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



The special edition will be published on August 12, 2023. Advertisements and articles may please be submitted by August 8, 2023 to salujaindra@gmail.com For any questions, please call 646-247-9458, or email to salujaindra@gmail.com

Deadly communal violence flares in India weeks before G20 Summit in New Delhi



A clash erupted between two groups in Nuh in Haryana which resulted in violence in the town and beyond

AUGUST 2, 2023
I.S. SALUJA
NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): With Manipur in the North East still reeling under an unprecedented ethnic violence, India witnessed deadly communal violence in the North.

Separate outbreaks of violence, including the alleged shooting of three Muslim men by a police officer on a train, have exposed the deep communal fissures in India weeks before it welcomes Group of 20 (G20) leaders to the capital.

Violence erupted in the northern state of Haryana State on Monday, July 31, after a right-wing Hindu organization led a religious procession in the Muslim dominated region of Nuh.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

INSIDE :-

HELLO!... MANIPUR IS STILL BURNING! IS THERE ANYONE IN CHARGE? PAGE 08

A CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF THE UN MUST BE STOPPED PAGE 09

THE ROAD TO 2024 IS UPHILL FOR TRUMP PAGE 10

Trump pleads not guilty at arraignment on federal charges in 2020 election probe



Donald Trump appeared in a federal courtroom in Washington, D.C. Thursday, August 3, for his arraignment on four felony charges accusing him of trying to overturn the 2020 election results.

File photo / Courtesy The White House

AUGUST 3, 2023
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former President Donald Trump appeared in a federal courtroom Thursday, August 3, for his arraignment on four felony charges accusing him of trying to overturn the 2020 election results, pleading not guilty in the latest case brought by special counsel Jack Smith, CBS News reports. Trump appeared before a magistrate judge in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.,

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Biden's asylum restrictions for migrants may remain in place, federal appeals court rules



A group of migrants at southern border.

File photo

courts, says Washington Post.

The 2 to 1 decision grants a reprieve to the Biden administration, which feared losing a critical border management tool at the end of the day on Tuesday.

Judges William A. Fletcher and Richard A. Paez stayed a lower court's ruling that would have ended the asylum restrictions on Tuesday, as the administration is struggling with rising numbers of border crossings. The judges said they would consider the appeal on an expedited schedule, at least through September, and possibly longer.

AUGUST 3, 2023
WASHINGTON D.C.
(TIP): A federal appeals court panel Thursday, August 3, approved the Biden administration's emergency request to keep its asylum restrictions in place on the U.S.-Mexico border while the legal battle over the policy makes its way through the

US completes second lottery round for H-1B visa, successful candidates notified

AUGUST 2, 2023
WASHINGTON, D.C.
(TIP): The US has completed a second round of random lottery selection for the much sought-after H-1B work visa for foreign guest workers and the successful applicants have been notified, according to a federal agency.

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

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

"We now have randomly selected, from the remaining FY 2024 registrations properly submitted, a sufficient number of registrations projected as needed to reach the cap," US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said on Tuesday, August 1.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



US completes second lottery round for H-1B visa, successful candidates notified

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GUEST COMMENT

Nuh trigger : Police inaction led to communal violence

The communal violence that erupted during the Brijmandal Jalabhishek Yatra organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in Haryana's Nuh district on Monday could have been avoided, had the district administration promptly taken pre-emptive measures, such as close monitoring of the movements of the Hindu processionists and the Muslim mob that allegedly attacked them. According to Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, the organizers did not provide complete information to the administration, particularly regarding the estimated number of participants. The police, with no due diligence, granted permission for the procession following a mere assurance that the participants would not carry weapons. The fact that armed processionists managed to enter a communally sensitive area - a locality

whose residents predominantly belong to the Muslim community - underlines serious lapses on the part of the authorities. It's obvious that the standard operating procedure (SOP) for such situations was given the go-by, which apparently made it easier for the waiting mob to launch an all-out attack.

The inflammatory videos doing the rounds on social media on the yatra's eve - with members of both communities making provocative remarks - should have alerted the administration to the possibility of a physical confrontation. With Bajrang Dal's cow vigilante Monu Manesar, an accused in a lynching case, mobilizing people to throng temples in Mewat, trouble was just around the corner. No lessons were learnt from the clashes that had taken place in Bihar and West Bengal (March-April this year) and in

Delhi and Madhya Pradesh (April 2022) during Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti celebrations.

Earlier this year, the Citizens and Lawyers Initiative, a civil society group, had brought out a report titled 'Routes of Wrath - Weaponizing Religious Processions'. It presented a case-by-case analysis of the genesis and spread of communal riots and how processions taken out on religious occasions had become a platform for inciting hatred and violence. Taking cognizance of such reports, the authorities must exercise caution while granting permission for processions; subsequently, it should be ensured that the SOP is strictly adhered to. Troublemakers of both communities should be detained well in advance to prevent the situation from spinning out of control. (Tribune, India)

Supreme indictment: on Manipur crisis and the Supreme Court of India's censure

After the Supreme Court's remarks on the Manipur crisis, the Bharatiya Janata Party must replace the Chief Minister

The Supreme Court has pulled up the Manipur government for its "lethargic" investigations into the ethnic violence in the sensitive border State that began on May 3 and which has still not been doused. Pointing out that arrests have been "few and far between", in the context of around 6,500 first information reports filed in relation to the violence, the apex court has asked for more details of the progress in police action, and ordered the personal presence of the Manipur Director General of Police during the next hearing on August 7. Questioning the State police's capability to investigate these cases, the Court noted that there was a complete breakdown of law and constitutional machinery in the face of mob violence. Two women who were paraded naked and raped by a mob have pleaded their lack of trust in

the investigation by the police and the Central Bureau of Investigation. It was the circulation of a video clip that captured the horrific violence these women were subjected to that prompted the Court's intervention after weeks of unabated violence and the brazen partisanship of the Manipur government. More such cases have surfaced, and the Court has now proposed a Court-constituted investigation. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has no leg to stand on after this censure by the highest court in the land, but continues to remain in office with a total lack of accountability because the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is determined to protect him for political reasons.

The history of communal clashes in India suggests that mob violence for a prolonged period is possible only with the

connivance of the state. In the case of Manipur, it is more than evident. Bringing perpetrators to book is far more tedious and often a frustrating process compared to taking swift preventive police action at the first sign of trouble. In Manipur, far from a swift response to prevent escalation, the police allegedly facilitated the mob violence. Police personnel who failed in their duty or connived with mobs should face the full force of the law. Also, there must be a strong message from the country's political leadership. Sadly, the attempt by the ruling BJP has been to deny the gravity of the Manipur situation by comparing it with isolated crimes in Opposition-ruled States. The Court has denounced that claim while underscoring the gravity of the situation in Manipur. (The Hindu)

Hate crime on train and Nuh's riots expose majoritarian violence

In a shocking instance of a hate crime, a Railway Protection Force constable shot dead his senior and three passengers on board the Jaipur-Mumbai Central Express near Palghar station in Maharashtra. In a video clip, the remorseless accused is seen standing beside a blood-soaked body and heard saying: 'Pakistan se operate hue hain... inke aaqa hain wahan... Agar vote dena hai, agar Hindustan me rehna hai, toh mein kehta hoon, Modi aur Yogi, ye do hain, aur aapke Thackeray' (They operate from Pakistan... their leaders are there... If you want to vote, if you

want to live in India, then I say, Modi and Yogi, these are the two, and your Thackeray).

The cruel irony is not lost on anyone: the passengers were gunned down by a member of a force entrusted with the protection of their lives and property. The hate-filled rant and the cold-blooded murders leave no room for doubt that the communal virus has deeply permeated our society. The chilling fact that the accused mentioned the names of the Prime Minister and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister while giving a blood-curdling warning to India's Muslims lays bare the unwillingness of the political leadership to deal firmly with hate speech. The train horror comes just three months after the Supreme Court, while terming hate speech as a serious

offence that could affect the country's secular fabric, had directed states and UTs to suo motu register FIRs in such cases and proceed against offenders without waiting for someone to lodge a complaint.

Communal tensions have turned countless neighborhoods across India into a tinderbox that gets ignited by a mere spark - a remark inciting violence or a provocative show of strength in a minority-dominated locality. The clashes that erupted in Haryana's Nuh over a religious procession are now scorching other districts of the state too. The onus is on the police to arrest and prosecute rioters and also those indulging in hate speech - else the government's inaction would be read as its complicity.

(Tribune, India)

Pearl Banquet Hall and Convention Center in heart of Hicksville celebrates Grand Opening

JULY 28, 2023

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): As part of their mission to provide the best in the hospitality industry, PEARL Banquet Hall opened its doors on 23rd July 2023. More than 1100 guests attended to celebrate the occasion and to experience the majesty, brilliance, elegance, and grandeur of PEARL firsthand.

The Grand Opening program started with Sukhmani Sahib Path, Kirtan and Ardaas, followed by sumptuous Langar Prasad that was catered by Mint.

Rubal Sikka, the owner and President of Pearl said that with determination and perseverance, anything can be achieved. Pearl is a labor of love and brings an excellent dining experience in an atmosphere that is both tranquil and exhilarating.

Gary Sikka, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Executive Chef said that the 2000 Sq. feet building of Pearl stood in a 2-acre lot, with a spacious parking lot. The Banquet Hall has the capacity to host events for up to 400 people on the main floor. Another 100 can be accommodated on the second floor.

Pearl is an extension of Mint known for their delicious food for the last 20 years. Pearl will offer not only all kinds of Indian cuisines, but it will also offer Continental, Chinese, Thai, Mediterranean, Italian, Mexican cuisines. The opulent ambience in gold tones and with beautiful chandeliers is a delight to look at.

The unveiling of the Banquet Hall was attended by Mr. Sant Singh Chatwal, internationally renowned Hotelier, Mr. Harry Singh Bolla Chairman of the Billion Dollar Bolla Management Corporation, Mr. Naveen Shah, CEO of multibillion-dollar corporation Navika Capital Group, Dr. Paila Malla Reddy, CEO of ScieGen Pharmaceutical Company, Mr. Jon Kaiman, Deputy County Executive, Suffolk County, many community leaders and social activists.



Guru's Blessings. The program started with Sukhmani Sahib Path, Kirtan and Ardaas



Ribbon cutting by the family: Dilsheet, Janessa, Alissa, Navneet Sikka, Bably Sikka, Sean Sikka, Gary Sikka, Sunny, Sondhi, and Rubal Sikka



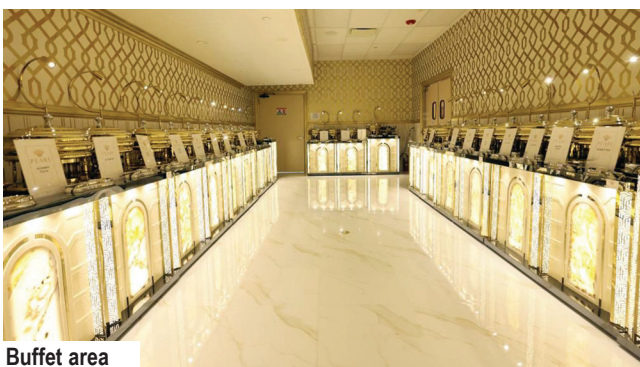
Suffolk County Deputy Executive Jon Kaiman presenting a Proclamation on behalf of the County to Gary Sikka. L to R: Indu Jaiswal, Gary Sikka, Jon Kaiman, Naveen Shah, Mohinder Taneja



L to R: Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Sant Chatwal, Gary Sikka, Herman Singh



Banquet Hall



Buffet area



Main lobby of Pearl



Entrance



Spacious 150 cars Parking lot



Harry Bolla (left) congratulates Gary Sikka

Among the many who attended the Opening Ceremony were Mr. Mohinder Singh Taneja, Mr. Zahid Syed, Mr. Shudh Prakash Singh, Mr. Varinder Sikka, Dr. Sunil Mehra, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Mr. Harish Thakkar, Ms. Indu Gajwani, Ms. Indu Jaiswal, Ms. Beena Kothari, Ms. Bina Sabapathy, Mr. Deepak Bansal, Mr. Sharanjit Singh Thind, Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, Mr. Kamlesh Mehta, Dr. Rajinder Jinna, Dr. Vinny Jayam, Dr. Raj Bhayani, Dr. Tarun Wasil, Dr. Avtar Singh Tinna, Mr. Satnam Singh Parhar, Mr. Govind Munjal, Mrs. Suman Munjal, Mr. Sunil Hali, Mr. Ajay Sondhi, Mr. V Nagendra Gupta, and Mr. Jasbir Jay Singh.

Mr. Sant Chatwal was full of admiration for the ambience of the place. Mr. Harry Bolla congratulated Mr. Gary Sikka for the "lovely place" which was the best in Long Island. Mr. Jon Kaiman presented a Proclamation on behalf of Suffolk County to Gary Sikka.

The great place is open and ready to serve you. Why wait? Barge in today.

Sikhs in Singapore hailed for their contribution in diverse fields while retaining their culture



Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong hailed Sikhs in Singapore for their contribution in diverse fields while retaining their culture

Photo / Twitter@LawrenceWongST

JULY 31, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): Sikhs in Singapore have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and made significant contributions in diverse fields while retaining their culture, faith and unique identity, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said. He was addressing the 75th anniversary celebration dinner of the Sikh Advisory Board (SAB) on Sunday, July 30, 2023. .

"You have all distinguished yourselves in your chosen professions and made significant contributions in diverse fields...Crucially, Sikhs have done all this in Singapore while retaining their culture, faith and unique identity," he told the gathering.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Punjabi-origin UK MP Tanmanjit Dhesi stopped by immigration officers at Amritsar airport for 2 hours



Punjabi-origin UK MP Tanmanjit Dhesi was stopped by immigration officers at Amritsar airport for 2 hours

Official portrait

AUGUST 3, 2023

AMRITSAR (TIP) Punjabi-origin MP Tanmanjit Singh Dhesi was stopped by immigration authorities at Amritsar airport for two hours on Thursday, August 3 morning.

He had reached Amritsar by an Air India flight number AI-118 from Birmingham at 9 am.

According to information, Dhesi did not have an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card. The immigration officials asked him for the documents following which he was stopped at the airport.

It took two hours to provide all the documents before the authorities allowed him to leave the airport at around 11am.

Dhesi, who is a British MP since 2017, has been vocal on Sikh issues.

Three Indian-origin Singapore based among nine sworn in as nominated members in Parliament

AUGUST 3, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): Three Indian-origin Singaporeans were among nine nominated parliamentarians who took oath on Wednesday, August 2.

Also sworn in on Wednesday, August 2, was Seah Kian Peng as the new Speaker of Parliament. He replaced Tan Chuan-Jin who resigned over an extramarital affair with fellow People's Action Party parliamentarian Cheng Li Hui, who has also resigned.

Of the nine Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs), this is the second term for Raj Joshua Thomas, an Indian-origin lawyer and president of the Security Association Singapore.

All other eight NMPs are first timers.

The NMPs are appointed for a two-and-a-half-year term. The NMP scheme was introduced in 1990 to ensure a wide representation of community views in Parliament. Up to nine NMPs can be appointed in each parliament.

The other two Indian-origin NMPs are Parekh Nimil Rajnikant, chairperson of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEO of acquisition firm Pegasus Asia; and Chandradas Usha Rane, an art historian, tax lawyer and co-founder of Plural Art magazine.

Chua Tiang Choon Keith, vice president



Raj Joshua Thomas, Parekh Nimil Rajnikant, and Chandradas Usha Rane are the three Indian origin Singaporeans among nine nominated parliamentarians who took oath on Wednesday, August 2.

Picture / Courtesy News 7 Tamil

of the Singapore Anglican Community Services and executive chairman of food-and-beverage firm ABR Holdings; Mark Lee Kean Phi, CEO of apparel company Sing Lun Holdings; and Ong Hua Han, assistant vice president at Deutsche Bank AG also took oath as NMPs.

The other NMPs were Razwana Begum

Abdul Rahim, head of the public safety and security program at the Singapore University of Social Sciences; Jean See Jinli, director of the NTUC Freelancers and Self-employed Unit at NTUC's Administration Research Unit; Dr Syed Harun Taha Alhabsyi, a consultant psychiatrist.

Indian expat wins Rs 45 crore grand prize in weekly UAE draw



Sachin, a Dubai-based CAD technician, won the 139th Mazooz draw's top prize on Saturday, July 29.

Photo used for representational purpose only / iStock

AUGUST 2, 2023

DUBAI (TIP): A 47-year-old Indian expat in the UAE has won a whopping 20-million-dirham grand prize from a leading weekly draw in the country, taking the tally of Indians who have attained millionaire status through the draw to 20. The Mumbai native has been residing in Dubai for 25 years with his wife and three children. "I have been participating in Mahzooz every week, hoping for a big win one day. This victory is a life-changer for my family and me," said Sachin.

Meanwhile, Gowtham, another Indian expat, won the guaranteed raffle prize of 1 million dirhams (approximately Rs 2.25 crores) from the draw.

The 27-year-old project engineer was overjoyed when he discovered his triumph through an email notification on Saturday. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian student killed in road accident in Australia



Akshay Deepak Doultani, a Mumbai native, died in crash while working as food delivery driver, reports Australia Broadcasting Cooperation. Photo for representational purpose only / iStock

AUGUST 3, 2023

MELBOURNE (TIP): A 22-year-old Indian student working as an Uber Eats driver in Australia was killed after his bike collided with an SUV in Sydney, a media report said.

Akshay Deepak Doultani, a Mumbai native pursuing a master's degree in Australia, died in a crash last week in New South Wales while working as a food delivery driver; the Australia Broadcasting Cooperation reported on Wednesday, August 2.

Doultani received a scholarship for a master's degree in finance at Macquarie University and came to Australia in February.

He worked as an Uber Eats delivery rider at least three times a week to cover his expenses.

He was taken to the Royal North Shore Hospital after the crash but died hours later; the report said. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Australian court sentences Samrala youth to 22-yr jail for burying ex-girlfriend alive



The South Australian Supreme Court of Justice Adam Kimber sentenced Tarikjot Singh to 22 years and 10 months imprisonment for the murder of his former partner Jasmeen Kaur.

AUGUST 2, 2023

LUDHIANA (TIP) An agrarian Dhaliwal family of Balala village in Samrala subdivision has left everything to the Almighty after hearing about the 22-year-long sentence to their son Tarikjot Singh on August 1, 2023

"How can we expect justice from the judicial system of a country situated thousands of miles from our home," sighed a close relative of Tarikjot, adding that both Mohan Singh Dhaliwal, father, and Jasvir Kaur Dhaliwal, mother, have been reciting Gurbani ever since they heard the news on Tuesday. The South Australian Supreme Court of Justice Adam Kimber sentenced Tarikjot Singh, elder son of the Dhaliwal family, to 22 years and 10 months imprisonment for the murder of his former partner Jasmeen Kaur.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Nisha Desai Biswal confirmed as deputy CEO of DFC

AUGUST 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States Senate confirmed Nisha Desai Biswal to serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation.

The DFC addresses the most critical challenges facing the developing world by providing loans, loan guarantees, direct equity investments, and political risk insurance for private-sector-led development projects, feasibility studies, and technical assistance.

From 2013 to 2017, Biswal served as Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, a role in which she acted as a point person for the Obama administration on South Asia. In that job, she oversaw the US-India strategic partnership, including the launch of an annual US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue, as noted by the White House.

With over 30 years of experience in US foreign policy and international development programs within the Executive Branch, Congress, and the private sector, Biswal most recently held the position of Senior Vice President for International Strategy and Global



The United States Senate confirmed Nisha Desai Biswal to serve as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation.

File Photo / courtesy
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Initiatives at the US Chamber of Commerce, overseeing the US India Business Council and US Bangladesh Business Council. She has also served as the President of US-India Business

Council.

Previously, she served as an Assistant Administrator for Asia at the US Agency for International Development, where she directed and supervised USAID programs and operations across South, Central, and Southeast Asia.

In the early years of her career, Biswal spent more than a decade on Capitol Hill in various roles, including as staff director on the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee on Appropriations and as professional staff on the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives.

Over the years, she has served as the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, a member of the board of the National Democratic Institute, a member of the US Institute of Peace International Advisory Council, the United States Institute of Peace Afghanistan Study Group, and the Aspen Institute's India-US Track 2 Dialogue on Climate and Energy.

Biswal graduated in international relations and economics from the University of Virginia. She is married to Subrat Biswal and the couple has two daughters, Safya Biswal and Kaya Biswal.

Indian American Shohini Sinha named head of FBI field office in Salt Lake City



Shohini Sinha most recently served as executive special assistant to the Director at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Photo / Twitter- @FBI SaltLakeCity

AUGUST 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Shohini Sinha, an Indian American, known for her work on counter-terrorism investigations, has been named the special agent in charge of the FBI's field office in Salt Lake City in the US state of Utah.

Sinha, who most recently served as executive special assistant to the Director at FBI Headquarters in Washington DC was named the special agent in charge by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who highlighted Sinha's exceptional track record on counter-terrorism investigations and extensive experience within the agency.

Having joined the FBI as a special agent back in 2001, Sinha has had a remarkable career, the release said on Monday.

Her journey began at the Milwaukee Field Office, where she dedicated her efforts to counterterrorism investigations.

Demonstrating her versatility and commitment, she also embarked on several temporary assignments, including stints at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, the FBI Legal Attaché Office in London, and the Baghdad Operations Centre, it said.

In recognition of her outstanding performance, Sinha earned a promotion to supervisory special agent in 2009 and was transferred to the Counterterrorism Division in Washington, DC.

There, she took on the role of program manager for Canada-based extraterritorial investigations, fostering collaboration with Canadian liaison officers based in Washington, DC.

In 2012, Sinha achieved another milestone as she was promoted to assistant legal attaché in Ottawa, Canada.

Her work in this capacity revolved around tackling counterterrorism matters through close cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin US diplomat Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta championing global women's rights in India on week-long visit



Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues is visiting India from August 1-8 to participate in the G-20 conference

Photo / Courtesy
Department of State

AUGUST 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues is visiting India from August 1-8 to participate in the G-20 conference and meet her Indian counterparts with an aim to highlight and advance the Biden administration's gender equality policy priorities in the region and around the world.

According to the State Department's official release, Rao kicked off her visit from Gujarat where she will spearhead the American delegation to the G20 Alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (G20 EMPOWER) Conference.

In addition, she will participate in the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment, the release said on Tuesday. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Punjabi-origin Indian British model Neelam Gill in a relationship with Leonardo DiCaprio's "good friend"



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."

