Army which utilized newly invented modern tactics and improvisation in battle to sweep across Europe and acquire an empire for France. However, after defeats in Russia and later by the British, he went into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, he died alone on the tiny island abandoned by everyone.

AUGUST 16



August 16, 1977 - Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42.

Birthday - T.E. Lawrence 'of Arabia' (1888-1935) was born in Tremadoc, North Wales. He led an Arab revolt against the Turks during World War I and served as a spy for the British. He was killed in a motorcycle accident at Dorset, England, on May 19, 1935.

AUGUST 17



August 17, 1998- Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to give testimony before a grand jury in which he, the President, was the focus of the investigation. This resulted from a sweeping investigation of the President by Independent Counsel Ken Starr as well as a private lawsuit concerning alleged sexual harassment by Clinton before he became President. In the evening, President Clinton appeared on national television and gave a speech admitting he had engaged in an improper relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The admission occurred several months after a much publicized denial.

Birthday - American frontiersman Davy Crockett (1786-1836) was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee. He was a farmer, scout and politician who perished at age 49 during the final heroic defense of the Alamo in Texas.



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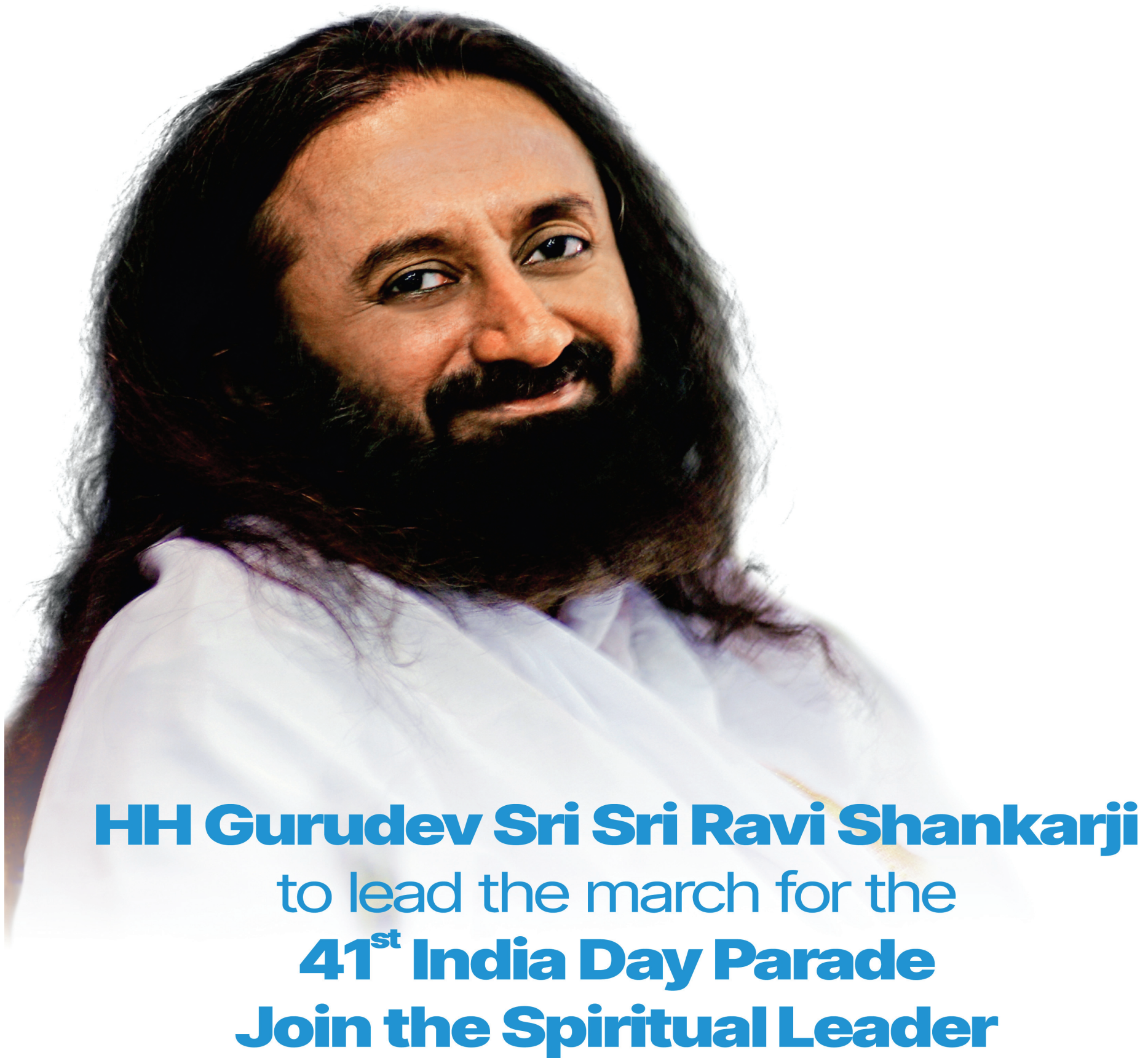
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