JULY 29, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Indian-British model Neelam Gill has put romance rumors with Leonardo DiCaprio to rest, People magazine reported.

The model and DiCaprio were photographed boating together in Sardinia on Friday, July 28, fueling the rumors that the two were dating. Gill took to Instagram and made an announcement via a post.

She wrote, "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."

She added, "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 concluded. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American engineer from Alabama sues defense contractor for Hindi language discrimination



Anil Varshney has sued a defense contractor alleging that he was fired for speaking Hindi.

Picture for representational purpose only / istock

AUGUST 1, 2023

ALABAMA (TIP): A 78-year-old Indian American from Alabama has sued a defense contractor alleging that he was fired for speaking Hindi. The civil rights lawsuit by Anil Varshney, filed in the Northern District of Alabama, names Parsons Corporation and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, who oversees the United States Missile Defense Agency, as defendants. The lawsuit alleges that Varshney was heard speaking Hindi during a video call. Varshney claims that he faced based on his language and ethnicity.

"This case arises out of Defendants' intentional acts to end Mr. Varshney's highly distinguished engineering career because he is a 78-year-old Indian American," according to the lawsuit. "Defendants abruptly terminated Mr. Varshney after one of his white colleagues overheard him speaking Hindi to his dying brother-in-law in India and falsely reported him for a violation of 'security regulations.'" (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Small Business Services Outreach Campaign Engages 10,000+ New Yorkers



careers
businesses
neighborhoods

More Than 280 Events Held Across All Five Boroughs in Last Fiscal Year Alone, Breaking Agency Records
Launches New Outreach Effort to Promote NYC Business Solutions Centers to Local Businesses

AUGUST 1, 2023
NEW YORK (TIP): Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Commissioner Kevin D. Kim today announced that SBS's outreach team has connected with more than 10,000 New Yorkers in the last year alone, breaking agency records for community outreach, and reflecting a dramatic expansion in

SBS's engagement efforts. Since 2022, SBS launched a series of new, innovative initiatives to advance Mayor Eric Adams' vision for business engagement and workforce outreach outlined in the Blueprint for Economic Recovery. The announcement comes as SBS launches a new outreach effort to promote NYC Business Solutions Centers (NYC BSC) to

local businesses across New York City, its first-ever "BSC Crawl."

SBS has taken significant steps to meet New Yorkers where they are and provide information directly in multiple languages about free City services available for small businesses and jobseekers alike, including services available through its 18 Workforce1

CONTD ON PAGE 42

PROACTIVE APPROACH AGAINST HATE, RACISM, ANTISEMITISM

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja
Chief Editor of Newspaper
The Indian Panorama.



Saud Anwar
CT. Senator



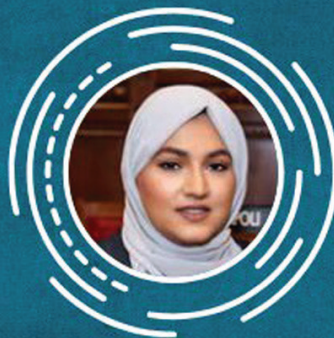
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Luke Bronin
City of Hartford , Mayor



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CT. Representative



Prasad Srinivasan
Former CT. Representative

You are cordially invited to join



August 8, 2023
07:00 PM



ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Meeting ID 864.2601.6795, Password : 202308

For Question - <http://bit.ly/milanevent>

Our Supporting Groups



All set to celebrate 77th Indian Independence Day in Hicksville

AUGUST 2, 2023

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): On the occasion of India's Independence Day, various events have been organized by people of Indian origin living abroad, and one of the main events is India Day Parade of Long Island in Hicksville. This year the 12th India Day Parade dedicated to India's Independence Day is being organized on August 27.

In this regard, a curtain raiser ceremony was held in Nassau County Legislative Building. In the presence of massive gathering the poster of the 12th India Day Parade was released.

New York State Senator Kevin Thomas, former New York State Senator Anna Kaplan and Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips participated on this occasion. IDP Founder and Nassau County Human Rights Commissioner Bobby Kumar Kalotee, who started this parade twelve years ago, praised the organizers of this parade. Speaking to the audience he said that everyone this time is looking forward to making this



Lamp lighting

parade historic under the presidentship of Deepak Bansal and Vimal Goyal.

Speaking to the gathering Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips said: "we're here to celebrate the 76th anniversary of independence of India. Our County happens to be larger when it comes to population -almost 1.5 million people- than 10 states in the United States. Our GDP is greater than 145 countries in the United Nations but what makes us so special is this. It's celebrating all the



Organizers of the Parade



A view of the gathering

diverse cultures, creeds, religions in the County. We are truly blessed. On behalf of the county executive Bruce Blakeman, I wish you a great parade."

She further added: "I want to thank Bobby for being the founder of this India day parade. I want to thank you and the entire team because we all know that events like August 27th in Hicksville are not going to happen without a team of many people that are going to work hard."

On this occasion, New York State Senator Kevin Thomas said that this parade is a symbol of the hard work and progress of the Indian American community living in America and this parade is being talked everywhere. On the occasion, former New York State Senator Anna Kaplan said that she feels proud to be a part of this parade.

The presidents of this parade Deepak Bansal and Vimal Goyal jointly thanked everyone for participating in this program and urged everyone to contribute to making the parade a success.



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Hello!... Manipur is still burning! Is there anyone in charge?



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

"Despite widespread destruction and human loss of lives, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has kept a vow of silence until now while making several important state visits to various capitals around the world, including the United States. His primary constitutional duty is to protect the lives and property of every citizen of India, regardless of caste, religion, or region. Yet, this leader of a great nation, whose aim is to make India the Vishwaguru and would readily tweet if a cricketer is involved in an accident, found it convenient to close his eyes to a State ablaze under his premiership. On his foreign visits, he often asks foreign leaders, especially in Christian-majority countries, to protect Hindu shrines and safeguard their sanctity. Yet, he is pretty undaunted about the destruction of 300 or more Christian Churches under his watch. His External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who has specialized in propaganda, could always rationalize his thoughts in the name of traditions and culture, and even as he has redefined human rights, one that would fit the people of his stripes abroad and the other for the marginalized communities in his homeland."

It has been almost three months since the State of Manipur in India has been in flames. The latest news reports speak about 140 or more people killed,

50,000 or more people made destitute and homeless, many hiding in forests, 317 churches burned, and 6137 homes set ablaze. It is indeed a colossal human tragedy that is unfolding before our eyes, and the power centers in the State or at the Center seem to be cavalier in their approach to a resolution.

The Godi media in India is spinning the story as an age-old rivalry between two ethnic groups, and many pundits have dismissed it as some tribal infighting that occurs relatively often. However, there is little doubt that since the 3rd of May, the Kuki-Zomi tribals have been at the receiving end of this horrible attack, which has all the designs of a well-orchestrated and planned campaign of ethnic cleansing. Kuki-Zomi forms about 16% of the population of Manipur, and the Meiteis, predominantly Hindus, make up about 53% of the State.

There is a raging debate over whether this ongoing crisis has any religious undertones! There is no doubt that it all started with an effort by the State Government to empower the Hindu majority at the expense of the Scheduled Tribes (mostly Christians) as regards their land rights. A writ petition filed in the High Court by members of the Meitei Tribe Union towards that goal appeared to have produced a ruling in favor of Meities, triggering the current mayhem. These anti-tribal policies are increasingly put in place in various states by the BJP government. Fr. Stan Swamy is a victim of those disastrous initiatives supporting crony capitalists that have hurt the indigenous and tribal people across India.

The attacks appeared to have been pre-meditated and well-planned. In the valley, the reports indicate the precision pinpointing of minority houses that were selected and burnt. The Hindu militants, who mostly belong to Arambai Tengol and Meitei Leepun, appeared to have the tacit support of the Police and the law enforcement authorities. As per sources, it has now been revealed that over 4000 weapons, including sophisticated ones, have been looted from different locations in Manipur since the unrest began. These arms appeared to have played a critical role in exacerbating the violence. Using mortars against fleeing Kukis-zomi refugees to the forest to escape death and destruction may point to a higher-level conspiracy in aiding and abetting these militant groups.

It is also a known fact that there are Christians among the Meities. According to Dominic Lumon, the Archbishop of Imphal, 249 churches belonging to the Meitei Christians had been destroyed within 36 hours since the start of the violence. He said, "The wonder is, amid the fight between the Kukis and the Meiteis, why did the Meitei mob burn down and destroy 249 churches in the Meitei heartland? How is it that there was almost a natural attack on the church in the Meitei localities itself, and how did the mob know



Mayhem in Manipur

where the churches were located if not previously planned". He attributed these attacks to the revival of Sanamahism, and the emergence of groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun.

Therefore, the theory that has been promoted by vested interests that there is hardly any religious angle to the whole unrest is quite suspect. BJP has long been critical of Northeastern states and blamed foreigners, especially missionaries, for their separatist tendencies. Although people in those states are apprehensive about the Hindutva agenda, they have given in to supporting the party because it allows proximity to state power and, more importantly, to central funds. After the BJP took control of the central government in 2014, political leaders in these states gradually switched loyalties to the BJP. Now, they are beginning to pay a heavy price for their wanton disregard for making crucial decisions.

While looking back at recent BJP history, the initial grabbing of power in Manipur and the subsequent unrest and violence come directly from the BJP playbook. According to Human Rights Watch, a majority of the reported incidents of violence against Christians in 1998 occurred in the western State of Gujarat, the same year that the BJP came to power in the State. The year began with an unprecedented hate campaign by Hindutva groups and culminated with ten days of nonstop violence against Christian tribals and the destruction of churches and Christian institutions in the southeastern districts at the year's end. Human Rights Watch investigated these attacks in Dangs district in southeastern Gujarat. The events were preceded by escalating violence throughout the State in which many police and state officials were involved. Biren Singh, the Chief Minister of Manipur, seems to be following the same model. Before the current crisis, his government bulldozed three churches in the name of an anti-encroachment drive, though some have existed since the early 70s in Imphal's East district Tribal colony.

Despite widespread destruction and human loss of lives, India's Prime Minister

Narendra Modi has kept a vow of silence until now while making several important state visits to various capitals around the world, including the United States. His primary constitutional duty is to protect the lives and property of every citizen of India, regardless of caste, religion, or region. Yet, this leader of a great nation, whose aim is to make India the Vishwaguru and would readily tweet if a cricketer is involved in an accident, found it convenient to close his eyes to a State ablaze under his premiership. On his foreign visits, he often asks foreign leaders, especially in Christian-majority countries, to protect Hindu shrines and safeguard their sanctity. Yet, he is pretty undaunted about the destruction of 300 or more Christian Churches under his watch. His External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who has specialized in propaganda, could always rationalize his thoughts in the name of traditions and culture, and even as he has redefined human rights, one that would fit the people of his stripes abroad and the other for the marginalized communities in his homeland.

For astute political observers, Manipur is coming apart at its seams, and so does the rest of India. The politics of polarization championed by the Modi administration is taking its toll on human lives and personal properties. However, more than anything else, transforming trajectories are not only causing the alienation of its people and the dismantlement of its institutions but also destroying the moral underpinnings of a great country. The party that prides itself on nationalism has given the impetus to the extremist elements to tear the nation apart for the selfish pursuit of power regardless of its consequences. Who is anti-national now: is that someone who drives the country towards disintegration with odious policies using religion as a tool with disastrous results or who honestly criticizes the downward spiral of a nation under the current governance? This question remains to be answered!

(The author is a retired Chief Technology Officer at the United Nations. He is Vice Chairman of IOC. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

A corporate takeover of the UN must be stopped



BY HARRIS
GLECKMAN

THE UN'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE INVOLVES GIVING CORPORATE EXECUTIVES CRUCIAL SAY IN DECISIONS. THAT IS TOO DANGEROUS TO BE ALLOWED.

The secretary-general's approach, called multistakeholder governance, would increase corporate influence over global governance, deepening the damaging consequences of prioritizing 'return on investment' above social and ecological needs. In a multistakeholder world, corporate executives and other founders bring together a friendly group of civil society organizations, governments, academics, UN staff, and other non-state organizations to take on a global governance role.

The United Nations needs a revamp. There can be little dispute about that. And the UN's September 2024 Summit for the Future is an ideal opportunity for this upgrade.

The people of the world expect a global form of governance that can confront the unique challenges of the 21st century. The UN's creaking, post-World War II structures have been struggling to meet the challenges of the modern world for a long time. The many crises we face demand that the UN evolves to meet these challenges.

But Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's vision for that evolution - as set out in his report to the General Assembly, Our Common Agenda - is ill-conceived and underwhelming.

Instead of expanding access to the UN system to communities of people impacted by today's crises, it gives more influence and power to corporate actors who are most culpable of bringing us to the precipice of ecological and social disaster.

The secretary-general's approach, called multistakeholder governance, would increase corporate influence over global governance, deepening the damaging consequences of prioritizing 'return on investment' above social and ecological needs. In a multistakeholder world, corporate executives and other founders bring together a friendly group of civil society organizations, governments, academics, UN staff, and other non-state organizations to take on a global governance role.

This would marginalize over two-thirds of the nations of the UN. Instead, a new vision and institutional arrangement that focus on people and the planet should be at the heart of the Summit for the Future.

The role of national governments in the UN would be diluted by the addition of corporate-led bodies, which might soon take on more decision-making, managing everything from the oceans to financial markets. In this brave new world, a fossil fuel giant could have a privileged voice in decisions about providing important energy for all - conflicts of interest be damned. Do we really want the world's biggest tech behemoths and profit-oriented Big Pharma firms 'legislating' global rules?

Perhaps most worrying of all in this new vision of the UN is the absence of

ideas for new intergovernmental negotiations to deal with current social, economic, environmental or gender debates.

As it stands, governments, as representatives of their citizens, take the final decisions on global issues and direct international organizations to implement these decisions. This proposed new system would make 'stakeholders' the main players.

But who exactly is a 'stakeholder' and why? There are countless possible stakeholder categories. At last year's multistakeholder Food System Summit, organized out of the Office of the Secretary-General, for example, the 'stakeholders' were large agribusinesses, data management firms and commodity dealers, not the six billion people who actually need the food or their local representatives or civil society advocates.

Much of this thinking stems from the 2012 Global Redesign Initiative report of the World Economic Forum (WEF), which proposed such a shift in global governance.

According to the WEF (and now the UN secretary-general), nation-states and governments alone cannot solve the main issues of global governance, and other actors need to be involved. The best of those actors according to them in WEF are corporations.

Indeed, we have already witnessed an increased role of the corporate private sector through their involvement in the implementation - or rather the non-implementation - of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2021, the WEF and the Office of the Secretary-General concluded a memorandum of understanding on this, which, not incidentally, was never made publicly available by the UN nor submitted to the General Assembly.

By displacing governments and states from decision-making, a brand-new parallel set of corporate-compromised institutions will sit with a voice and a de facto vote to decide on global policies that impact the planet and its people.

For decades, the corporate world has fraudulently claimed greater efficiency than all others. This efficiency can be seen in the hollowed-out public services of the rich world, the crippling debt burdens of the poor world, and almost universal cultural impoverishment.

Now, sweetening its proposition with insinuations of massive philanthropic financing, the corporate world - the only real beneficiaries of these proposed changes - has international decision-making in its sights.

Where nongovernmental organizations were once the largest non-state entities attending UN system meetings, transnational corporations (TNCs) have grown to become the biggest players. Civil society organizations, educators, scientists, women and other social communities now have less space to influence the behavior of the UN and intergovernmental processes.

This approach erodes sovereignty. When other actors are seen as equivalent to states, it undermines the longstanding concepts of state responsibilities, obligations and liabilities, as the new actors are unencumbered by any such legal requirements.

Multistakeholder groups and their corporate participants get to choose which policy issues they want to participate in, picking and choosing the ones likely to generate a profit, reduce the rate of return or which may limit the continued acceptance of globalization. When they do get involved in the governance of a certain issue, they act in such a way as to narrow the range of policy decisions to only those that are compatible with a commercial return. Needless to say, this is not always aligned with the public good.

Communities around the world already feel the international community is failing to solve problems. Multistakeholderism adds to this loss of trust by throwing up a smokescreen around conflicts of interest and proposing commercially viable 'solutions', which cannot address today's major structural crises.

Meanwhile, rich country governments get to side-step their funding promises, while multistakeholder groups pose as open wallets that can underwrite global public goods and development. But direct payments and loans from governments are very different from investment flows, discounts on technology licensing, negotiated tax payments and supply chain funding.

Even linguistically, multistakeholderism is taking us in the wrong direction. Public services around the



United Nations Headquarters in New York

world have subtly shifted their language from talking about 'citizens' to talking about 'customers'. The longstanding UN vocabulary speaks of 'peoples', 'citizens', 'communities', 'constituencies' and 'nongovernmental organizations'. Now everyone is a 'stakeholder'.

This leads to absurdities such as equating the needs, interests and influence of huge corporations with those of governments or small economies or local nonprofit community organizations.

THE FUTURE AT STAKE

As the UN resets its agenda for the next 25 years, states from the Global South, represented by the G-77 at the UN, are pushing back against this dangerous new mission to quietly redefine how the UN works towards its mandate.

They are making sure that their voices are heard in the September 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the September 2024 Summit for the Future.

The UN Secretariat had originally proposed a September 2023 multistakeholder Summit of the Future, which was intended to solidify the secretary-general's blueprint for reform.

At the end of 2022, however, a coalition of developing countries intervened to shift planning and decision-making to the General Assembly and erased the proposed lead role for multistakeholderism - for now. They also chose to halt the event's preparations until 2024, arguing that the UN must focus this year on implementing its existing and faltering Sustainable Development Goals.

Thanks to effective lobbying and continuing pressure from activists and scholars, the G-77 is continuing to fight back against the preponderance of corporate-friendly language and policies, and the increased role of corporations in global governance.

The secretary-general must take heed, reverse course and keep 'nations' and 'peoples' at the center of global governance. A possibly irreversible corporate takeover of the UN system must be prevented.

(The author is Associate, Transnational Institute, and Senior Fellow at the Center for Governance and Sustainability, University of Massachusetts Boston) (Source: Al Jazeera)

The road to 2024 is uphill for Trump

REPUBLICANS COULD WELL END UP WITH A NOMINEE WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONVICTED MORE THAN ONCE



BY MANOJ JOSHI

"THERE IS A KIND OF AN AUTO-IMMUNE DISEASE THAT HAS TURNED AMERICA AGAINST ITSELF. CONSIDER THE LIKELY CANDIDATE AND POSSIBLE FUTURE PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. HE WILL GO ON TRIAL IN MAY NEXT YEAR IN THE CASE PERTAINING TO MISHANDLING OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS. BUT THIS IS ONLY ONE OF THE SEVERAL CASES HE WILL CONFRONT IN 2024. THE DATE FOR THE CRIMINAL TRIAL RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF HUSH MONEY TO COVER UP A SEX SCANDAL DURING THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN SET FOR MARCH. THERE IS ALSO AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO TRUMP'S EFFORTS TO REVERSE THE ELECTION LOSS IN GEORGIA. FINALLY, INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE CHARGE THAT HE ATTEMPTED TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION VERDICT THROUGH A CONSPIRACY INVOLVING FAKE ELECTORS - WHICH CULMINATED IN THE JANUARY 6, 2021, ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL."



Trump already faces three criminal cases.

File photo

political and cultural, that are gripping the country, a little more than a year away from what is being called the most consequential presidential election in recent history.

Clearly, the USA is undergoing change, but the process is not without its dangers, as exemplified by the politics of the Republican Party.

There is a kind of an auto-immune disease that has turned America against itself. Consider the likely candidate and possible future President Donald Trump. He will go on trial in May next year in the case pertaining to mishandling of classified documents. But this is only one of the several cases he will confront in 2024. The date for the criminal trial relating to the payment of hush money to cover up a sex scandal during the 2016 presidential campaign has been set for March. There is also an ongoing investigation into Trump's efforts to reverse the election loss in Georgia. Finally, investigations into the charge that he attempted to overturn the 2020 election verdict through a conspiracy involving fake electors - which culminated in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

The Republican process to choose its candidate will begin in January 2024 and could conclude even before various trials are over. The Republican Party could well end up with a nominee who might have been convicted more than once.

The current Republican approach to the Trump issue seems to be to ignore his crimes and misdemeanors and argue that the responsibility for this outcome rests with the Democrats.

Just how the Republican Party has gotten here is not clear. But from the party of 'law and order', it has become one which sees nothing unusual in the January 2021 riot. It now also wants to abolish the FBI. The party of high morality which cannot tolerate abortion is also the party that doesn't care that its

nominee has consorted with porn stars. Where their erstwhile leader Reagan led the campaign against the Soviet 'Evil Empire', their current leader is Putin's best hope.

The Democrats have their problems, not in the least being an unpopular Joe Biden seeking a second term. On paper, things are going well: the economy is flourishing, jobs are plentiful and expectations are that things will get better in the coming six months.

The Republicans are trying to undermine Biden by threatening impeachment. They claim that the activities of Biden and his son Hunter involved corrupt practices, though as of now there is little evidence of wrongdoing by the President himself.

Equally dramatic are the culture wars gripping the country. The biggest divide is, of course, abortion. After the US Supreme Court stripped away the constitutional protection for abortion rights, several Republican states have passed stringent laws prohibiting it and criminalizing abortion providers. This is despite the polls showing now, as they have in the past, that a majority of the Americans favor the right to abortion, with some restrictions.

Last week, President Biden inaugurated the Emmet Till monument to memorialize a 14-year-old black boy who was abducted, tortured and killed in Mississippi in 1955 for allegedly whistling at a white woman. The murder and the acquittal of his killers triggered the civil rights surge of the 1960s. And in the last decade, we have seen the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, an outcome of the persistence of racism in the US.

Just how contemporary racism works is evident from the steps being taken by Florida Governor and Republican presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis to play down slavery to the point of inanity. Revised textbooks in the state claim that

THE CURRENT REPUBLICAN APPROACH TO THE TRUMP ISSUE SEEMS TO BE TO IGNORE HIS CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS AND ARGUE THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS OUTCOME RESTS WITH THE DEMOCRATS.

slaves actually benefited from their status since they picked up certain skills doing slave labor.

And then there are wars over sex education, sexual orientation and gender identity. Building upon the successful efforts to establish gay rights, bisexual and transgender people are seeking to stake out their rights. According to opinion polls, almost 21 per cent of Gen Z - those born between the mid-1990s and around 2010 - identifies itself as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), as against 10 per cent of the millennials (born between early 1980s and mid-1990s).

The arrival of Gen Z is affecting the country in other ways too. A Gallup poll has revealed that the share of young people (18-34 years) who say they are "extremely proud" to be American has plummeted from around 40 per cent in 2013 to just 18 per cent now.

The political divide is deep. This year, some 75 Bills aimed at restricting LGBT rights were passed in legislatures across the US. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation have increased and demonstrations and counter-demonstrations have become a regular feature. The battleground includes school and university curricula as well.

These so-called 'culture wars' are really an attempt by the conservatives to fight change. They project themselves as victims of liberalism run amok, with immigrants, gays, women, poor, black and other groups being given unfair privileges at their cost.

Notwithstanding the noise, the road is uphill for Trump. According to one pollster, between 2016 and 2024, there will be an addition of 52 million more voters, younger and leaning towards the Democratic Party.

Clearly, the USA is undergoing change, which by itself is not unusual. But the process is not without its dangers, as exemplified by the politics of the Republican Party under Trump. With the help of institutions such as the right-wing-dominated Supreme Court, they are attempting to maintain 'white male dominance' of the country. But that is simply not possible. Change is coming, like it or not.

(The author is Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation)

America's brutal summer of 2023 is unrelenting. In many ways, it is symptomatic of the fevers,



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Vijay Divas celebrated at the Indian Consulate, New York

JULY 27, 2023

SANYA GUPTA

NEW YORK (TIP): July 26th, 2023 marked the 24th anniversary of Vijay Divas. Vijay Divas is celebrated to recognize India's victory against Pakistan in the Kargil War, May 3, 1999.

Kargil Vijay Divas is celebrated with freedom in mind, faith in words, pride in hearts, and memories in souls.

At the event held at the Consulate General, New York, on July 26th, 2023, many heroic soldiers were remembered and praised. The soil from the battlefield during the war was also displayed for the audience to see.

The Honorable Consul General, Colonel Virendra Tevathia, Major Krishna Chari, Major General Manjit Khara, and Colonel KB Singh (a veteran of 1971 War), were present during this lively event.

ABOUT SHRADHAA FOUNDATION

Shradhaa Foundation's mission is to provide financial support, educational resources, and career counseling for the spouses and children of soldiers of Indian descent. It has helped many widows and children over 12 years so far. With their determination and courage, they have helped many families and children of our soldiers back home, struggling financially as well as those needing professional guidance.

As Seema Jagtiani proudly announced, "Our promise to the world is that all the donations meant to be delivered to India will not go through any secondary sources. Your money will safely be sent to where you expect it to go."

Seema is a passionate woman who from a very young age has wanted to be that "vision" that people are usually not able to see in the army. She mentioned, "...when people talk about the army, they don't really think that our soldiers are on duty 24/7 even when there is no war going on."

Seema explained how when there are floods in India, or the landslides, cloud bursts, or any other natural disaster, soldiers are the ones who step up to help us through our life. They take the initiative and risk their life to give us a hand when we need it the most, without expecting anything in return. Visiting the soldiers on a high altitude post, Seema asked over 200 soldiers, "who all are here for money?" Only one raised his hand. Everyone else was there to protect their nation, even if



Consul General of India Honorable Randhir Kumar Jaiswal speaking about the Vijay Divas to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in Kargil war, May 3, 1999



Seema Jagtiani speaking about the Shradhaa Foundation

that meant risking their life for it.

During the event, I was taken aback when I learned about the Kargil War; our courageous soldiers, their devotion to duty, and their love for the Nation. I remember telling my friends how the vibe had taken me to experience the war as if I was really there. I told my parents that the atmosphere had made me think as if we were at a place in India, and not in New York. It is amazing to see the Indian legacy stretch out across 7 oceans to the other side of the world, with the level of enthusiasm not a drop less.

At a moment in the event, the audience rose in unison and saluted the soldiers who had sacrificed their lives for their mother country. During a moment in a speech that was being shared in the event, I learned something that



Col. Virendra Tevathia speaking about the historic victory in Kargil war with Pakistan



Honorable Consul General with organizers and soldiers
Photos / Courtesy Consulate General of India

sank into my heart: "Soldiers have to work in climates below 40 degrees Celsius in the mountains and over 55 degrees Celsius in deserts. It can be deadly for human beings to tolerate anything under 11 degrees Celsius and over 30 degrees Celsius." I don't think I can ever forget this.

It was really a beautiful event when many courageous soldiers were recognized, memories were remembered, tears were brought, emotions connected, and warriors were saluted. And through it all, our Tiranga flag was held high. Jai Hind!

For more information about Shradhaa foundation, visit www.shradhaa.org

(The author of the article, Sanya, will enter 9th grade in September. The article is written by her without any assistance from anyone)

Aparna Sreedhar regales audiences with exquisite Indian melodies

JULY 30, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Aparna Sreedhar dazzled a packed audience with exquisite Indian melodies at the Indian Consulate in New York on July 29, 2023. Her musical performance was "A musical journey through India" followed by "A medley homage to late legendary Lata Mangeshkar ji". She was accompanied by talented tabla player Robi Bhattacharya and harmonium player Biplab Mukherjee, arranged by Rakesh Banerjee.

Aparna Sreedhar is a superbly talented and versatile Hindustani vocalist with a rich repertoire of classical music, bhajans, abhangs, ghazals, geet and folk music. She also sings in many Indian languages. She is fondly referred to as the Lata Mangeshkar of Paris- the nightingale of Paris.

The program was organized by the Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) in partnership with Global Indian Organization (GIO, headquartered in Paris), and hosted by Consulate of India in New York. Following refreshments, Ashook Ramsaran, President of IDC, welcomed everyone and Consul General Amb. Randhir Jaiswal made opening remarks, highlighting the inherent value of Indian music and the arts to the



A poster featuring Aparna Sreedhar

Indian Diaspora. Prakash Singh, President of IDC of Guyana, thanked Aparna Sreedhar and the musicians for a rousing presentation.



Performers Robi Bhattacharya, Aparna Sreedhar and Biplab Mukherjee with the Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

Participating in the program were Consul Bijender Kumar of the Consulate and former Suriname ambassador Kriesnadath Nandoe and his family. The event was supported by the Consulate and Boysie Siew, entrepreneur and IDC life member.

Life Lesson from Tirlok Malik: Love yourself

HAPPY LIFE YOGA WORKSHOP ENTHUSES HUNDREDS



Over 125 senior citizens from various organizations attended the lively, entertaining, and interactive workshop. While making his audience laugh heartily, Tirlok Malik, founder of Happy Life Yoga, drove home a serious message at his workshop in Queens, sponsored by four community organizations.

JULY 31, 2023

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA

JAMAICA ESTATES, NY (TIP): Tirlok Malik's Happy Life Yoga workshop at India Home here on July 28 was a roaring success. He made over 125 senior citizens from various seniors' organizations laugh and dance to his tunes.

Founder of Happy Life Yoga, Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik aimed to empower seniors in the audience to live a healthy, happy, and more fulfilling life. His live, entertaining, interactive workshop brims with the wisdom of Yoga, Ayurveda, and Indian Philosophy, which he distills and presents with practical tips and short exercises.

To me and some attendees I spoke to, the most striking takeaway from the workshop was when Malik made us hug ourselves and say loud and clear, "I love myself." This line he made us repeat like a mantra or talisman. And from these three words, a big life lesson flows naturally. Explained Malik, "If I love myself, then it is my responsibility to take care of my health and happiness. So, commit that you will try your best to be healthy and happy."

Each of Malik's close friends will tell you that the moment he calls, both burst into guffaws. At the workshop too, he made everybody laugh, "like babies", as one participant commented. "Laugh as much and as often," Malik said. "It is good for you, it opens the lungs, and it produces happy hormones." He does not resort to cracking jokes as he advises, "You don't need a reason to laugh. Laugh at the absurdity of life, laugh at ordinary events - 'oh, chapati on the stove got burnt' is a good enough opportunity to laugh it away."

Having his audience to eat out of his hands, Malik then moved to the core of his workshop.

Indian philosophy, he explained, tells us that you can have it all but only if you balance Artha, Kama, Dharma, and Moksha. Artha is our means, and Kama is our desires, and normally the two are out of whack, which causes problems. "I may want a Mercedes, but if currently, I can only afford \$20,000, then it is better to shelve that goal," he suggested. Dharma is making the right choices. Moksha is contentment or fulfillment that flows from harmoniously living the first three.

From Ayurveda, Malik said, we learn to eat the right food for the body. Eat healthy as many times as possible and skip junk food.

The Yoga of Happy Life Yoga does not require mats. "Move the body as much as possible," Malik advised, as yoga asanas also involve various body movements. Then, he made people sway and dance even as they were



Happy Life Yoga founder Tirlok Malik is an Emmy award-nominated filmmaker and restaurateur.

sitting in chairs. One simple breathing exercise he taught: "Take a deep breath, hold for a while, and exhale from the mouth with a sound."

Malik wrapped up his motivational workshop with this nugget: We cannot change our past, so we must accept it. We may have made mistakes, but we cannot go back to correct them. We do not know what the future has in store for us. So, live in the present, doing your best to have a happy and healthy life.

The program was sponsored by Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York, GOPIO Manhattan, GOPIO New York, and India Home. Media support was provided by Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama.

Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi, Executive Director of India Home, talked about the various free programs offered by the not-for-profit center for senior care.

Mukund Mehta, President, India Home, and Past President and Paramarshak of Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York, introduced Tirlok Malik.

Fulsome praise for the workshop



Tirlok Malik (third from left) with Organizers. L to R: Pankaj Parikh, Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi - Executive Director of India Home, Mukund Mehta, and Jagdish Patel, posing for a picture after the workshop.

"Tirlok Ji's presentation on Happy Life Yoga was extraordinary and seniors overwhelmingly enjoyed it. The entire session was robust and participative. He introduced the principles for a happier and healthier life based on the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Indian Philosophy."

-Mukund Mehta, President, India Home, and Past President and Paramarshak, Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York.

"Happy Life Yoga is beneficial for everyone to have good health, physically and emotionally, and Tirlok Malik's platform can show how to achieve it."

-Jagdish Patel, President, Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York

"Tirlok Malik's workshop was unique in many ways. There were frequent bursts of laughter along with useful tips for breathing and developing a positive attitude towards your own self."

-Pankaj Parikh, Vice President, Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York

"Tirlok Malik taught us the techniques to connect mind, heart, and body through positive thinking, using fundamental values and breathing exercises. It was a unique experience to expand the inner joy in our life."

-Ashok Sheth, Vice President - Finance, Indo-American Senior Citizen Center of New York



Tirlok Malik and Parveen Chopra, founder of ALotusInTheMud.com
Photos by John Pina

Lotus wellness web magazine introduced

During his program, Tirlok Malik invited Parveen Chopra, founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, and said that this wellness and spirituality web magazine has much useful information for a healthy and happy life. Chopra said, "Our paywall-free website presents the best from the religious/spiritual traditions from India and the world, as well as science enabling us to live holistically." He handed out flyers inviting people to subscribe for free to his biweekly newsletter, called The Lotus Bloom, by going to ALotusInTheMud.com/Newsletter/ <https://happylifeyoga.org/>

Tirlok Malik is an acclaimed actor and filmmaker who is known for making feature films on the Indian American experience under his banner Apple Productions, such as 'Lonely in America', and 'On Golden Years'. When asked, he will tell you that Happy Life Yoga is not a departure from that work but is the continuation of his love for India and his community. He had started the first Indian food restaurant (1985), the first Ayurveda medicine center (1992), and the first Ayurveda restaurant (1998), all in Manhattan.

During the program, Malik called upon Claudine and Jack Halpern to introduce their online app, named Zage, for elder care. The couple distributed discount coupons to the attendees.

Toward the end of the program, Malik introduced and thanked his team: Neha Lohia, a filmmaker and Happiness Director of Happy Life Yoga, and John Pina and Bohan, also filmmakers.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar interacts with an audience of 2000+ DFW residents - with focus on mental health and techniques to reduce stress

JULY 31, 2023

PLANO, TX (TIP): On Saturday, July 29th, 2023, Global humanitarian and spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation (AOLF), interacted with local communities in and around the City of Plano.

The event titled "Journey Within" was held at the Plano Event Center, Plano TX, as part of Gurudev's 25 city US tour that focuses on how to effectively deal with today's most pressing mental health challenges.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex accorded a warm rousing welcome to Gurudev, who addressed thousands of community members across backgrounds, races, and genders.

Taking them on the 'journey within' Gurudev led the entire audience into a powerful guided meditation and emphasized the importance of breathwork and meditation to deal with stress, anxiety and other mental health issues prevalent in the modern day fast paced life. Gurudev shared his wisdom on several other topics - relationships, dealing with stress at work, inner peace and more.

"A disease-free body, quiver-free breath, stress-free mind, inhibition-free intellect, obsession-free memory, and soul which is free from sorrow is the birthright of every human being." - Gurudev shared.

The event was graced by the following community leaders:

1. Mayor John Muns, Mayor of Plano and his wife Joa
2. Ann Anderson, Frisco Public Art Board, Vice Chair
3. Thor Anderson, Board Member Frisco Education Foundation
4. Mark Hill, Frisco Independent School District Trustee
5. Gopal Ponangi, Frisco Independent School District Vice President

Texas Governor Greg Abbot, Mayor of City of Plano and Mayor of City of Allen issued a proclamation announcing 29th July 2023 as Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Day!

"Emboldened by deep-seated convictions, Gurudev and his followers have journeyed to war-ravaged regions of the world, counselled hardened prisoners, and resolved seemingly irreconcilable differences..." as per the citation by Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott

The proclamations honor and acknowledge the work and efforts of The Art of Living under the guidance of Gurudev, in serving, spreading peace, joy, resolving conflicts, working for the environment, and bringing communities together in an increasingly polarized world.

The event also coincided with launch of Gurudev's



book Notes for the Journey Within, which instantly became a National Best Seller and Wall Street Journal bestseller in its launch week.

ABOUT GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a global humanitarian, spiritual leader, and peace envoy. He has helped millions of people worldwide find peace and resilience in the face of adversity, learning not only how to excel in their own lives, but also how to become powerful agents for social change.

Gurudev has created trauma relief and meditation programs for at-risk youth, war veterans, prisoners, and survivors of disaster. He has also created numerous educational and self-development programs and tools that facilitate the elimination of stress and foster deep and profound inner peace, happiness, and well-being for individuals.

Standing for the Gandhian principles of non-violence, Gurudev has mediated and progressed negotiations for peace in conflict-stricken areas such as Sri Lanka, Iraq,

Venezuela, and Colombia, where he is credited for playing a central role in ending the violent 52-year conflict between FARC and the Colombian government. He has received 39 governmental awards, including the highest civilian awards from several nations. Twenty-four universities have awarded him honorary doctorates for his peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts.

ABOUT ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION

Operating in 180 countries, The Art of Living Foundation (AOLF) is a non-profit, educational, and humanitarian organization founded in 1981 by the renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. All AOLF's programs are inspired by Gurudev's philosophy of creating world peace through a stress-free and violence-free society. AOLF has touched over 800 million lives through numerous educational and self-development programs and tools that facilitate the elimination of stress and foster deep and profound inner peace, happiness, and well-being for individuals.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP TEST: PROPOSED CHANGES TO ASSESS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SKILLS WORRY SOME WHO HAVE PASSED CURRENT EXAM

JULY 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) Under the proposed changes, applicants would be asked to verbally describe three color photographs showing "ordinary usage scenery, such as daily activities, the weather or food," according to a notice in the Federal Register by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The current test asks applicants questions based on what they put on their application, called the N-400, to test their English-language skills.

The proposed changes also would add multiple-choice questions to the civic portion of the test. Applicants



must get six out of 10 civics questions correct to pass that section. The changes will undergo a trial-testing period for several months this year and, if adopted, take effect late next year.

WHAT TO KNOW

Proposed changes to the U.S. citizenship test would both revamp the exam's speaking section to assess an applicants' English-language proficiency and add multiple choice questions.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

AMERICAN BANK OPENING NEW LOCATION IN FRISCO

JULY 31, 2023

DALLAS (TIP): American Bank of Dallas continues to expand with the opening of a new branch in Frisco on Monday, August 7. This becomes the bank's third location, joining the main office on West Northwest Highway in Dallas and its branch in Irving's Valley Ranch Neighborhood.

"Since being acquired by Bright Force Holding in 2019, we have grown from \$55 million in assets to more than \$400 million in assets by focusing on 'boutique banking' that delivers personalized service and innovative solutions for both business and consumer customers," said Jeff Weaver, President and CEO of American Bank.

Chairman of the Board Chirag "Chuck" Patel added, "As one of the country's fastest-growing community banks, it's very appropriate for American Bank to now bring our convenient and competitive style of banking to Frisco, one of the country's fastest-growing communities."

To celebrate its new branch location, American Bank is offering a special "grand opening" interest rate of 6% APY on new six-month Certificates of Deposit (CDs) opened at any of its locations during the month of August.

"Many people feel disconnected with the routine impersonal service they receive at large banks, so we've changed that by creating a community bank that's big on service -- where customers are known by their names, not their account number," explained Weaver.

Located at 3382 Preston Road in Frisco, the new branch will be managed by Stephanie San Miguel, who has almost 25



American Bank - Board of Directors: (L to R) Mehul Patel, Mital Patel, Chirag Patel, Jeff Deaver, Daxesh Patel, Sanjay Patel, Yogi Patel

years of banking experience in management positions with community banks as well as regional and national banking institutions.

"We're locally-owned and managed, which allows us to make faster loan decisions, avoiding the rigid policies and delays typically associated with larger banks," explained Chairman Patel. "That's very important for small business owners who need to move at the speed of business rather than the speed of bureaucracy."

American Bank offers a full range of commercial and consumer services, including SBA and commercial real estate loans, auto loans, business financing, as well as business and personal deposit account options.

The bank was established in May of

1974 as Pan American National Bank of Dallas, changing its name to American Bank in May of 1987. It was acquired in March of 2019 by Bright Force Holding, an investment group based in the Dallas suburb of Grapevine that consists of six prominent Asian American business leaders - Chirag Patel, Daxesh Patel, Mehul Patel, Mital Patel, Sanjay Patel, and Yogi Patel.

These six investors are partners in NewcrestImage, a privately-held investment firm that currently owns an extensive portfolio of diversified real estate and alternate assets, including approximately 70 hotels across 26 states.

American Bank is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). For more information, visit www.abdallas.bank

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.

Monetized installment sale transactions generally include the following elements:

A seller of appreciated property, or a person acting on the seller's behalf, identifies a buyer who is willing to purchase the property in exchange for cash or other property.

The seller enters into an agreement to sell the property to an intermediary in exchange for an installment obligation, which provides for interest payments from the intermediary to the seller.

The seller then purportedly transfers the property to the intermediary, although the intermediary never actually takes title or takes title to the property only briefly before transferring title to the buyer in exchange for the buyer's cash or other property.

The seller also obtains a loan with an agreement that provides for interest payments from the seller to the lender that equal the amount of interest that the intermediary pays the seller under the installment obligation.

Both the installment agreement and the loan provide for interest due over the same periods, with principal due in a balloon payment at or near the end of the term of the installment agreement and loan.

The sales proceeds received by the intermediary from the buyer, reduced by certain fees, are provided to the lender to fund the loan to the seller or transferred to an escrow account of which the lender is a beneficiary.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

The CDC sees signs of a late summer COVID wave

HOSPITALIZATIONS FOR COVID-19 ARE TICKING UP. BUT EVEN IF ILLNESSES KEEP RISING, IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL HIT PREVIOUS SUMMER PEAKS.

JULY 28, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Yet another summer COVID-19 wave may have started in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"After roughly six, seven months of steady declines, things are starting to tick back up again," Dr. Brendan Jackson, the CDC's COVID-19 incident manager, tells NPR.

The amount of coronavirus being detected in wastewater, the percentage of people testing positive for the virus and the number of people seeking care for COVID-19 at emergency rooms all started increasing in early July, Jackson says.

"We've seen the early indicators go up for the past several weeks, and just this

week for the first time in a long time we've seen hospitalizations tick up as well," Jackson says. "This could be the start of a late summer wave."

Hospitalizations jumped 10% to 7,109 for the week ending July 15, from 6,444 the previous week, according to the latest CDC data.

The increases vary around the country, with the virus appearing to be spreading the most in the southeast and the least in the Midwest, Jackson says.

But overall, the numbers remain very low - far lower than in the last three summers.

"If you sort of imagine the decline in cases looking like a ski slope - going down, down, down for the last six months - we're just starting to see a little bit of an

almost like a little ski jump at the bottom," Jackson says.

Most of the hospitalizations are among older people. And deaths from COVID-19 are still falling - in fact, deaths have fallen to the lowest they've been since the CDC started tracking them, Jackson says. That could change in the coming weeks if hospitalizations keep increasing, but that's not an inevitability, Jackson says.

So the CDC has no plans to change recommendations for what most people should do, like encourage widescale masking again.

"For most people, these early signs don't need to mean much," he says.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Is there no mechanism to abrogate Article 370, asks Supreme Court

Is there no mechanism to abrogate Article 370 even when the people of Jammu and Kashmir want it, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday, Aug 3, and wondered if the now repealed provision can't be touched will it not amount to creating a "new category" beyond the basic structure of the Constitution. Hearing for the second day a clutch of petitions challenging the Centre's 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution that accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud wanted to know how the provision could be revoked in the absence of a constituent assembly.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone, there are only two highly debatable issues—whether Article 370 acquired a permanent status with the cessation of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir and whether the procedure adopted for its abrogation was valid.

Sibal submitted there was an understanding between the Constitution framers and then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir Hari Singh who, while in favour of independence of his state, signed the instrument of accession to India due to the trouble caused by Pakistani infiltrators, under which Article 370 was inserted and no process can now be followed to abrogate it.

"The Constitution is a live document and it is not static. Can you say that there is no mechanism to change it (Article 370) even when everyone wants to change it? Then you are saying that this can't be changed even if all of Kashmir wants it," Justice Kaul told Sibal. *Source: PTI*

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Govt, Opposition talk of middle path after 11-day Parliament impasse

NEW DELHI (TIP)

After 11 days of impasse in Parliament over the structure of the Manipur violence debate, signs of a thaw, though still weak, appeared on Thursday, Aug 3, with the Opposition and the government discussing a middle path to break the stalemate.

The formula proposed by INDIA alliance veterans at a meeting with Leader of Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi relates to their climbdown from the current insistence to discuss Manipur under Rule 267, which entails the suspension of entire business to debate a matter. Sources said the Opposition has offered to discuss Manipur under Rule 167, which covers issues of public interest and which has in the past been invoked to debate crucial yet controversial subjects. A key condition of the new formulation, however, is the agreement of both sides on the draft of the motion under Rule 167.

"The ball is now in the government's court," an Opposition source said, still insistent that PM Narendra Modi should reply to the Manipur debate. Sources cited past instances when Rule 167 was invoked to find a middle path. On May 6, 2002, the Rajya Sabha had discussed a motion moved by Congress MP Arjun Singh on violence in Gujarat. After Singh moved the mutually drafted motion, Leader of Opposition in RS Manmohan Singh spoke and was followed by then PM Atal Behari Vajpayee and then Home Minister LK Advani. "In the end Arjun Singh replied to the motion, which was unanimously adopted without the need for any voting," an Opposition leader said.

On August 4, 2010, then Leader of Opposition in RS Arun Jaitley moved a motion under Rule 167, expressing concerns over inflation. Then Finance Minister P Chidambaram replied to it and it was adopted.

"INDIA parties have offered a middle path to the leader of the House to break the logjam and get a discussion on Manipur going in an uninterrupted manner in the Rajya Sabha. Hope the government agrees," Congress chief whip in RS Jairam Ramesh said.

TMC's Derek O'Brien said: "The Opposition does not stand on ego and Manipur needs healing."

The Union ministers noted that for 11 days, RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar kept offering to start the debate under Rule



176, but the Opposition posed roadblocks.

On MHA request, Kuki mass burial put off

Hours before a planned mass burial of deceased Kuki-Zomi people who fell victim to the ethnic violence, the Manipur High Court today ordered that status quo be maintained at the proposed burial site in Churachandpur district. The ITLF, the apex tribal body, which organised the funeral services, said it was postponing it by seven days following requests from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The developments came amid fresh violence that left 17 persons injured in Bishnupur. Police sources said Army and RAF personnel fired tear gas shells in Kangvai and Phougakchao areas of Bishnupur to stop massive crowds from proceeding to the proposed mass burial site. The security forces cited violation of restrictions imposed on the gathering of more than five persons. The district magistrates of Imphal East and Imphal West withdrew curfew relaxations announced earlier and imposed day curfew as a precautionary measure throughout the Imphal valley, officials said. *Source: TNS*

Delhi services bill passed in Lok Sabha, Opposition walks out

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Delhi services bill, officially known as The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Aug 3, resulting in opposition MPs staging a walkout as a protest.

If passed in the Rajya Sabha too, the Delhi services bill will replace an existing ordinance that overrides a Supreme Court order giving the Delhi government control over most services. The ordinance has been a major flashpoint between Arvind Kejriwal's AAP and the Centre.

Reacting to the bill being passed in the Lok Sabha, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the BJP had earlier promised that it would give "full statehood" to Delhi.

Expressing disappointment over the bill that takes away the state's control over transfer postings, Kejriwal said that "today, these people (BJP) stabbed the people of Delhi in the back".

"Repeatedly BJP has promised that it will give full statehood to Delhi. In 2014, Modi himself said that on becoming the Prime Minister, he would give full statehood to Delhi. But today these people stabbed the people of Delhi in the back. Don't believe anything of Modi ji from now on," Arvind Kejriwal said on X (formerly known as Twitter).

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh, who has been suspended for the remaining duration of the Monsoon



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Lok Sabha. (Photo | Sansad TV)

session of Parliament, said that "Indian democracy was killed today in the Parliament" in response to the passage of the Delhi services bill in the Lok Sabha.

The Delhi services bill was passed after a nearly four-hour-long debate which was replied to by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Shah made it clear that the central government has the power to make laws on Union territories and Delhi, being a Union Territory, the Centre enjoys full rights to make rules also.

"The bill is constitutionally valid and it is for the benefit of the people of Delhi," he said.

He also took a dig at the AAP-led Delhi government and said that the BJP and Congress governments had worked together in Delhi and at the Centre in the past, without confrontation.

However, he said, problems arose only in 2015 when "a party came to power in Delhi whose only motive was to fight, and not serve".

The bill was tabled by Amit Shah in Parliament on Tuesday.

Amit Shah also appealed to the Opposition to think about Delhi instead of their alliance, INDIA, while voting for the bill.

"It is my request to all the parties not to indulge in politics of supporting or opposing legislation just to win elections or gain the backing of some party."

"There are many ways to build new alliances. Bills and laws are for the benefit of the people. These should be supported or opposed keeping in mind the welfare of the people of Delhi," Shah said.

The Delhi services bill proposes that actions like suspensions and inquiries of the national capital's officials would be under the control of the centre.

The AAP government in Delhi has termed the bill as "undemocratic" and accused the BJP-led Centre of attempting to subvert the rule of law and take over control of officers in the capital. *Source: PTI*

India to participate in Jeddah summit on Ukraine peace plan

India will participate in a conclave in Saudi Arabia involving major countries from the West and the Global South to consider talks to bring about peace in Ukraine.

Russia, which has been excluded, has denounced the talks while Ukraine said the meeting in the resort city of Jeddah could be a stepping stone to a peace summit.

With Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hoping that such meetings would lead to a peace summit in autumn, there is speculation that the G20 summit in India could be the venue. All nations involved in peace talks will be represented at the G20 by their top leader and it would be a moment's notice to arrange a meeting on its sidelines.

India's participation in the talks is in line with its approach that dialogue and diplomacy is the best way forward, said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. However, he said as yet there was no move to hold a meeting on Ukraine on the sidelines of the G20 summit, as Zelenskyy seems to be alluding to.

The meeting which Kyiv and the West have organised in Saudi Arabia based on the Ukrainian President's "peace formula" is a farce and is intended to forge an anti-Russian coalition, said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. The meeting was a "bait" for those countries that are honestly seeking a peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian conflict and these countries had been invited "with the aim of developing some kind of supposed peace initiative, to settle the situation", she said.

Modi to travel for Brics Summit in Johannesburg

PM Narendra Modi will be heading for the BRICS summit after host and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa invited him for the meet in a phone call on Thursday, Aug 3.

During a phone call with Modi on Thursday evening, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa invited the prime minister to the Brics Summit and briefed him on preparations for the meeting.

"PM accepted the invitation and conveyed that he looked forward to his visit to Johannesburg to participate in the summit," the external affairs ministry said in a readout of the conversation.

The ministry had earlier described as "speculative" media reports that Modi might skip the summit of the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Russia has said Putin will join the summit virtually while foreign minister Sergey Lavrov will lead a delegation to Johannesburg.

Gyanvapi row: ASI team starts work on scientific survey

VARANASI (TIP)

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began working on a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises here on Friday, August 4, to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The survey began at around 7 am, ASI sources said. The ASI team members, along with the representatives of the Hindu petitioners to a legal dispute involving the mosque, were present in the complex under watertight security arrangements.

The members of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee have boycotted the survey. The representatives of the committee who were to accompany the ASI team for the survey abstained from doing so.

The survey began after the Allahabad High Court on Thursday, August 3, upheld a Varanasi district court order and ruled that the proposed step is "necessary in the interest of justice" and will benefit both sides.

The order came after the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid committee, representing the Muslim side to the legal dispute, moved the Supreme Court against the Varanasi district court order.

The mosque stands next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

The Allahabad high court on August 3 cleared the decks for a controversial survey of the Gyanvapi Masjid premises in Varanasi, holding that scientific investigation was necessary in the interest of justice and would benefit both parties in a dispute that has simmered on for decades but snowballed over the past year.

In a 16-page order, high court chief justice Pritinker Diwaker dismissed the petition filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the mosque and which had challenged a Varanasi court judgment that ordered on July 21 a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to determine if the 17th century structure was built over a temple.

"Scientific investigation is necessary in the interest of justice and shall benefit the plaintiffs and defendants alike and come in aid of the trial court to arrive at a just decision," the verdict said.

Hours later, the mosque management committee rushed to the Supreme Court, pressing for an urgent hearing. A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, will take up the



plea for an immediate stay on the survey on Friday. The survey will begin between 7am and 8am, said Subhash Nandan Chaturvedi, a counsel for the Hindu side.

"We are against the survey of the Gyanvapi mosque," said Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's joint secretary SM Yasin.

The high court – which started hearing the case on July 25 after the Supreme Court temporarily suspended the survey on July 24 – took on record ASI's undertaking that the agency will not carry out any excavation or harm the existing structure. The court also asked the district court to expedite proceedings,

"As the proceeding of the suit has been lingering on for long, it would be appropriate to observe that the court concerned shall make all endeavour to conclude the proceedings expeditiously, without granting unnecessary adjournments to either of the parties by giving short dates," the high court said.

The district court is hearing a raft of petitions by Hindu groups and individuals who have demanded worshipping rights inside the mosque premises, claiming the presence of Hindu idols and deities within the complex that abuts the Kashi Vishwanath temple. This is the second such controversial exercise to be carried out at the premises.

Govt tables digital data bill amid Oppn protests

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Lok Sabha on Thursday, August 3, allowed the introduction of the long-awaited Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 by means of a voice vote, even as Opposition MPs objected to the introduction of the proposed law and called for it to be referred to a Parliamentary committee.

This is India's second attempt at framing a privacy legislation, and comes after at least three previous iterations of a data protection law have been considered, and shelved, by the government.

Under rules that allow them to protest the introduction of proposed laws, Opposition members opposed the introduction of the Bill, demanding that it be officially referred to a Parliamentary panel for further deliberation. Calls for referring the Bill to a Joint Committee of Parliament were also made. Opposition MPs also spoke about their concerns around excessive government exemptions present in the Bill, and expressed concerns around the potential dilution of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

However, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that none of the issues raised by Opposition members were related to the government's legislative



competence and that the Centre was ready to have a detailed discussion on the Bill, including all the allegations levelled by Opposition MPs.

The Bill is a crucial pillar of the overarching framework of technology regulations the Centre is building, which also includes the Digital India Bill – the proposed successor to the Information Technology Act, 2000 – the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022, and a policy for non-personal data governance.

Last August, the government withdrew from Parliament an earlier version of the data protection Bill that had been almost four years in the making, after it had gone through multiple iterations and a review by a Joint Committee of Parliament, and faced pushback from a range of stakeholders including tech

companies and privacy activists.

The proposed law will apply to processing of digital personal data within India; and to data processing outside the country if it is done for offering goods or services, or for profiling individuals in India.

It proposes to set up a data protection board that will adjudicate on matters related to violations of the provisions including data breaches. It also offers wide ranging exemptions to the Central government and its agencies, a proposal that has drawn ire of Opposition MPs and privacy activists.

The Bill requires entities that collect personal data – called data fiduciaries – to maintain the accuracy of data, keep data secure, and delete data once their purpose has been met.

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi called for division, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi asked for the Bill to be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Congress MP Manish Tewari said that there was a distinction in the way the Bill applied to different entities. "It applies with full force to non government entities, and the entire government is going to be exempt from it," Tewari said. TMC's Sougata Roy opposed the Bill's introduction saying that the final version was completely different from the one first proposed last year.

Source: Indian Express

India in history this Week

AUGUST 4, 2023, TO AUGUST 10, 2023

04 AUGUST

1956 Apsara, the country's first nuclear research reactor, started.

1967 Construction of Nagarjunasagar, the world's longest masonry dam.

2008 The government gave Navratna status to the Shipping Corporation of India.



1929 Actor, singer, director Kishore Kumar was born.

05 AUGUST



1991 Justice Leela Seth became the first Indian woman to become the Chief Justice of the High Court.

1775 Nandakumar, an officer of the Bengal Nawab, was hanged in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

2008 A tremor of 5.5 magnitude earthquake was felt in the Indian Ocean 176 miles northeast of 2008 from Andaman and Nicobar island of India.

2010 A cloudburst occurred in Leh in Kashmir (India) in 2010 and 115 people died in the flood that followed.

2013 India's junior women's hockey team won the bronze by defeating England 3-2 (1-1) in the 2013 World Cup held in Germany.



2000 India's great and famous cricketer Lala Amarnath died in 2000

2020 The foundation stone of the Ayodhya Ram temple was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Das Modi on 05 November 2020.

06 AUGUST

1862 Madras High Court was established.

1906 Prominent freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das and other Congress leaders jointly started publication of 'Vande Mataram' newspaper.

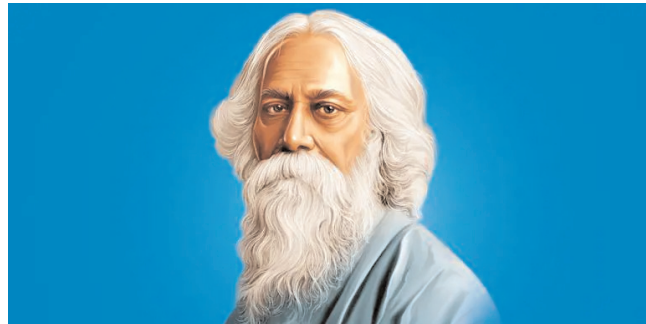
1986 Birth of India's first test tube baby.

2007 An old Hindu temple in central Trinidad was damaged.

07 AUGUST

1905 The Indian National Congress boycotted British goods.

1941 Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore died.



1947 Electricity and transport system were formally transferred to Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

1985 Geet Sethi won the World Amateur Billiards Championship. He became the third Indian to achieve this feat.

08 AUGUST

1509 The coronation of Maharaj Krishnadeva Raya as Emperor of the Vijay Nagar Empire.



1942 Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement.

1967 For the first time since independence, the central government faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

1921 Indian medical scientist Vulimiri Ramalingaswamy was born in 1921.

09 AUGUST

1942 Indian government Mahatma Gandhi was arrested by the British government.

1683 The British monarchy, through an order, gave the East India Company the right to declare war or peace in Asia.

1971 Signing of the Indo-Russian Friendship Treaty.

1942 Freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose established the Indian National Army in Malaya (now Malaysia) with the help of Japan.

1909 Kannada chief litterateur Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, who got the 'Jnanpith Award', was born on 9 August 1909.



1996 Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar was elected the captain of the Indian cricket team in 1996.

2012 In 2012, the Indian Army successfully tested the Agni-2 ballistic missile capable of carrying out nuclear strikes.

10 AUGUST

2012 In 2012, the Indian Army successfully tested the Agni-2 ballistic missile capable of carrying out nuclear strikes.

1860 Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, a scholar of classical music, was born.

1983 Phoolan Devi was born to reach the political corridors from the ravines of Chambal.

2010 India successfully tested Gagan, a satellite operating system based aircraft operation system.

2008 Anti-AIDS vaccine was successfully tested in a lab in Chennai.

1980 India's first female musician Saraswati Devi died.



1977 Shyam Lal Gupta, the author of the flag song 'Vijay Vishwa Tiranga Pyara', passed away.

2008 It was agreed to implement the 2005 order in an all-party delegation meeting to settle the Amarnath land.

1979 The satellite SLV-3 was launched in 1979.



1894 The fourth President of the country, VV Giri, was born on 1894.

Quit India Movement Day

Quit India Movement Day, also known as August Kranti Diwas (August Revolution Day), is an annual commemoration in India that marks the anniversary of the Quit India Movement to honor the historic civil disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 9, 1942, during India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule.

On August 9, 81 years ago — on August 9, 1942 — the people of India launched the decisive final phase of the struggle for independence. It was a mass upsurge against colonial rule on a scale not seen earlier; and it sent out the unmistakable message that the sun was about to set on the British Empire in India.

Mahatma Gandhi, who had told the Raj to “Quit India” on the previous day (August 8) was already in jail along with the entire Congress leadership, so when August 9 dawned, the people were on their own — out on the street, driven by the Mahatma’s call of “Do or Die”.

This truly people-led movement was eventually crushed violently by the British, but by then it was clear that nothing short of their final departure was acceptable to India’s masses.

After the British failed to secure Indian support for the British war effort with Cripps Mission, Gandhi made a call to Do or Die in his Quit India movement delivered in Bombay on 9 August 1942 at the Gowalia Tank Maidan. Viceroy Linlithgow remarked the movement to be “by far the most serious rebellion since 1857”.

The All India Congress Committee launched a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called “An Orderly British Withdrawal” from India. Even though it was at war, the British were prepared to act. Almost the entire leadership of the Indian National Congress was imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi’s speech. Most spent the rest of the war in prison and out of contact with the masses. The British had the support of the Viceroy’s Council, of the All India Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha, the princely states, the Indian Imperial Police, the British Indian Army, and the Indian Civil Service. Many Indian businessmen profiting from heavy wartime spending did not support the Quit India Movement. The major outside support came from the Americans, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressured Prime Minister Winston Churchill to give in to some of the Indian demands.

Various violent incidents took place around the country against the British regime. The British arrested tens of thousands of leaders, keeping them imprisoned until 1945. Ultimately, the British government realized that India was ungovernable in the long run, and the question for the postwar era became how to exit gracefully and peacefully.

The movement ended in 1945 with the release of jailed freedom fighters. Martyrs of this freedom movement include Mukunda Kakati, Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua, Kushal Konwar, Bhogeswari Phukanani and others. In 1992, the Reserve Bank of India issued a 1 rupee commemorative coin to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Quit India Movement.

World War II and Indian involvement

In 1939, Indian nationalists were angry that British Governor-General of India, Lord Linlithgow, brought India into the war without consultation with them. The Muslim League supported the war, but Congress was divided. At the outbreak of



war, the Congress Party had passed a resolution during the Wardha meeting of the working-committee in September 1939, conditionally supporting the fight against the Axis, but were rebuffed when they asked for independence in return.

If the war is to defend the status quo of imperialist possessions and colonies, of vested interest and privilege, then India can have nothing to do with it. If, however, the issue is democracy and world order based on democracy, then India is intensely interested in it... If Great Britain fights for the maintenance and expansion of democracy, then she must necessarily end imperialism in her possessions and establish full democracy in India, and the Indian people have the right to self-determination... A free democratic India will gladly associate herself with other free nations for mutual defense against aggression and for economic co-operation.

Gandhi had not supported this initiative, as he could not reconcile an endorsement for war (he was a committed believer in non-violent resistance, used in the Indian Independence Movement and proposed even against Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Hideki Tojo). However, at the height of the Battle of Britain, Gandhi had stated his support for the fight against racism and of the British war effort, stating he did not seek to raise an independent India from the ashes of Britain. However, opinions remained divided. The long-term British policy of limiting investment in India and using the country as a market and source of revenue had left the Indian Army relatively weak and poorly armed and trained and forced the British to become net contributors to India's budget, while taxes were sharply increased and the general level of prices doubled: although many Indian businesses benefited from increased war production, in general business “felt rebuffed by the government” and in particular the refusal of the British Raj to give Indians a greater



role in organizing and mobilizing the economy for wartime production.

Subash Chandra Bose remarked that a “new chapter in Indian freedom struggle began with the Quit India Movement”. After the onset of the world war, Bose had organized the Indian Legion in Germany, reorganized the Indian National Army with Japanese assistance, and soliciting help from the Axis Powers, conducted a guerrilla war against the British authorities.

Resolution for immediate independence

The Congress Working Committee meeting at Wardha (14 July 1942) adopted a resolution demanding complete independence from the British government. The draft proposed massive civil disobedience if the British did not accede to the demands. It was passed at Bombay.

However, it proved to be controversial within the party. A prominent Congress national leader, Chakravarti Rajgopalachari, quit the Congress over

this decision, and so did some local and regional level organizers. Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad were apprehensive and critical of the call, but backed it and stuck with Gandhi’s leadership until the end. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad and Anugrah Narayan Sinha openly and enthusiastically supported such a disobedience movement, as did many veteran Gandhians and socialists like Asoka Mehta and Jayaprakash Narayan.

Allama Mashriqi (head of the Khaksar Tehrik) was called by Jawaharlal Nehru to join the Quit India Movement. Mashriqi was apprehensive of its outcome and did not agree with the Congress Working Committee’s resolution. On 28 July 1942, Allama Mashriqi sent the following telegram to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Mohandas Gandhi, C. Rajagopalachari, Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad and Pattabhi Sitaramayya. He also sent a copy to Bulusu Sambamurti (former Speaker of the Madras Assembly).

'SHAKTI' MUSIC ENSEMBLE GRACES NEW JERSEY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

BY MABEL PAIS

SHAKTI IS BACK!



Shakti Ensemble - left to right: V. Selvaganesh, Shankar Mahadevan, John McLaughlin, Ganesh Rajagopalan, Zakir Hussain.
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

'Shakti', the revolutionary world music ensemble continues to discover and explore the musical common ground bridging East and West on an extensive U.S. tour in 2023. This follows the Summer 2023 release of 'This Moment,' their first new studio album in 46 years. 'Shakti' on its US tour makes a stop at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on August 20 at 8 PM.

Born in the mid-1970s out of the deep artistic and spiritual connection bonding British guitarist John McLaughlin and Indian tabla player Zakir Hussain, Shakti's cross-cultural musical conversation dissolved boundaries with uncommon passion, grace, and dexterity - awakening subsequent generations of musicians to the possibilities of such hybrids in the process.

Looking ahead to the performances, McLaughlin equates the endeavor to a homecoming of sorts. "Shakti was born in the USA in 1973," he reflects, "and is also no stranger to American audiences. We've played concerts all over the US from coast to coast and north to south - and everywhere we've played, we've had wonderful audiences."

Starting in the 1970s, British guitarist John McLaughlin and Indian tabla player Zakir Hussain forged the template for "world music" with their pioneering fusion band. Now, they resume their musical journey alongside percussionist V. Selvaganesh (son of Shakti's original ghatam player T.H. Vinayakram), vocalist Shankar Mahadevan, and violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan. The show opens with a special solo set by Béla Fleck, the 15-time GRAMMY® winning banjo virtuoso.

"They nearly always come back," said Béla Fleck. "All the people that leave bluegrass. I had a strong feeling that I'd be coming back as well."

'My Bluegrass Heart,' out September 10, 2021 on Renew Records, is that return the 15-time Grammy winner is talking about - the third chapter in a decades-spanning trilogy which, by his counting, started with 1988's 'Drive' and continued with 'The Bluegrass Sessions,' released eleven years later. Over the long and lauded course of his unique creative run, Fleck - the world's premier banjo virtuoso and a celebrated musical adventurer - has both dug deep into his instrument's complex global history and unlocked the breadth of its possibilities. My Bluegrass Heart is a homecoming in sound, to be sure.

Joining Shakti will be Béla Fleck, the world's premier banjo virtuoso, 16 time GRAMMY winner and celebrated musical adventurer, who will open the performances with a solo set and will then join forces with Shakti later in the evening.

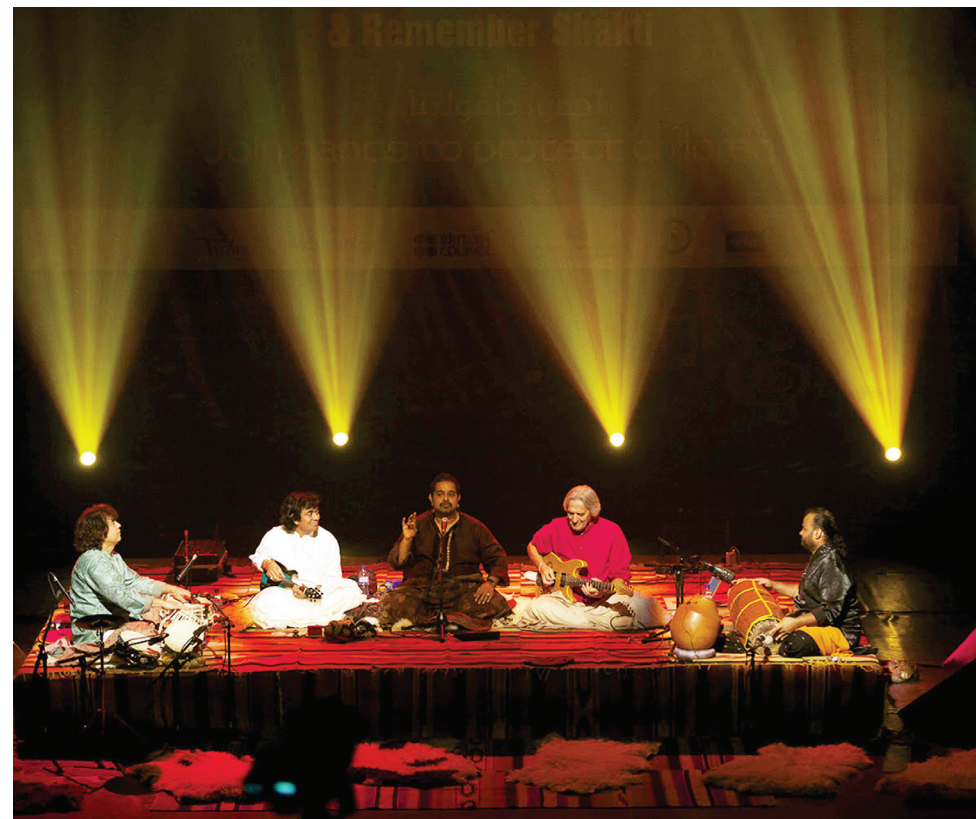
"Hearing Shakti was a revelation and I started listening right when they started," Fleck recalls. "Something about Shakti, and also making music with Zakir, was very relatable - perhaps akin to the acoustic guitar and fiddle. But it wasn't until playing with Zakir and Edgar Meyer [on 2009's Melody of Rhythm: Triple Concerto & Music for Trio] that I started having more of a sense of what they were up to. Keeping in mind the virtuosic and energetic level of the band, I'll be attempting to create a solo set that mesmerizes and excites."

"Béla is a truly fine musician and one I have admired for decades," McLaughlin says. "In addition, Béla has toured and recorded with Zakir Hussain and is no stranger to the musical culture of India." McLaughlin and Fleck have only shared the stage once before - during a Chick Corea birthday show at the Blue Note in New York - making these upcoming collaborations a thrilling proposition for both audiences and performers alike.

With the recording of their new studio album now complete, the members of Shakti now await the opportunity to continue their pan-global dialogue.

"In our initial incarnation," Zakir Hussain concludes, "we did not always have the time nor the means to explore. Now, with the decades of individual musical experiences we all have poured into this, the result reveals an extraordinary depth and level of interaction within this band."

PROGRAM



Shakti Ensemble on stage

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

THIS YEAR'S SHAKTI FEATURES:

John McLaughlin guitar
Zakir Hussain tabla
Shankar Mahadevan vocals
Ganesh Rajagopalan violin
Selvaganesh Vinayakram percussion
**(son of original Shakti ghatam player T.H. "Vikku" Vinayakram)
with very Special Guest Béla Fleck**

TICKETS

To purchase tickets, call 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722) or visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey.

NJPAC

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Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

CELEBRATE INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE & MORE WITH BATTERY DANCE NYC

By Mabel Pais

Performances by

Aliyah Banerjee & Shashank Iswara (TX), Taraana, NYC Premiere

Samanvita Kasthuri (MO), Krtaghna, NYC Premiere

August 15, 2023 at Rockefeller Park, India Independence Day

Rudrakshya Foundation (India)

Durgesh Gangani (India), The Legacy

And more



2023 Battery Dance

Credit / batterydance.org

Battery Dance celebrates the 42nd Anniversary of its free summer festival from August 12-18, 2023, in partnership with Battery Park City Authority. The 42nd Annual Battery Dance Festival will feature in-person and live-streamed performances staged each night at Rockefeller Park, Battery Park City, New York City at 7PM ET, with a rain date on August 19. Reaching both local and international audiences, the Festival promotes Battery Dance's mission of connecting the world through dance. For more information, visit batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival.

Battery Dance Festival, New York City's longest-running free public dance festival, was established by Battery Dance as the Downtown Dance Festival in 1982. Pre-pandemic, it drew audiences of approximately 2,000 people each night in its iconic setting at Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park. The Festival went virtual in 2020, attracting 30,000 viewers across 206 countries. In 2021, it ran as a hybrid model with over 10,000 in-person and over 21,000 virtual audience members. This year, the Festival welcomes in-person and live-streamed audiences from a new location at Rockefeller Park.

"When Super Storm Sandy flooded lower Manhattan, Battery Park City Authority reached out a helping hand, providing a beautiful site for the Battery Dance Festival which we've all enjoyed every summer since 2013. With the prospect of rising seas in future, BPCA is enacting a pro-active resiliency plan, lifting Wagner Park up to 12 feet, making it inaccessible this summer. But fear not! BPCA has invited us to move to Rockefeller Park this summer where we'll benefit from the large lawn and river-front views, as we bask in the glow of performances by local and international companies." - Jonathan Hollander, Founder and Artistic Director of Battery Dance.

August 12, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

Young Voices in Dance

The Bowery Mission (NYC)

Marley Poku-Kankam (NYC), All Four

Aliyah Banerjee & Shashank Iswara (TX), Taraana, NYC Premiere

Taraana, a Kathak-Bharatanatyam collaboration, explores acceptance and coexistence. The duet presents two ancient Indian classical styles with rigid frameworks, conveying how open-mindedly embracing the other form leads to harmony onstage, without compromise of technical purity. Using the style of

"jugalbandi" (interaction between the two dancers), the work portrays its broader theme: how welcoming different identities, while preserving tradition, can create a culturally rich, conflict-free society.

Dareon Blowe (VA), How Do Five Parts Construct a Whole?, NYC Premiere

Mateo Vidals (NYC), There is Always Something Happening

Luke Biddinger (PA), La Vie En Rose, World Premiere

Cameron Kay (NYC), Interface, NYC Premiere

Samanvita Kasthuri (MO), Krtaghna, NYC Premiere

Krtaghna is an Indian-classical fusion piece that reflects on environmentalism. Krtaghna follows the story of Mother Earth caring for man and growing him with love, only for man to grow and exploit the five elements of the Earth. Mother Earth, battered and broken, has no choice but to destroy the Earth. This dance is a cautious warning to humans, urging people to be grateful to the Earth. Krtaghna utilizes traditional Indian classical elements of dance with a Western sound in its music, as well as the usage of English words and quotes.

Micah Sell (NYC), Outline, World Premiere

Queensborough Community College (NYC), Discovering, World Premiere

Willem Sadler (Canada), Soullessly Flying, World Premiere

Tulia Marshall (NY), A fraction of a true self

Joanne Hwang (NYC), Static State of Perfection

August 13, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

Batara Gowa (Indonesia), Lebonna, U.S. debut

Battery Dance (NYC), A Certain Mood

Reuel Rogers (Curaçao), Power, World Premiere

Keturah Stephen (NYC), A Yearning Desire, NYC

Premiere

Nu-World Contemporary Dance Theatre (NYC), The

Called and The Chosen, NYC Premiere

Trainor Dance Inc. (NYC), Courante

IMGE Dance (NYC), (no) man

August 14, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

SOLE Defined (DC), SOLE Defined LIVE, NYC

Premiere

Erv Works Dance (NYC), Veiled From the Womb

Jiemin Yang (NYC), Here We Root (Excerpt)

Teodora Velescu and Lari Giorgescu (Romania),

Special People, U.S. debut

Batara Gowa (Indonesia), Lebonna, U.S. debut

Fanike! African Dance Troupe (NYC), UPLIFTED!

August 15, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

India Independence Day

Rudrakshya Foundation

(India), Kali Krishna, NYC

debut Rudrakshya

Foundation, an all-male

professional troupe and

school founded in 2000 by

choreographer Guru Sri

Bichitrananda Swain, hails

from Bhubaneswar, capital

of the eastern coastal Indian

State of Odisha. The ancient

classical dance form of

Odissi to which Rudrakshya

is dedicated, is depicted in

the carvings of ancient

Hindu temple friezes in Puri,

Bhubaneswar, Konark and

Cuttack. Guru

Bichitrananda received training from the pre-eminent

guru of Odissi, Padma Vibhushan Kelucharan

Mohapatra and his leading disciple Sujata Panigrahi and

passes on his learnings and his choreographic creations

to young men in the traditional form of teacher and

students living and learning together. Rudrakshya has



Rudrakshya Foundation all-male dance

Credit / batterydance.org

been presented in festivals and theaters throughout India and on tour in Europe, Asia and North America. This is the troupe's first appearance in New York City and celebrates Indian Independence Day, with sponsorship from the Consulate General of India in New York and State Bank of India - New York.

Durgesh Gangani (India), The Legacy

Durgesh will be performing works of his grandfather Pt. Sundarlal Gangani, who was a legendary Kathak Guru with a global impact and pioneering personality who brought Kathak to the Indian university education system in the year 1951.

Amarnath Ghosh (India), Maragatha Manimaya

This piece is what is known as a Tarangam in Kuchipudi which is where the dancer performs intricate rhythmic patterns while balancing on the edge of a brass plate. This piece describes the glory and splendour of Lord Krishna.

August 16, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

Julian Donahue Dance (NYC), Displacement

Citadel + Compagnie (Canada), Soudain l'hiver dernier

Tabanka Dance Ensemble (Norway), Progress, U.S.

debut

Teodora Velescu and Lari Giorgescu (Romania),

Special People, U.S. debut

Jerron Herman (NYC), Lax, World Premiere

Carolyn Dorfman Dance (NJ), NOW, NYC Premiere

Dancers Unlimited (Hawaii/NYC), Edible Tales

(Excerpts) Soul Food & Kanaloa, NYC Premiere

August 17, 2023 at Rockefeller Park

In memoriam: Jennifer Muller (1944-2023)

Jennifer Muller/The Works (NYC), Miserere Nobis

Tribute to Turn of the 20th Century American Modern

Dance Pioneers

Dances by Isadora (NYC), Isadora Duncan: Under a

New Sky

Time Lapse Dance (NYC), American Elm and Piece for

a Northern Sky

Denishawn (NYC), Denishawn (Excerpts)

Lori Belilove/The Isadora Duncan Dance Company

(NYC), Tribute to Ukraine

August 18, 2023 at Rockefeller Park



2023 Battery Dance

Credit / batterydance.org

Adriana Ogle & Toru Sakuragi (NYC), Softly as in a Morning Glow

Amanda Treiber (NYC), Wind-Up

Bruce Wood Dance (TX), In My Your Head, NYC

Premiere

Citadel + Compagnie (Canada), Soudain l'hiver dernier

Boca Tuya (NYC), Like Those Playground Kids at

Midnight

Tabanka Dance Ensemble (Norway), Progress, U.S.

debut

Reuel Rogers (Curaçao), Power, World Premiere

Battery Dance (NYC), The Wind in the Olive Grove

Battery Dance

For updates and more information, visit

batterydance.org.

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

OSCAR-QUALIFYING HOLLYSHORTS FILM FEST IS HERE AGAIN

BY MABEL PAIS

The Oscar® Qualifying HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL presents its 19th Annual Edition. HollyShorts screenings take place from August 10-20 at TCL (The Creative Life) Chinese Theatres, 6801 Hollywood Blvd. 3rd Level, Hollywood, CA, 90028, followed by the annual awards gala on August 20th.

This year the documentary shorts race at HollyShorts has heated up, for the first time at the festival the winner will take home an OSCAR®-qualifying prize. There are 36 documentaries covering subjects like trauma, cults, queer photographers, and a skateboarding trans woman.

The Academy® this year granted the festival their 4th OSCAR®-qualifying award for Documentary short film, this accolade will join their other three top awards, Best Short Film Grand Prize, Best Short Animation and Best Short Live Action. The winners of these awards will be eligible to be considered for a 2024 Academy® Award!

SOME OF THE DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILMS SELECTED FOR THE 19TH EDITION INCLUDE

'How to Rig an Election: The Racist History of the 1876 Presidential Contest' directed by Emily Kunstler and Sarah Kunstler, narrated by Tom Hanks.

'They Came From All Over' directed by Academy® Award winner Rayka Zehtabchi, OSCAR® winner.

The film highlights the plight of an American small business owner.

Ben Proudfoot's 'Forgiving Johnny' focuses on developmentally disabled people who are sent to prison.

Jordan Matthew Horowitz's 'Jack and Sam', produced by Academy® Award winner Andrew Carlberg shares a story of two friends who survived the holocaust together and meet decades later.

LIVE-ACTION SHORTS

The star-studded live-action short film entries include Iain Softley and Disney Plus' 'The Shepherd', produced by Alfonso Cuaró and featuring John Travolta.

Christopher Patrick Macken's 'For the Safety of Theo' executive produced by Charlie Day, Jenn Shaw's "Gaps", produced by Queen Latifah.

Bella Thorne's 'Paint Her Red'.

Jorey Worb's 'Bite' starring Troian Bellisario (Pretty Little Liars).

'Shadow Brother Sunday' directed by and starring Alden Ehrenreich (Star Wars).

Harry Holland's 'Last Call' starring Tom Holland and BAFTA Nominee Lindsay Duncan.

Margaret Miller's 'Poof' starring Catherine Curtain.

Academy® Award winner Chris



Every Day After

starring Jack And Sam



Merman



To Be Frank

Credit / hollyshorts.com

Overton's 'In Too Deep.'

Charles Whitcher's 'Mundo,' executive produced by Eva Longoria, and

'For People in Trouble' directed by Alex Lawther and executive produced by Matt Damon alongside Ben Afflick.

ANIMATION SHORTS

ANIMATION SHORT FILM ENTRIES FEATURE

WB's 'Daffy in Wackyland,' directed by Max Winston, and

OSCAR® nominee Andrew Pierce Chesworth's 'The Brave Locomotive.'

MUSIC VIDEOS

Notable music videos include Lauren Keke Palmer's 'Big Boss,' and

Ron Mael, Russell Mael and Richie Starzec's 'Sparks' starring Cate Blanchett.

ADDITIONAL NOTEWORTHY SELECTIONS INCLUDE

Karen Bryson MBE's directorial debut 'Monochromatic.'

Kayla Abuda Galang's 'You Left Me on the Boulevard.'

Lauren Finerman's 'Flower' produced by and starring Misty Copeland.

Lola Blanc's 'Pruning' starring Madeline Brewer (The Handmaid's Tale),

Ethan Dolan and Grayson Dolan's 'Nothing Left to Give.'

Conor Dooley's 'Gold and Mud' starring Ana Fabrega (Los Espookys)

Rudy Martinez's 'Ham.'

Oscar Boyson's 'Power Signal.'

Michael Spiccia's 'I'm On Fire'

Jamie-Lynn Sigler (The Sopranos),

Sue Zarco Kramer's 'Swipe NYC' starring Lisa Edelstein (House MD) and Bridget Moynahan (Blue Bloods).

Marta Szymanek's 'Eden' produced by OSCAR® nominee Maciej ?lesicki.

Stephanie Kaznocha's 'Confessions' starring Sister Alva (Curb Your Enthusiasm) and Eve Sigall (Yellow Jackets).

Michael Schwartz's 'Snatched' starring Tatiana Maslany (Orphan Black).

Dany Pino's 'Unión de Reyes (Union of Kings),' as well as Tal Granit and Sharon Maymon's 'Restraining Order' produced by Oscar Nominee Kobi Mizrahi.

View the full list of films and updates at hollyshorts.com.

TICKETS

For Tickets visit hollyshorts2023.eventive.org/passes/buy

HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (HSFF) #HSFF2023 (HOLLYSHORTS.COM)

The annual Academy Awards® Qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival will celebrate its 19th year in August 2023. HollyShorts (HSFF) brings together top creators, industry leaders, and companies and has launched many filmmakers into the next stages of their careers.

HollyShorts, regular on MovieMaker Magazine's "Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee list," also engages its community and spotlights short films year-round through monthly

screenings, panels, and networking events. The festival showcases the top short films produced in 40 minutes or less. Learn more at hollyshorts.com.

This year's hybrid celebration of short films will take place in person with screenings at the world-renowned TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and virtually through the official festival streaming platform BITPIX.

Holly Shorts Film Festival will take place in-person between August 10-20th, 2023 at TCL Chinese 6 Theatres, with the annual Awards Gala set to take place on August 20th, 2023.

BITPIX (BITPIXTV.COM)

Born out of the Oscar® Qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival, Bitpix is a new Premium AVOD platform, featuring the world's best short films. The platform is already live in alpha mode and available via [Bitpixtv.com](https://bitpixtv.com). Bitpix is streamed through the app for download on Airplay, Amazon Fire TV, Android, Android TV, AppleTV, Chromecast, IOS, Roku.

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



Consulate General of India,
New York



Together towards a green ecosystem



SUNDAY
AUGUST
20TH
2023



CHIEF GUEST

Indian Actress

SAMANTHA RUTH PRABHU



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Hrithik-starrer 'Koi...Mil Gaya' to re-release

To celebrate the 20th release anniversary of "Koi... Mil Gaya", starring Hrithik Roshan, the makers of the sci-fi hit on Wednesday said the film is set to be re-released in select theatres across the country on August 4.

"Koi... Mil Gaya", directed by Rakesh Roshan, originally hit the screens on August 8 in 2003 and narrated the story of a developmentally disabled man called Rohit (Hrithik Roshan), who befriends Jadoo, an extraterrestrial being.

Also starring Preity Zinta, Rekha, Prem Chopra and Johnny Lever, the movie will be re-released in PVR INOX screens this Friday across 30 cities in India.

Rakesh Roshan said he hopes the re-release of the film takes the audiences on a nostalgic trip.

"The team at PVR INOX reached out to us to celebrate 20 years of 'Koi... Mil Gaya'. I was happy to know of their plans and jointly decided to re-release the film. The idea is to relive the nostalgia. "We hope the re-release marks to be a family outing with parents taking their kids to cinema halls and introducing the new generation to Jaadoo, while the parents reminisce memories of watching the film 20 years ago," the veteran filmmaker said in a statement.

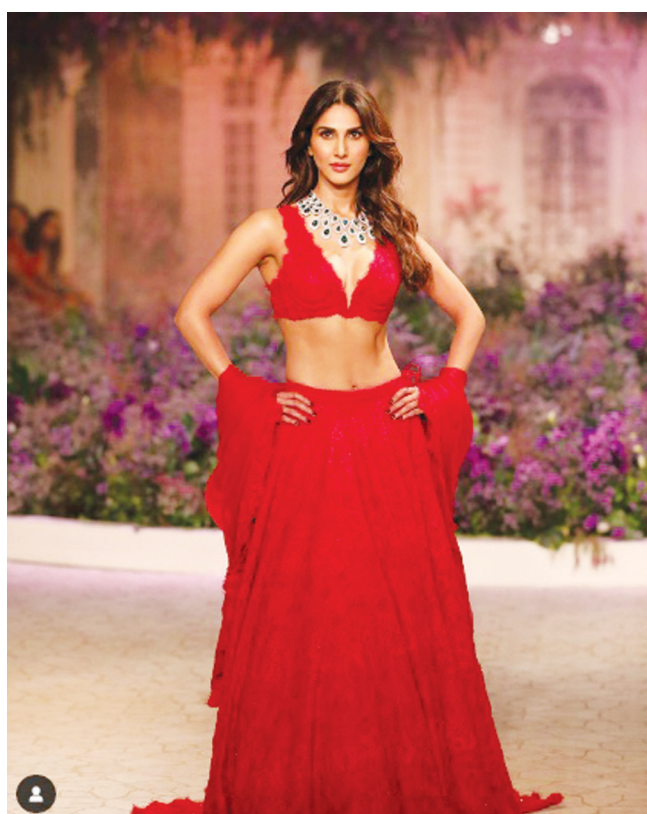
Dream Girl 2 trailer: Ayushmann Khurrana as Pooja makes the heart skip a beat

Ayushmann Khurrana as Dream Girl Pooja is back and with a bang. The makers of Dream Girl 2 just dropped the trailer of the film and it is an absolute laugh riot. The trailer opens with Ayushmann AKA Pooja, back to her old ways of fooling men by using her oh so sweet voice. We also get a glimpse of the brewing romance between Ayushmann Khurrana and Ananya Panday. However, as expected, things are not a bed of roses for Ayushmann as he is challenged to secure a stable job and earn enough money to win his love back. The only solution? Being Pooja in all its glory. As predicted, Ayushmann Khurrana aces being Pooja until he catches the attention of Abhishek Banerjee. How will Ayushmann's Pooja deal with her new admirer is what ensues in the rest of the trailer.

Sharing the trailer on her Instagram feed, Ayushmann Khurrana wrote, "Life ki sabse dangerous performance dene jaa raha hoon, pyaar zaroor dena (I am about to embark upon the most dangerous performance of life. Please shower with love)."

A day back, the makers of the upcoming comedy Dream Girl 2 unveiled a new poster of their film. Actor Ayushmann Khurrana shared the poster and wrote, "Yeh hai Pari, meri Dream Girl! #DreamGirl2Trailer Out Tomorrow! #25AugustHogaMast #DreamGirl2 in Cinemas on 25th August."

The first installment of the film featured Ayushmann Khurrana alongside Nushratt Bharuccha, Annu Kapoor, Vijay Raaz and Manjot Singh in pivotal roles. The film was directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa and it was produced by Ekta Kapoor. In the second installment of the film, Nushratt Bharuccha has been replaced by Ananya Panday.



Vaani Kapoor casts a spell in red chikankari lehenga

The stunning Vaani Kapoor turned showstopper for Isha J on the eighth day of the India Couture Week organized by the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI).

Roseroom by Isha J showcased their collection 'Romantic Reverie' and mesmerised everyone with their unique and enchanting designs. Vaani Kapoor walked the ramp as the showstopper of the event in a gorgeous red lehenga and turned heads. Ever since Fashion Week kicked off on 25 July, it has been making headlines for all the right reasons. Fashionistas have been on the edge of their seats to see what each designer has in store. While most of the celebrities donned bralettes and thigh-high slit skirts as showstoppers, Vaani Kapoor embraced a traditional lehenga with a touch of modernity. Read on to find out more.

Ever since the FDCI released Vaani's photos and videos from the event, she has been making waves online. Her post has gone viral and is all over the internet as fashion lovers can't stop gushing about her unparalleled beauty,

exquisite outfit and graceful walk. Her snippets from the event are getting lots of likes and comments from her adoring fans who can't stop praising and complimenting her. One fan wrote "goddess" while another commented "she ate". Let's have a look at her walk.

For her showstopper look, Vaani donned a red ensemble consisting of a deep v-neck bralette with delicate floral lace detailing. She paired it with a matching skirt with a lovely flair and a red dupatta. She accessorised her look with a gorgeous diamond necklace in contrasting colours featuring green emeralds. For her flawless makeup look, Vaani opted for nude eye shadow, mascara-coated lashes, winged eyeliner, contoured cheeks with a tint of blush and a shade of glossy pink lipstick. With her gorgeous locks left open in the middle part, beautifully cascading down her shoulders, Vaani completed her glam look.

This collection draws inspiration from the captivating fusion of French Riviera fashion and the allure of Hollywood's Golden Era.



Gal Gadot confirms she will star in 'Wonder Woman 3'

In an exciting news for fans, Gal Gadot has confirmed that she will be doing Wonder Woman 3 under James Gunn and Peter Safran. In an interaction with ComicBook.com's Chris Killian before the SAG-AFTRA strike, Gadot talked about her adoration for the "Wonder Woman" series. She also revealed that she would be working with James and Peter for the third installment of the series.

"I love portraying Wonder Woman. It's so close to and dear to my heart. From what I heard from James and from Peter is that we're gonna develop a Wonder Woman 3 together," said Gadot.

Gadot was the lead star in 2017's Wonder Woman and its 2020 sequel, Wonder Woman 1984. Both the movies were directed by Patty Jenkins. Chris Pine played the lead actor as Steve Trevor.

Notably, there were speculations that Gadot might not return since Jenkins won't be at the helm for the third film of "Wonder Woman" series.

Gadot is set to woo fans with her upcoming Netflix thriller Heart of Stone. The movie also stars Indian actress Alia Bhatt and Jamie Dornan. In the movie, Gadot will be seen in the character of a spy named Rachel Stone.

Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet split after seven months of dating: Report

Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet have parted ways after seven months of dating each other. According to a source cited by Life & Style, it is being reported that the duo ended their romance because of their busy schedule. The reality TV personality and entrepreneur and Timothée had not addressed the romance rumours or even stepped out together in public in these seven months.

It was in April this year when the rumours of Kylie and Timothée being together started. These relationship rumours arrived months after it was reported that Kylie had broken up with singer-rapper Travis Scott, with whom she shares two children – daughter Stormi, who is five, and son Aire, who is one. Earlier it was reported that Kylie didn't want to make things official with Timothée Chalamet during the recent Coachella festival, where she was spotted with her friends.

Now as per a source quoted by Life & Style, the real reason for their split has been revealed. The source said, "She's telling people that things between them naturally fizzled out because they're both busy and traveling. But friends are whispering that Kylie got dumped... Kylie is playing it casual, but her friends know this must sting. Timothée was the first guy she really spent time with after splitting from Travis [Scott].



She even introduced him to her family."

Reports of Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott having split again had surfaced in January. They previously took a break in late 2019 before rekindling their romance in February 2020. Their daughter, Stormi, was born on February 1, 2018, while their son, Aire, was born on February 2, 2022. Before her romance with Travis, Kylie had dated another rapper, Tyga,

on and off for about two years before they ended their relationship in 2017.

Meanwhile, Timothée has been previously linked to several high-profile stars in the industry, including Lily-Rose Depp, Eiza González and Madonna's daughter Lourdes Leon. The actor is gearing up for the release of the sequel to Dune in November and Wonka in December.

Source: HT

Oppenheimer: Christopher Nolan reveals 'honeymoon in Kyoto' line was improvised by an actor on set

Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer released on July 21 and has since received both critical acclaim as well as box office success. In an interview with The New York Times, Christopher has now revealed that there was a line that was tweaked in last minute by an actor and it also made it into the final cut of the film, which shocked everyone on set.

The scene arrives in a key moment when Cillian Murphy, who plays Oppenheimer, is in the crucial meeting with the U.S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson and other government officials, where they decide which city to drop the atomic bombs in Japan. In the scene that follows, Henry says that they should avoid bombing in Kyoto because it is the place where he and his wife had their honeymoon.

In an interview with The New York Times, Christopher Nolan said, "There's a moment where James Remar... He kept talking to me about how he learned that Stimson and his wife had honeymooned



in Kyoto. That was one of the reasons that Stimson took Kyoto off the list to be bombed. I had him crossing the city off the list because of its cultural significance, but I'm like, 'Just add that.'

It's a fantastically exciting moment where no one in the room knows how to react."

He had earlier also added in the interview that each actor was

encouraged to research about their real-life counterpart. "They had tons of homework to do. They had a great resource with 'American Prometheus.' They then did their own research and what it meant for me, which isn't something I'd ever really been able to do in the past... The script is there, but they could come into it with passion and knowledge based on all of their own learning."

Nolan's Oppenheimer is based on the book, American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J Robert Oppenheimer, the Pulitzer Prize-winning 2006 biography of the theoretical physicist written by Kai Bird and Martin J Sherwin. The biopic, set during World War II, follows Oppenheimer, known as the Father of the Atomic Bomb, during a period in history when he feared that testing the atomic bomb would ignite the atmosphere and destroy the world. It also shows how his rivalry with Lewis Strauss framed his life and career.

NIGER JUNTA THREATENS IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO ANY 'AGGRESSION'

NIAMEY (TIP): Niger's newly installed junta has threatened an immediate response to any "aggression or attempted aggression", as the clock ticks down on a deadline given by its neighbours to reverse last week's coup.

It also made diplomatic swipes against international condemnation of the putsch, scrapping military pacts with France and pulling its ambassadors from Paris and Washington as well as from Togo and Nigeria.

On July 31, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) gave the junta a week to reinstate democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, who was toppled by his guard on July 26, or risk a possible military intervention.

Regional military chiefs are in Nigeria's capital Abuja to discuss the possibility of such an intervention, but Nigerian President Bola Tinubu on Thursday told the bloc's delegations to do "whatever it takes" to reach an "amicable resolution".

Niger's junta warned it would meet force with force.

"Any aggression or attempted aggression against the State of Niger will see an immediate and unannounced response from the Niger Defence and Security Forces on one of (the bloc's) members," one of the putschists said in a statement read on national television late Thursday.

This came with "the exception of suspended friendly countries", an allusion to Burkina Faso and Mali, neighbouring countries that have also fallen to military coups in recent years. Those countries' juntas have warned any military intervention in Niger would be tantamount to a "declaration of war" against them.

Nigeria, West Africa's pre-eminent military and economic power, is the current ECOWAS chair and has vowed a firm line against coups.

The bloc has already imposed trade and financial sanctions on Niger.

Senegal said it would send soldiers to join ECOWAS if it decided to intervene militarily. "It is one coup too many," said Foreign Minister Aissata Tall Sall. One ECOWAS delegation headed by ex-Nigeria leader Abdulsalami Abubakar arrived in Niamey on Thursday, according to an airport source, and was due to meet the junta leaders later.

Another was due to hold talks with leaders in Algeria and Libya.

Bazoum, who has been held by the coup plotters with his family since his ouster, said Thursday that if the putsch proves successful, "it will have devastating consequences for our country, our region and the entire world". In a column in The Washington Post, he called on "the US government and the entire international community to help us restore our constitutional order". (AFP)

13 injured in South Korea as a man rams a car onto a sidewalk, stabs pedestrians, police pursue suspect

SEOUL (TIP): A man rammed a car onto a sidewalk August 3 in the South Korean city of Seongnam, then stepped out of the vehicle and began stabbing people at a shopping mall, leaving at least 14 people wounded.

Just hours after South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Friday called for "ultra-strong" law enforcement measures in response to that attack, police found themselves chasing the suspect in another stabbing incident at a high school in Daejeon city.

Cho Byeong-tae, an official at the Daejeon metropolitan police department, said the attack at Songchon High School left at least one teacher hurt. He did not identify the victim or provide details about the victim's health.

At least five people were hurt by the car and nine others were stabbed during Thursday's attack in Seongnam that occurred in a crowded leisure district near a subway, according to Yoon Sung-hyun, an official from the southern Gyeonggi provincial police department.

Authorities arrested a 22-year-old suspect at the scene and were questioning him. Police did not identify the man or offer any immediate information about a potential motive.

According to Park Gyeong-won, an official at Gyeonggi's Bundang district police station, the suspect during police interviews talked incoherently and said he was being stalked by an unspecified source.



The suspect's family told police he had a history of mental illness.

While the suspect had purchased the two knives he used in the stabbings from a different shopping mall on Wednesday, there isn't clear evidence he planned the attacks in advance, Park said. The attack was South Korea's second mass stabbing attack in a month. Last month, a knife-wielding man stabbed at least four pedestrians on a street in the capital, Seoul, killing one person.

Yoon called for closer monitoring of social media to detect threats, deploying more law enforcement officers for prevention and equipping them with better suppression gear, according to Seoul's presidential office.

An official at Gyeonggi's provincial fire

department, Ha Dong-geun, said at least two of those who were wounded after the suspect drove the car onto the sidewalk were hospitalized in critical condition. Among the nine who were stabbed, eight were being treated for injuries seen as serious. Photos from the scene showed forensic units examining the halls of the AK Plaza, where the stabbings took place. A white Kia hatchback with a broken front window and ruptured front tire could be seen on a sidewalk near the subway station.

South Korea's Kyunghyang Shinmun newspaper published a video on its website that it said was sent by a witness. The footage showed a man wearing sunglasses and a black hoodie walking up the mall's escalator with an object in his hand. (PTI)

Russian opposition leader Navalny faces 20 more years behind bars

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny faces trial again on Friday to hear whether he has been found guilty of a series of extremism charges that could see him spend 20 more years behind bars.

He is already serving a nine-year sentence in a maximum-security prison for "embezzlement", a charge that his supporters say was trumped up in retaliation for challenging President Vladimir Putin.

Navalny said he expected the court to hand him a lengthy, "Stalinist" prison sentence of about 18 years, and called on his supporters to resist Putin's rule in a statement on August 2.

"Please consider and realise that by jailing hundreds, Putin is trying to intimidate millions," he said.

Navalny has a huge following on social media, where he has posted videos exposing alleged corruption among Russia's elite and mobilised massive anti-government protests.

His court hearing on Friday will be held behind closed doors at the IK-6 penal



colony, a maximum-security prison some 250 kilometres (155 miles) east of Moscow, where the 47-year-old has been serving his sentence.

Prosecutors allege that Navalny created an organisation that undermined public security by carrying out "extremist activities".

His Anti-Corruption Foundation, which investigates graft among Russian officials, was banned for extremism in

2021.

His former chief of staff Leonid Volkov and other associates have also been charged with organising or participating in an "extremist community".

Most of his close allies have fled the country.

Since launching full-scale hostilities against Ukraine last year, Russia has further cracked down on dissenting voices, pushing most of the country's beleaguered opposition movement abroad.

PUNISHMENT CELL : Navalny's last days before the verdict have been spent in a punishment cell where, his spokesperson said, he has been regularly sent over minor infringements of prison rules.

In all, he has spent almost 200 days in the cell, according to his team, which has repeatedly accused prison authorities of harassing him.

He was arrested in 2021 after arriving in Moscow from Germany, where he had been recovering from a poisoning attack he blames on the Kremlin. (AFP)

Islamic State group announces successor after death of leader

BEIRUT (TIP): The Islamic State group announced on August 3 the death of its leader Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurashi, who it said was killed in clashes in northwestern Syria, and named a successor.

The leader "was killed after direct clashes" with jihadist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Idlib province, an IS spokesman said in a recorded message on its channels on the Telegram messaging app, without specifying when he was killed.

The spokesman announced the group's new leader -- its fifth -- as Abu Hafs al-Hashimi al-Qurashi.

In late April, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the suspected IS leader had been killed in Syria in an operation carried out by Turkey's MIT intelligence agency.

"The suspected leader of Daesh, codename Abu Hussein al-Qurashi, has been neutralised in an operation carried out... by the MIT in Syria," Erdogan said at the time, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State organisation.

Turkish media released images of a fenced-off building in the middle of a field where it said he was hiding in Syria's Afrin region.

Afrin lies in Aleppo province -- neighbouring Idlib -- in an area controlled by Turkish-backed rebels.

However, the IS spokesman insisted Thursday that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham



(HTS), which controls rebel areas of Idlib province, had killed the group's chief and handed his body to Turkey.

IS accuses HTS -- which has not claimed any operation targeting the IS leader -- of working in Ankara's interests. The United States and other Western governments have blacklisted HTS as a terrorist group.

Turkey's Anadolu state news agency said at the time that the MIT conducted a four-hour operation during which it located the IS leader.

The IS leader set off his suicide vest when he realised he was about to be captured, Anadolu said, adding that no Turkish operatives were killed or injured. After a meteoric rise in Iraq and Syria in 2014 that saw it conquer vast

swathes of territory, IS saw its self-proclaimed "caliphate" collapse under a wave of offensives.

The Sunni Muslim extremist group's austere and terror-ridden rule was marked by beheadings and mass shootings.

It was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria two years later, but sleeper cells still carry out attacks in both countries.

In November last year, IS said its previous leader, Abu Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi, had been killed.

His predecessor, Abu Ibrahim al-Qurashi, was killed in February last year in a US raid in Idlib province.

The group's first "caliph", Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed, also in Idlib, in October 2019. (AFP)

18 DEAD AS MEXICAN BUS CARRYING FOREIGN MIGRANTS CRASHES

MEXICO CITY (TIP): At least 18 people were killed and at least 23 injured August 3 when a bus carrying foreign migrants and locals plummeted into a ravine in northwestern Mexico, authorities said.

Three minors were among the dead, the civil protection agency in Nayarit state reported.

The bus, with around 40 people on board, was traveling from Mexico City to northwestern Tijuana, which borders San Diego, from where numerous migrants attempt to seek refuge in the United States.

"Most of the passengers are foreigners and originating from countries such as India, the Dominican Republic and from the African continent, among others, some of whom were heading to Tijuana to cross into the United States," the civil protection agency said.

The driver has been detained on suspicion of speeding, causing him to lose control and plunge down an embankment near the state capital Tepic, the agency reported.

Deadly road accidents are common in Mexico, usually due to high speeds, poor vehicle conditions or driver fatigue.

Such crashes are a leading cause of deaths among migrants making the dangerous journey overland to the United States. (AFP)

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and his wife announce separation after 18 years of marriage

TORONTO (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie, are separating after 18 years of marriage. The two said in statements posted on Instagram that they made the decision after "many meaningful and difficult conversations."

A statement from the prime minister's office said they both have signed a legal separation agreement.

Trudeau, the 51-year-old scion of one of Canada's most famous politicians, was sworn into office in 2015. Sophie Trudeau is a former model and TV host. The couple were married in 2005.

Together, they brought star power to the prime minister's office and appeared in the pages of Vogue magazine. They have three children, 15-year-old Xavier, 14-year-old Ella-Grace and 9-year-old Hadrien.

"As always, we remain a close family with deep love and respect for each other and for everything we have built and will continue to build," the two said on Instagram.

An official familiar with the matter said Trudeau will continue to live at Rideau Cottage in Ottawa, where he has lived since 2015, and the children will primarily



live there to maintain stability.

The official said she has moved to a separate Ottawa home but will spend time at Rideau Cottage at times including when he is travelling. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

She has played a less visible role in recent years, rarely travelling with the prime minister on official trips. The two were seen together publicly at Canada Day events in Ottawa last month.

"They remain a close family, and Sophie and the prime minister are focused on raising their kids in a safe, loving and

collaborative environment," the statement from Trudeau's office said. "The family will be together on vacation, beginning next week."

His office requested respect for their privacy.

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Gregoire met as children when she was a classmate of his youngest brother, Michel, and they reconnected as adults when they co-hosted a 2003 charity gala.

Trudeau is the second prime minister to announce a separation while in office.

His father, Pierre Trudeau, and mother, Margaret Trudeau, separated in 1977 and

divorced in 1984 during the elder Trudeau's final year in the prime minister's office.

Margaret Trudeau wrote in her memoir that she had a romance with Senator Ted Kennedy. During a 1977 visit to Washington, D.C. with Pierre, she sat listening to her husband's speech before Congress while feeling "torn between an intense need for him and a longing for Ted Kennedy." Margaret wrote she became infatuated with Kennedy after meeting him a few years earlier. She told Kennedy that he "had not destroyed my marriage but that I had used him to help me destroy a marriage that was already over."

Just weeks later Margaret, who had then-undiagnosed mental illness, left her husband to party with the Rolling Stones in Toronto. The marriage ended soon after that.

Justin, who was a child when his parents separated, wrote in his 2014 book "Common Ground" that public life took its toll. "I knew, even then, that the demands imposed by the life my parents were leading affected them far more than the ordinary stress of parenthood," he wrote. (AP)

MYANMAR JUNTA GRANTS PARTIAL PARDON TO DEMOCRACY CHAMPION SUU KYI

MYANMAR (TIP): Myanmar's ruling military pardoned on August 1 jailed former leader Aung San Suu Kyi on five of the 19 offences for which she was convicted but she will remain under house arrest, state media and informed sources said.

The pardons mean six years will be shaved off Suu Kyi's 33-year jail term, junta spokesperson Zaw Min Tun told the Eleven Media Group, adding that it was part of an amnesty under which more than 7,000 prisoners were freed across Myanmar.

The southeast Asian country has been in turmoil since early 2021, when the military overthrew Suu Kyi's elected government and cracked down on opponents of military rule, with thousands jailed or killed.

On Monday, the junta postponed an election promised by August this year and extended a state of emergency by six months, which critics said would prolong the crisis. The 78-year-old Nobel Laureate, who was detained during the coup, was last week moved to house arrest from prison in the capital, Naypyitaw. She denies all the charges for which she was convicted, ranging from incitement and election fraud to corruption, and has been appealing against them. (Reuters)

Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf could be declared ineligible for election symbol, warns ECP

ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN) (TIP) : The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has warned the former ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) that it could be declared "ineligible" to obtain election symbol over its failure to hold intra-party elections, Geo News reported on August 2.

In a notice issued on Wednesday, the top electoral body summoned PTI Chairman Imran Khan to appear before it on Friday, "failing which the Commission under Section 215 (5) of the Elections Act, 2017, may declare your political party ineligible to obtain election symbol for future election(s)".

The ECP referred to its earlier notices and said the PTI's intra-party elections were due on June 13 in 2021 under the party's constitution.

It added the PTI was "intimated/reminded" to conduct intra-party elections within the timeframe provided under sections 208, 209 and 215 of the 'Elections Act, 2017 but the party failed to "provide the requisite certificate to this effect", Geo News reported.



The polls organising authority also said it issued final notice to the PTI in May last year for ensuring the conduct of intra-party elections "on or before June 13, 2022 (extended date) with the observation that no further extension shall be allowed".

After the notice, PTI submitted a copy of the amended party's constitution which was deemed "insufficient" by the

electoral body.

The ECP referred to Section 209(1) of the Election Act saying every registered political party is bound to provide the ECP with a certificate regarding the conduct of the intra-party elections as provided by law, as per Geo News.

"(...) if any political party fails to comply with the provisions of the said section 209, this Commission is empowered to declare the said political party ineligible to obtain an election symbol," Geo News quoted the notice.

Last month, the ECP instructed political parties to submit their applications for the allotment of elections symbols ahead of general polls in the country scheduled for later this year.

The ECP had directed the parties to attach a list of symbols they prioritise along with their applications, adding that the signature of the party leader is a must.

In 2018, the PTI was allotted a "bat" symbol to contest the general elections, Geo News reported. (ANI)

Rumours that Indian rupee can be used as legal tender refuted by Sri Lanka's central bank

THE BANK FURTHER STATED THAT THE SRI LANKAN PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THE MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS CIRCULATING IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ON THE INDIAN RUPEE.



COLOMBO (TIP): The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) issued an official clarification on August 2 refuting rumours that the Indian rupee could be used as legal tender in the island nation.

"The CBSL wishes to clarify certain misrepresentations of facts currently circulating in the public domain on the Indian Rupee (INR). While we have officially authorised the INR as a designated foreign currency, it doesn't make the INR legal tender in Sri Lanka for domestic payments/settlements," said a notice issued by the CBSL on Wednesday.

The bank further stated that the Sri Lankan public should not be misled by the misrepresentation of facts circulating in the public domain on the INR.

The CBSL also said that from time to

time, they designate foreign currencies to facilitate trade.

"Under the provisions of the Banking Act and the Foreign Exchange Act, there are 16 designated foreign currencies in used in Sri Lanka. The INR became a part of the list in August 2022," said the CBSL.

The bank reiterated that the legal tender in Sri Lanka for domestic payments and settlements will remain the Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR).

Trade between India and Sri Lanka has grown rapidly after the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement came into effect in March 2000.

India has traditionally been among Sri Lanka's largest trade partners. In 2020, India was Sri Lanka's 2nd largest trading partner with the bilateral merchandise trade amounting to about \$ 3.6 billion. (ENS)

Pak rice exporters having field day as India bans export of non-basmati white rice

PAKISTAN RICE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN CHELA RAM KEWLANI SAID THAT THE BAN ON NON-BASMATI WHITE RICE EXPORT BY INDIA HAS LED TO AN INCREASE IN THE EXPORT ORDERS OF PAKISTANI FIRMS.

KARACHI (TIP): Rice exporters of Pakistan are having a field day due to the Indian government's ban on the export of non-basmati white rice to the international market.

On July 20, the Indian government banned exports of non-basmati white rice to boost domestic supply and keep retail prices under check during the upcoming festive season.

Non-basmati white rice constitutes about 25 per cent of total rice exported from the country.

Pakistan Rice Exporters Association Chairman Chela Ram Kewlani said that the ban on non-Basmati white rice export by India has led to an increase in the export orders of Pakistani firms.

"There is a big demand for Pakistani rice in the global market after India placed restrictions on the export of non-basmati rice. International buyers are now turning towards Pakistani exporters," Kewlani told PTI on Wednesday.

This year, Pakistan is expected to export rice worth over USD 3 billion dollars, he said, adding that the price of basmati rice has risen by 100 dollars per ton.



"Before India's ban on the export of non-basmati white rice, the price of Pakistani non-basmati rice was USD 450 per ton, but now, in the international market, it has increased to USD 500 per ton. The price may even reach USD 600 per ton depending on the quality," he said.

Besides increasing demand from the US, the UK and other European countries, Russia has also shown keen interest in purchasing 5 million tonnes of rice from Pakistan, Kewlani said.

"We are in negotiations with 27 Russian companies for the export of non-basmati rice. Furthermore, talks are in progress for the acquisition of Pakistani rice by Mexico as well," he said.

Kewlani said Indian non-basmati white rice was in great demand in the global market, which is why the ban has helped Pakistani exporters. (PTI)

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Things every woman loves to hear

When it comes to relationships, language is everything. Just as soon as the wrong phrase can set your lover off, a perfectly worded sentence can also unlock her heart. And while no two women are exactly the same, there are indeed phrases that just about any gal on earth would love to hear. There are endless ways you can compliment women. You can tell them their outfit is killer, that their eyes shine like the light from the sun, or that you love the way they're able to argue with you for an hour straight about why poha is the best breakfast. And yet, so many people (read: men) seem to get it wrong.

Actions speak louder than words, but that doesn't mean that what you say doesn't hold significance in your relationship. There are certain things women appreciate, and they don't always involve gifts and flowers. When it comes to making a woman feel loved, think simple, thoughtful, and sweet.

You smell really good

Whether it's your floral perfume, lavender essential oils, or the bold scent of fearlessness, it's nice to know that other people have noticed how good you smell.

You look so healthy

Instead of telling someone they look so "skinny," or "little," maybe you should just let them know they look healthy. Because ultimately, compliments should make a person feel good about themselves.

You are a genius

Even if it's something like suggesting a two-for-one pizza deal, someone's ingenuity must be recognised.

Your hair looks amazing



Many women will agree that it takes time and effort to look effortlessly good, so compliment away!

What's your skin regimen?

Asking what women do in terms of face and make-up is one of the biggest compliments. It makes women feel like Deepika Padukone, which is not a feeling they can often get.

Can you share your salad recipe? This is an indirect way of saying, "I can't live without this thing you made" and that you're a good cook. Let it be known you appreciate a

woman's culinary efforts, because we're telling you, it's not easy making a tasty salad.

I love your house

If you like what a woman's done with her place, totally let her know, because chances are she wants someone to appreciate her interior designing skills.

You're really good at what you do

We should take pride in what we do for a living. Doesn't matter if it's teaching, cooking, singing, marketing, engineering, or writing. Everyone wants to be amazing. So yeah.



How to deal with a partner who can't stop cheating?

Love is blind, they say. And, sometimes, quite literally! How many of us are guilty of forgiving our partners once too often for their hurtful actions? When it comes to a cheating spouse, however, you would think there was no scope for forgiveness. Surprisingly, today, not many think cheating is the ultimate sin in a relationship. If you are one of those who doesn't mind giving your partner a second chance, here are ways you can deal with his or her cheating ways...

Count yourself out

This is less about you and more about your partner. So, quit blaming yourself. Realise that it is a flaw in your significant other that got them to stray from the relationship, so spare yourself thoughts like, 'I am not good enough' or 'I should have been better.' Remember this, if you weren't good enough, they should have dumped you instead of keeping you as a backup while enjoying with someone else.

Confront the person

Yes, we know this sounds more difficult than it seems, but it is important no matter how hard it may be. You cannot let this go without hearing the words, 'Yes I cheated.' Address the person with your doubts (or proof) and let them know that you are aware of their 'fun' time. Make sure you have a face to face conversation about the same.

Get a confession

While confrontation may lead to this step, you've got to be assertive that you ask them clearly whatever is on your mind, so you know the real deal. For instance, if you have a partner who is cheating on you by being just physical with someone, ask them why they did the same. Nonetheless, if your partner were both emotionally and physically available to someone else, that could be a red alert that your relationship has slipped out of your hand for good, and restoring it could take more effort and time.

Check if they are repentant

Going off on a guilt trip post cheating is normal... people do that all the time. But how genuinely sorry is your partner, that is for you to decipher. Is your partner taking it easy, behaving like 'well, cheating is just another thing in a relationship!' If so, he or she is a serial cheater who just doesn't feel sorry about doing you wrong. But if you're with someone who admits they're sorry, and makes efforts to mend their life and your relationship, maybe another chance (depending on how many you've already given them) would not be a bad thing.

Can you forgive

After hearing your partner out, ask yourself this question... Can you forgive them for what they did wrong? While we know this whole space resembles a religious doctrine, we must admit that forgiving your partner is step one of moving on to a healthier space in your relationship. Unless you do the same, there is just no sense in being together.

FOOD CORNER

Rasmalai

Ingredients

Milk - 1 litre, Paneer - 100 g, Sugar - 3/4 cup, Saffron Strands - 4, Almonds - 1 tsp, sliced, Pistachios - 1 tsp, sliced, Cardamom Powder - 1/4 tsp, Maida - 2 tsp

Method

- Crumble the paneer and mix with maida to a smooth dough.
- Make small balls and lightly flatten them.
- Heat 1 cup of water in a pan.
- Add 1/4 cup of sugar and bring to a boil until sugar has fully dissolved.
- Remove from flame. While it is still hot, add the paneer balls and cover with a lid.
- Keep aside for few hours.
- Boil the milk in a heavy pan until reduced in half.
- Add 1/2 cup of sugar and stir well until fully dissolved. Remove from flame.



- Add cardamom powder, saffron strands and mix well. Remove the balls from the sugar syrup and squeeze gently. Add to the hot milk.
- Garnish with almonds and pistachios.
- Keep it in the fridge for 2 to 3 hours. Serve chilled.

Why are heart attacks becoming more common on Mondays?

A recent report by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) stated that heart attacks are more likely on Mondays than at any other time and also referred to as the 'Blue Monday' phenomenon, the odds of having a cardiac episode are 13% higher on Monday than on other days of the week. Further, the most likely time for a cardiovascular issue is early morning, between 6 am and 10 am; mainly because Cortisol and other hormones in the blood rise as a person wakes up.

According to health experts, when a person is under stress, these hormone levels impact the circadian rhythm, all of which can cause heart attacks or cardiovascular issues. In today's day and time, heart attacks have become a severe health concern affecting millions of people, especially youngsters worldwide but while the causes of heart attacks are multifactorial, recent research has suggested an intriguing pattern—fatal heart attacks appear to be more common on Mondays.

According to them, following could be the causes -

Disruption of Routine

Weekends often allow people to deviate from their regular routines, including dietary habits, sleep patterns, and exercise regimens. Such deviations, especially when they involve excessive indulgence (especially alcohol) or neglect of health-promoting activities, can harm cardiovascular health. When individuals resume their routines on Mondays, abrupt changes in eating habits or physical activity levels may strain the heart, potentially triggering heart attacks in susceptible individuals.

Delayed Medical Attention

Another factor that could contribute to the spike in fatal heart attacks on Monday is diverted medical attention. It is common for individuals to dismiss symptoms experienced over the weekend, attributing them to fatigue or stress. Consequently, these symptoms may escalate when Monday arrives, leading to more severe cardiac events. Moreover, the reduced availability of healthcare professionals and medical



facilities during weekends might contribute to delayed diagnoses and treatments, further exacerbating the risk.

Social and Behavioural Factors

The concept of "social jet lag" has gained attention in recent years. It refers to the misalignment between an individual's biological clock and their social schedule, often experienced when people alter their sleep patterns on weekends compared to week days. This disruption in the sleep-wake cycle may negatively impact cardiovascular health. Irregular sleep patterns, along with changes in alcohol consumption or dietary habits during weekends, can contribute to a higher risk of heart attacks on Mondays.

The Impact of Monday Morning Rush Hour

For many individuals, Monday mornings are synonymous with rush hour traffic and commuting-related stress. Studies have shown that high traffic congestion and air pollution exposure can increase the risk of cardiovascular events. The combination of traffic-induced stress, air pollution, and physical inactivity during long commutes may contribute to the higher incidence of fatal heart attacks on Mondays.

Source: HT

Immune cell discovery may lead to improved chronic worm treatment: Research

Researchers at Monash University have discovered why some intestinal worm infections become chronic in animal models, which could lead to human vaccinations and better therapies.

Parasitic worms, also called helminths, usually infect the host by living in the gut. About a quarter of the world's population is afflicted with helminth infections.

They are highly prevalent in developing countries such as sub-Saharan Africa, South America and some tropical countries in Asia. In Australia, they can be a problem in First Nations communities.

Some people can fight off the parasites due to effective immune responses. Some people who fail to develop effective immune responses suffer from a long-lasting chronic infection.

Published in *Mucosal Immunology*, the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute study used animal models to reveal a protective immune feature that may be lacking in people who are chronically infected.

They discovered that a group of immune cells called T follicular helper (TFH) cells behaved very differently at cellular and molecular levels during acute, resolving and chronic helminth infection.

This meant that in some models the cells protected against chronic illness but in others they didn't.

First author Dr Aidil Zaini said blocking the TFH response impaired worm clearance and promoted chronic infection, so the key was to develop ways to facilitate the protective mechanism.

He said humans also had varying immune responses, so further investigation could develop ways of protecting those prone to chronic disease.

"Our findings provide a proof-of-concept that harnessing the protective features of these immune cells may pave the way for the development of human vaccines and new drugs against helminths," Dr Zaini explained.

"Although conventional deworming drugs can help clear the parasites, they fail to provide long-term protection and are likely to be less effective due to the development of resistance against these drugs by the parasites." Dr Zaini said the results were promising and warranted further investigation. He said the ultimate therapeutic goal was to develop effective vaccines against parasitic helminths in humans, which were not yet available.

"Our discovery contributes to the growing body of literature on the protective immune features during helminth infection," Professor Zaph said.

"This knowledge can be further explored to facilitate the development of long-term immune interventions for helminth infections, as well as diseases such as allergy. Interestingly, our immune system evolves into developing a similar type of immune response during both helminth infection and allergic responses."

Study gives new insight into cause of inner-ear bone loss

A person's hearing and balance may be impacted by a number of issues and difficulties brought on by persistent middle ear inflammation.

A common issue is the development of cholesteatomas, which are aberrant ear collections of cells that, if addressed, can lead to bone erosion. Consequently, this may result in symptoms including vertigo, facial paralysis, hearing loss, and even brain infection.

In a study published recently in *Nature Communications*, researchers from Osaka University have revealed the cause of cholesteatomas, which may help in developing new therapies for patients who are suffering from this disease.

Cholesteatomas are made up of cysts or bumps in the ear that consist of skin, collagen fibers, skin cells, fibroblasts, keratin, and dead tissue. There are many theories on how these cholesteatomas can cause bone erosion, including the activation of cells responsible for the breakdown of the minerals and matrix of the bone, the presence of inflammatory markers and enzymes, and the accumulation and pressure from dead cells and tissues in the ear; however, the exact mechanism for the creation of cholesteatomas remains unknown.

A cholesteatoma can still return or happen again



even after its surgical removal, so it is important to know what is actually causing, says lead author Kotaro Shimizu.

To investigate this, researchers looked at human cholesteatoma tissues that were surgically removed from patients. A process called single-cell RNA sequencing analysis was employed to identify cells responsible for triggering bone erosion; these were called osteoclastogenic fibroblasts.

Source: ANI

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AI-supported mammography found to be safe during trials: Study

Mammography screening supported by artificial intelligence is safe, more accurate and efficient, according to an interim safety analysis of the first randomised trial that was published in the *Lancet Oncology* journal on Tuesday, which could potentially reduce the workload of radiologists.

According to the interim safety analysis involving at least 80,000 Swedish women, AI-supported screening detected 20% more cancers compared with the routine double reading of mammograms by two breast radiologists.

In effect, the study underlines AI-supported mammography analysis is as good as two breast radiologists working together to detect breast cancer without increasing false positives and almost halving the screen reading workload.

"These promising interim safety results should be used to inform new trials and programme-based evaluations to address the pronounced radiologist shortage in many countries," lead author Dr Kristina Lång of Sweden's Lund University said in a statement. "But they are not enough on their own to confirm that AI is ready to be implemented in mammography screening."

"We still need to understand the implications on patients' outcomes, especially whether combining radiologists' expertise with AI can help detect interval cancers that are often missed by traditional screening, as well as the cost-effectiveness of the technology," she said.

Breast cancer screening through mammography has been shown to improve prognosis and reduce mortality by detecting breast cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage.

Source: HT

YouTube adds TikTok-like features to Shorts

Google's YouTube is enhancing its Shorts platform, the competitor to TikTok with new features. One such feature being rolled out by YouTube is the experimentation with live video previews in a user's Shorts feed, similar to how TikTok displays live videos.

With the new addition, viewers can click on the preview to watch the livestream and explore other live videos within the feed. This move also includes creator monetization features like paid chatting and memberships.

By placing live videos in more prominent positions within the app, YouTube aims to help creators reach a broader audience with their Shorts content, says a report by *The Verge*. This strategy aligns with TikTok's emphasis on using live videos to drive product sales, target specific audiences, and host engaging virtual events.

YouTube plans to gradually roll out full-screen live videos over the next few months.

Furthermore, the company is introducing new tools for creating YouTube Shorts videos. The platform is reportedly testing features that allow users to create short-form videos from horizontal YouTube clips, enabling zooming and cropping of the original video.

Shorts creators will also benefit from a new suggestions feature that automatically extracts the audio clip and effect used in a video they want to recreate. This functionality is similar to features found on TikTok and Meta's Reels. YouTube's version will identify the audio from the same time stamp as the clip being replicated.

Apple Rolls Out Second Public Beta For iOS 17

Three weeks after the release of the first public beta, Apple has now rolled out the second public beta of iOS 17. This also comes a week after Apple released the fourth developer beta of iOS 17 which changed icon layout in the Messaging app, removed the Photo Stream feature, and introduced a new option in Settings to disable AirDrop transfer. These software updates mean not just registered developers, but public beta testers will also be able to download the second iOS 17 beta update. Not only this, apart from iOS 17, Apple has also rolled out public betas of iPadOS 17, tvOS 17, watchOS 10, macOS Sonoma, and HomePod software 17 to users registered in the Apple Beta Software Programme.

iOS 17 update

iOS 17 update will allow anyone to download the public betas before everyone else and try new features on iPhones as part of the Apple Beta Software Program. Users can try the new features and share their valuable feedback to Apple using the Feedback Assistant app. Other than this, iOS 17 brings lots of changes to the standby feature for displaying information in landscape mode, as well as developments in the Phone, Messaging, and FaceTime apps.

Messages and FaceTime enhancements will also be seen in Macs with macOS Sonoma. When it comes to tvOS 17, the new version enables FaceTime for the first time



ever on Apple TV. As for watchOS 10, the update brings a brand-new interface for Apple Watch apps.

According to Apple, the next big iOS update will be officially released around the same time as the launch of its new iPhones. This means the public could see the iOS update in September.

iOS 17 Public Beta: Steps To Get It On Your Phone

- Step 1: Head over to the Apple Beta Software Program page to install iOS 17 public beta.
- Step 2: Post that, sign up or

- sign in using your Apple ID.
- Step 3: Once you are done with the sign-in process, go to settings, then general settings.
- Step 4: Click on Software Update and the new Beta updates menu will pop up on your screen under the Automatic Updates option.
- Step 5: Click on iOS 17 Public Beta and return to the updates page.
- Step 6: The update will now be available. Tap download and install the new update on your iPhone.

Meta designing prototypes for chatbots that can have humanlike discussions with its users

Meta Platforms is preparing to launch a range of artificial intelligence (AI) powered chatbots that exhibit different personalities as soon as September, the *Financial Times* reported.

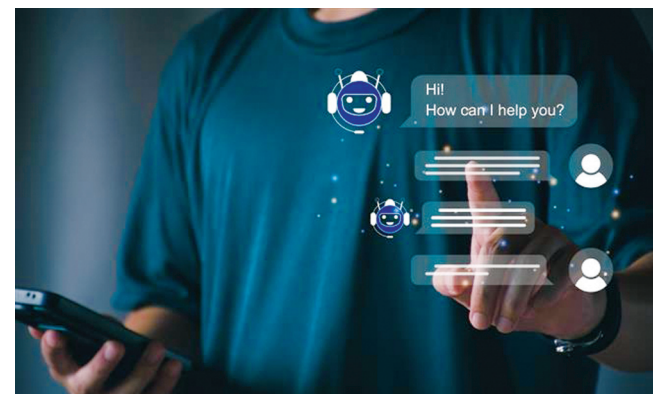
Meta has been designing prototypes for chatbots that can have humanlike discussions with its users, as the company attempts to boost its engagement with its social media platforms, according to the report, citing people with knowledge of the plans.

The Menlo Park, California-based social media giant is even exploring a chatbot that speaks like Abraham Lincoln and another that advises on travel options in the style of a surfer, the report added. The purpose of these chatbots will be to provide a new search function as well as offer recommendations.

The report comes as Meta executives are focusing on boosting retention on its new text-based app Threads, after the app lost more than half of its users in the weeks following its launch on July 5. Meta declined to comment on the FT report, when contacted by Reuters.

The Facebook parent reported a strong rise in advertising revenue in its earnings last week, forecasting third-quarter revenue above market expectations.

The company has been climbing back from a bruising 2022, buoyed by hype around emerging AI technology and an austerity drive in which it has shed around 21,000



employees since last fall.

Meta launched a new version of its open-source artificial intelligence model in July called Llama 2 for commercial use, which will be distributed by Microsoft through its Azure cloud service and will run on the Windows operating system.

Bloomberg News reported in July that Apple is working on AI offerings similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard, adding that it has built its own framework, known as 'Ajax', to create large language models and is also testing a chatbot that some engineers call 'Apple GPT'.

Source: Reuters

India can become USD 6.7 trillion economy by 2031: S&P Global

India can become a USD 6.7 trillion economy by 2031, from USD 3.4 trillion currently, if the country clocks an average growth of 6.7 per cent for 7 years, an S&P Global report said on Thursday, August 3.

India had clocked a 7.2 per cent GDP growth in 2022-23 fiscal.

But a global slowdown and lagged effect of a policy rate hike by RBI could slow down growth to 6 per cent in the current fiscal, S&P Global said in a report titled 'Look Forward: India's Money'.

"We expect India to grow 6.7 per cent (average) from fiscal 2024 to fiscal 2031, catapulting GDP to USD 6.7 trillion from USD 3.4 trillion in fiscal 2023. Per capital GDP will rise to about USD 4,500," said the report jointly authored by S&P Global Ratings Global Chief Economist Paul Gruenwald, Crisil Chief Economist Dharmakirti Joshi and S&P Global Market Intelligence Chief Economist Asia Pacific Rajiv Biswas.

The macro challenge for India in the upcoming decade is to turn traditionally uneven growth into a high and stable trend, it said.

Capital accumulation will drive India's economy toward this desirable path with the government and increasingly private sector investing in infrastructure and manufacturing, the report said.

"You will see growth peak at around fiscal 2025-26," Joshi said.

The report also said that India will likely see gains from reforms such as Goods and Services Tax. Further, the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code would also help to drive a healthy credit culture.

India restricts import of laptop, tablets, computers

The government on Thursday, August 3, imposed import restrictions on laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, ultra small form factor computers, and servers with immediate effect.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in a notification said exemption from import licensing is provided up to 20 items per consignment for R&D, testing, benchmarking and evaluation, repair and return and product development purposes.

The move is expected to cut imports from countries like China.

"Import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, and ultra small form factor computers, servers...is 'restricted' with immediate effect," it said.

Products under restrictions need licence or permission from the government.

US labor market still strong; worker productivity rebounds

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose slightly last week, while layoffs dropped to an 11-month low in July as labor market conditions remain tight.

The labor market has largely weathered 525 basis points in interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve since March 2022, and likely delivered another month of strong employment gains in July. Despite labor market tightness, the inflation outlook continues to improve.

Other data from the Labor Department on Thursday showed a marked slowdown in labor costs in the second quarter, thanks to a sharp rebound in worker productivity. That added to reports last month showing a significant moderation in annual inflation in June. Labor market strength and receding inflation are fanning optimism that the economy could avoid a recession.

"Recession risk is receding," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank in Dallas.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 227,000 for the week ended July 29, the Labor Department said. The increase was in line with economists' expectations.

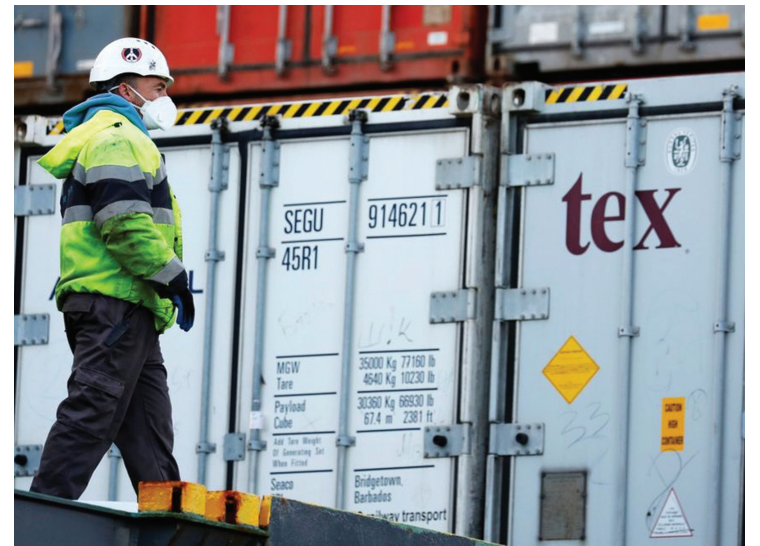
Claims are in the lower end of their 194,000-265,000 range for this year, in part benefiting from difficulties adjusting the data for seasonal patterns.

Automakers typically idle plants in July to retool for new models. But these temporary closures do not always happen around the same time, which could throw off the model the government uses to strip out seasonal fluctuations from the data.

Unadjusted claims dropped 8,485 to 205,012 last week. Filings fell sharply in California and Ohio. There were also notable decreases in Texas and Georgia. These more than offset a sharp rise in Missouri.

Aside from the technical issues, the overall labor market remains solid as employers hoard workers after struggling to find labor during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there have been high-profile layoffs in the technology and finance sectors, small businesses are still boosting headcount after being squeezed out by large enterprises snapping up workers.

U.S. stocks opened lower. The dollar rose against a basket



of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices fell.

US stocks: Wall Street tumbles to its worst loss in months

Wall Street tumbled to its worst drop in months on Wednesday, Aug 2, as its torrid rally that critics called overdone lost more momentum.

The S&P 500 sank 1.4% for its sharpest tumble since April. It was the second straight loss for the index after it hit a 16-month high last week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 348 points, or 1%, while the Nasdaq composite fell 2.2%.

Prices were mixed in the bond market after Fitch Ratings cut the credit rating of the U.S. government. The repeated standoffs in Congress about whether to allow a default on the U.S. debt were just some of the reasons for Fitch's cut. The downgrade strikes at the core of the global financial system because U.S. Treasuries are considered some of the safest possible investments.

Fitch's move follows a similar one by Standard & Poor's in 2011, one that coincided with a European debt crisis to help cause stocks and bonds around the world to swing violently. So far, this most recent downgrade has caused less drama across markets.

Top 50 wilful defaulters owe over Rs 87,000 crore to banks; Mehul Choksi leads list

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The finance ministry has said that the top 50 wilful defaulters, which include companies like fugitive Mehul Choksi's Gitanjali Gems Limited, and Era Infra Engineering Limited, REI Agro Limited, and ABG Shipyard Limited, among others collectively owe a staggering amount of Rs 87,295 crore to various banks and financial institutions. Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

"The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has apprised that the amount owed by top 50 wilful defaulters in SCBs was Rs 87,295 crore as on March 31, 2023," he said.

Of these, the top 10 owe Rs 40,825 crore to schedule commercial banks (SCBs), he said and added that during the last five financial years, SCBs have



written off an aggregate amount of Rs 10,57,326 crore as per the provisional data available with the Reserve bank of India for the financial year 2022-23.

Choksi's Gitanjali Gems is the biggest wilful defaulter owing Rs 8,738 crore to banks. At the second position comes Era Infra Engineering Limited owing Rs 5,750 crore. The next in the line are REI Agro Limited owing Rs

5,148 crore, ABG Shipyard Limited – Rs 4,774 crore, and Concast Steel and Power Limited – Rs 3,911 crore.

A 'wilful defaulter' is a borrower who deliberately refuses to repay a loan despite having the means to do so.

Karad also said that the banks entering into compromise settlement in respect of borrowers categorised as fraud or wilful defaulter is not a new regulatory instruction. "RBI had advised IBA, vide letter dated May 10, 2007, that, banks may enter into compromise settlement with wilful defaulters/ fraudulent borrowers without prejudice to the criminal proceeding underway against such borrowers and all such cases of compromise settlements should be vetted by Management Committee/Board of banks," he said.

Source: HT

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 7, 2023 TO AUGUST 13, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, due to a handful of surprises lucky events, you will have a good week. On that week, the wait would have been definitely worth it. Kindly refrain from disparaging anyone this week. This week, you will have to make a quick trip someplace, which can be difficult for you. Ensure that you do not overlook finishing up necessary chores. Your partner will value your fresh perspective on the circumstance. You will also be equipped to engage in creative engagement. The appropriate places are where passion is now flourishing. You will be added to the list of personnel for review or promotion. If you are thinking of quitting your boring work, waiting just a bit longer will undoubtedly be to your favor. Hypertension will bother you a little this week.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, this week, you are going to be particularly cautious about keeping a good balance between your alone time and socializing since you might be a little off. You are going to come to some difficult decisions this week. You will find it challenging to decide between two benefits that are comparable. Regarding your selected profession, you will be able to significantly alter your daily schedule. You will surely lag ahead if there is a lack of authorization. If you wish to keep your health in excellent shape this week, you must anticipate that even the tiniest healthcare concern will be given careful thought. Reminiscing with your partner about some previous romantic encounters will strengthen the basis of your connection.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, you are likely to have a challenging day this week. You will feel a range of profound feelings and have a tone of tasks. Upkeep will not have a lot of time. Your endurance will be good, but focus will be required this week. You will get an opportunity to demonstrate your career-related competency. You will be able to calculate your worth even if you are not a networker. You will lift your teammates' spirits. This week, you will not be content with the personal aspects of your abilities that help your significant other feel unique since they will not be able to appreciate what is beyond the smile. It will be considerably different from your typical weekdays.

CANCER



Ganesha says, this week, your smile will spread somewhat. There will be encouraging folks nearby who desire to see you thrive. You would contribute much more to their evolution if you did so. You will pay great focus on your feelings this week. On the sides of those with credentials, you will debate with a superior or supervisor over a pointless issue. Make the choice to keep things quiet rather than acting arrogantly. Retailers will be given some amazing opportunities in an endeavor to beat their prior highs. You will virtually certainly run into somebody you like if you travel a short distance. Be cautious not to immediately divulge too much about oneself.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, if someone interrupted what you were doing, it may be a red flag. A while will pass until you make any progress. You will be spared this week from a major difficulty, though. This week, stay away from the promotional front lines as much as possible. This week, avoid obsessing about the state of the marketplace, and be sure to give every decision careful thought. You will require some expert care and consideration. This week, your lower back pain will cause you a lot of discomfort. When it comes to the relational aspects, married people will consider expanding their family. This week, before you meet the ideal person, you will meet an amazing person who is the exact opposite of what you are seeking for.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, you will be ready to implement the modifications you had planned to carry out earlier this week. During this occasion, you will strengthen your commitment to achieving your objectives. Pushing from those close to you seeks to make you feel more anxious. This week, you will realize that the requirements of your work life are perpetually in line with the time and circumstance; you have to figure out how to adjust. If you work in production, you are definitely dissatisfied with the subpar outcomes of the work you do. This week, in an effort to keep your relationship strong, your spouse and you will fight it out emotionally versus some of your closest friends. Verbal jousting may cause problems, but you will be able to overcome them.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week, you will feel that you are becoming something you are not. You will nevertheless feel stronger this week since Sunshine will reward you. Their true colors as humans will emerge throughout this shift. This week, you will be able to manage your emotions effectively. In terms of your professional life, you are more inclined to consider quitting your current position and starting a new one, but you need to weigh the pros and cons. You must keep an eye on how much money you spend. In terms of your love life, a variety of situations will be favorable for your partnership. You will begin to consider parts of the other's viewpoint of each other in addition to fresh perspectives. Take pleasure in this as a sign of a long-lasting connection.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, this week, your moral standing will be considerably weakened. The perspective of those around you will have a big impact on your decisions. Nobody in your immediate area gives you, their joy. This week, make sure you are behaving in your own greatest interests. You will have done your duties this week in a courteous manner on the organizational level. You are going to finally have the supplies you needed, which will make your company operations more satisfying. You should disregard your partner's requests to have lengthy conversations with you regarding your romantic life. Make sure you keep on having discussions on the themes to make sure they feel engaged and are comfortable.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, you are going to let your enthusiasm steal the stage this week. You will work to regulate the constant motion, which will be to your benefit. You will find amazing recommendations as well as ideas you have had before but were not sure you could put into action. The majority of the business-related tasks you wanted to complete this week will be possible for you to complete. This week, industries and distributors will make significant gains. You and your spouse will talk about a few crucial personal issues when it comes to your love battles. In spite of the relationship that you currently have, you will discover a friend or family member in each other, which will strengthen your belief in your devotion to your relationship.

CONTD ON PAGE 35

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 7 TO AUGUST 13 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 7

Ganesha says you may find yourself in a scenario today that necessitates rapid thought and immediate action. Don't be discouraged if an unexpected problem arises in your professional life. Your inherent leadership talents will shine through, guiding your team to a solution. Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to take the initiative. Your excitement and energy will inspire people around you, and your activities today may lead to substantial advancement in your work. Remember that every challenge is an opportunity disguised as a challenge.

AUGUST 8

Ganesha says today, you may have to make a decision about your financial status. Perhaps an unanticipated expense arises, or an investment opportunity arises. In any event, be practical and carefully analyze all of your possibilities. Consult a financial expert if necessary, and don't make a

hasty decision. Your perseverance and patience will pay off, resulting in financial security and peace of mind. Keep in mind that wonderful things come to those who wait.

AUGUST 9

Ganesha says an unexpected conversation today may lead to a fresh opportunity. This could be a fortuitous encounter with a stranger or a casual conversation with a friend that takes an unexpected route. Keep an open mind and pay close attention. Your versatility will be your most valuable asset, allowing you to seize and capitalize on this chance. This contact has the potential to introduce you to new experiences and extend your horizons. Keep in mind that life is full of surprises.

AUGUST 10

Ganesha says you may have an emotional connection with someone close to you today. This could be a member of the family, a close friend,

or a love partner. Accept this moment and express yourself honestly. Your sensitivity and comprehension will strengthen this relationship, resulting in a stronger bond and mutual trust. In times of need, this emotional connection could bring solace and assistance. Remember that the relationships we form enrich our life.

AUGUST 11

Ganesha says today, you may be given the opportunity to demonstrate your ingenuity. This could be at work, where an original approach is required for a project, or at home, where you opt to pursue a creative interest. Don't be afraid to let your ideas flow. Your charisma and self-assurance will draw positive attention, and your creative production may astound people around you. Remember that creativity is intelligence having a good time.

AUGUST 12

Ganesha says you may need to

address a problem today that takes close attention to detail. It could be a difficult task at work or a difficult issue in your personal life. Maintain your attention and organization. Your practicality and thoroughness will result in a successful outcome. The answer you find may result in major improvements and recognition. Keep in mind that the devil is in the details.


AUGUST 13

Ganesha says you may find yourself in a diplomatic predicament today. A disagreement at work or in your social circle could lead to a fight. Maintain equilibrium and fairness in your interactions. Your capacity to see both sides of an issue will bring harmony to the situation and help to resolve the problem. Your diplomatic abilities could help you establish relationships and advance professionally. Remember that peace is not the absence of conflict; rather, it is the ability to resolve disagreement peacefully.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 7, 2023 TO AUGUST 13, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 34


CAPRICORN

 Ganesha says, you are going to provide some majesty and rebuild the relationships you earlier broke up out of haste. Communicate to these people about your line of work since they could be able to assist you in the future. Your earnings are likely to fall out of equilibrium if you splurge. When you make current purchases, keep your future expenses in mind. As long as you keep going in the correct direction, do not worry. You will immediately attract notice if you ensure that your attempts are constant and your persistence firm. Your connection's speed is moving too quickly. Take care of yourself.

AQUARIUS

 Ganesha says, the individuals around you will make you feel good after a long week of upheaval, and your mind will become calmer. By sticking around this week, you may relax and refresh. Make sure to attend all corporate events. Your kids might require your assistance at any time, so you must always be accessible to them. This week, you will connect with the proper individual. A new chapter in your existence might start with the person you value. Discard the fleeting delusions that still exist. Although you are unable to make the best selections this week, getting professional advice can still help you save time and money. Although selling your stock this week is not a good notion.

PISCES

 Ganesha says, this week, you will have the opportunity to request an act of kindness from the Almighty. Your way of life will significantly change. This week, you will also make some resolutions for the upcoming

year. Problems between families might be settled with the aid of festivities. This week, your storefront façade will be sturdy.

Lord Shiva will shower you with plenty of happiness and luck this week. You have to put money in the shares market if you are thinking about doing so. You will have a

productive week. So, there will not be any tension from business. This week, Venus will be in a positive position, which will also be advantageous for conjugal defensive.

Your wellbeing will not be significantly affected by any issues.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 4, 2023, TO AUGUST 10, 2023

4th August

1982 Gurbakash Singh tried to hijack Indian Airline plane to Lahore.

1982 Dharam Yudh morcha to seek Sikh demands was launched by Akali Dal. Additionally, the morcha initiated by Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae, for release of Amrik Singh was also included in this.

1987 A convention was held in Amritsar. Despite risk to their lives at the hands of Indian police gangs, some Sikh leaders attended the convention. The generals of the army of Khalistan, in this convention, confirmed their goal of total freedom from India.

Darshan Singh Ragi, chief Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat, tried to support the Hindu allies but he was snubbed by the Sikh generals. Some of his words were in complete contradiction to the Sikh fundamentals. As a result he, ipso facto, ceased to be the Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat. The Delhi regime tried to reinstate him, but the Sikh Nation with one voice, rejected the un-Sikh ideas and confirmed the goal of freedom for Khalsistan.

5th August



1992 Bhagat Puran Singh Ji, a panthic saewak who devoted his entire live in service of humankind, passed away. Bhagat Puran Singh, the legendary Saint of Amritsar. Bhagat Puran Singh died in Chandigarh on 4th August 1992. aged 88. Born Ramji Das at Rajewal, district Ludhiana, the sensitive Child, sickened by ritualism and priestly arrogance, readily embraced Sikhism with encouragement from his pious mother, Mehtab Kaur. Soon Gurbani saturated his whole being with love and compassion for all humanity, in the spirit of Guru Nanak's exhortation Jete jiv tete sabh tere, vinn seva phal kisei nahi. All living things, O Lord, reflect your glory; there is no fruit nobler than taking care of them. Thus began a remarkably humane mission when in 1924, he picked up a four-year old polio-stricken child abandoned near Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore. On Partition in 1947 he set up Pingalwara at Amritsar with scores of sick and disabled, eventually moving to the present sprawling home for hundreds of destitutes, orphans and mentally ill, where he ministered personally to their physical, mental and spiritual health, to the end, with financial help from far and wide. Credited with little formal education, Bhagat Puran Singh nevertheless started a crusade for ecology and environment long before the 1992 Earth Summit. A relentless pamphleteer for every good social cause, he used only recycled, paper for printing in his press. Shy of publicity and utterly free of ambition, he returned the 1977 Padma-Shiri award in the wake of army assault on his beloved Harmandir Sahib. His nomination for Nobel Peace Prize in India and abroad, earlier this year, found him serenely unconcerned. We mourn his passing away, even as we rejoice that so great a man of God sanctified our land and illumined our lives.

6th August

1923 Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee

(SGPC) resolved to launch Nabha Agitation at Jaito.

1925 The Nabha agitation at Jaito was successfully concluded after performing 101 akhand path as a sort of penance for disruption of one akhand path two years earlier.

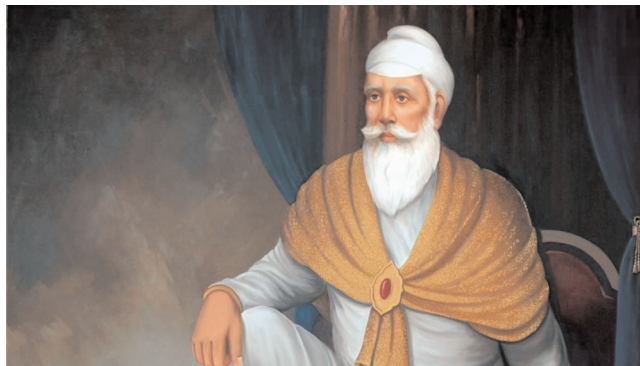
1947 Sikhs meet with British government regarding Vatican status for Nankana Sahib and other Gurudwaras.



1978 Dal Khalsa came into being at Gurdwara Akalgarh, Sector 35, Chandigarh. A large number of Sikh Youth Organisations participated in this meeting and discussed the affairs of the Panth. They decided to form an organisation in the name of "Dal Khalsa."

1983 Amrik Singh and Baba Thara Singh were released. They were arrested on July 18, 1982. Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae had organized a morcha for their release.

7th August



1765 Baba Ala Singh passed away. BABA AALLA SINGH JI was born in village Phull to father Baba Ram Singh Phulwansi and mother Saabhi. He was introduced to amrit by Baba Deep Singh Ji, in TheekriWalae village. In sunmat 1810, he laid the foundation stone of a temporary structure for the Patiala fort while the construction of a permanent structure began in sunmat 1820. Simultaneously he founded the Patiala city. Barnala, Longowal, Sunaam, Bathinda, and Patiala were under his control. He passed away on 22nd Aug. 1765 in Patiala.

1925 Gurudwara Act published in Gurdwara Gazette.

1942 Independent Punjab movement initiate.

1965 Fateh Singh, then President of Shiromani Akali Dal, met with the then Prime Minister of India, Sri Lal Bahadur Shashtri. This meeting is considered a significant in resolving Sikh demands.

8th August

1881 Lord Ripon's statement exposed the Britishers true desires that they never wanted Sikhs to be the masters of their Gurudwaras. He wrote, "I think it would be politically dangerous to allow the management of the Sikh temples to fall into the hands of a committee emancipated from government control." As such the mahants under the government thumb failed to become the honest interpreters of the wishes of the Panth. For example, they issued a Hukamnama from Sri Akal Takhat in 1915 condemning the Komagata Maru Sikhs. Subsequently, they instituted

the election system among Gurudwaras, the most evil system that has ensured friction and continued disunity among the Sikh community to date. There is no religious or spiritual group in the world where leaders are not appointed based on merit but rather elected based popular vote.



1898 Raja Bikram Singh of Fridkot, who published the "Fridkoti Teeka" passed away.

1922 Guru Ka Bagh morcha was launched. 5 GurSikh saewadars were arrested and charged with cutting wood for Guru ka Langar from Guru Kae Bagh. The undercurrent of official hostility blew up in the form of "Guru Ka morcha" agitation. On instructions from the Home Secretary, District Magistrate Amritsar ordered the mass scale arrest of Akalis. The authorities obtained a complaint, from a reluctant Mahant, on cutting of useless "kikar" trees. The institution of criminal proceedings against 5 Akalis lokking after the Gurudwara, and their conviction the following day to 6 months rigorous imprisonment, provoked the Sikhs to assert their right. This provided an opportunity for the authorities to wreak untold atrocities on thosusands of Akali volunteers over a period of three months. It was remarkable the way the Akali volunteers offered themselves to be beaten mercilessly without raising an arm. They heroically kept the vow of non-violence taken before the Akal Takhat. It was not for nothing that the Golden Hawk, popularly associated with Guru Gobind Singh, was sighted daily at Guru Ka Bagh, and gave the Guru's blessings to his devotees, and assured them success.

9th August

1922 Akalis arrested at Guru Ka Bagh. 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 affair. 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.

1922 Babbar Akali movement launched.

1942 60,000 Sikhs courted arrest under the "Britishers Leave India" movement.

10th August

1938 Kartar Singh Kirti and Gurdit Singh of Mandhali were sent to the scaffold for the murder of Anup Singh.

1992 Sukhdev Singh Sukha and Harjinder Singh Jinda were hanged to death. Harjinder Singh "Jinda" and Sukhdev Singh 'Sukha' were hanged to death. They gunned down General Vadiaya after his retirement from Indian army. General Vadiya was the Chief of the Indian Army who ordered the attack on the holiest of the holy shrines at Amritsar and elsewhere in Punjab during 1984 operations.

Lord Kartikeya – The God of War

Lord Kartikeya, also popularly known as Murugan and Skanda, is a Hindu god of war. He is the eldest son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and the brother of Lord Ganesha. Lord Murugan is the knight of the gods and is one of the greatest warriors among the gods. His worship is popular in South India compared to North India. Skanda Purana is an important Hindu text that is dedicated to him.

The word Kartikeya means “(born) of the Krittikas”.

The word Murugan means “the one who is youthful and handsome”.

Lord Murugan is often depicted as an ever-youthful man carrying a Vel in his right hand. Some images show him with six faces with his two wives sitting on his two laps. Sometimes he is riding a peacock and sometimes is standing. He wears some golden ornaments and a yellow pitambara (a cloth).

Verse 5.2.1 in the Rig Veda talks about Kumara, whose characteristics match that of Lord Kartikeya. Therefore, some scholars believe that this verse is the origin of Lord Murugan’s worship.

In the Atharva Veda, he is mentioned as the son of Agni. Other religious texts, like Aranyakas and Brahmanas, also mention him.

The Skanda Purana is one of the major puranas that describes him as the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, who was born to kill Tarakasura.

Tarakasura was a demon who practiced severe penance and propitiated Lord Brahma. When Lord Brahma expressed his inability to grant him a wish for immortality, he wished that only a son of Lord Shiva could kill him. Lord Brahma granted him the wish.

After receiving the boon, Tarakasura thought that he had become immortal because Lord Shiva had denounced the world and engaged in deep meditation after the death of his first wife, Goddess Sati. Therefore, it was highly unlikely that he would marry and produce a son. Hence, he started torturing gods and common people.

Lord Shiva Gets Married

The gods needed to get Lord Shiva married and have a son to defeat Tarakasura. Therefore, they sent Kamadeva to Lord Shiva. This act of gods made Lord Shiva angry, and he burnt Kamadeva.

After some time, Goddess Sati was reborn as Goddess Parvati and did severe penance to have Lord Shiva as her husband. Propitiated by her devotion, Lord Shiva married her.

But their physical intimacy caused Pralaya – the destruction of the world. Therefore, the gods sent Agni (Fire-god) to interrupt them. Agni secretly entered their palace and loudly asked for alms. Lord Shiva was infuriated because of the disturbance and rushed to kill Agni. But Goddess Parvati intervened and gave his semen as alms to Agni. When Agni drank the semen in front of her, she cursed him to be omnivorous.

Agni became pregnant, and so did all other gods, because they receive food through the medium of Agni. They started to have unbearable stomach pain. Therefore, they went to Lord Vishnu, who advised them to praise Lord Shiva. Propitiated, Lord Shiva advised gods to vomit the semen except for Agni.

He advised Agni to transmit it to women. The next morning, the wives of Saptarishi went for a bath in the river. After the bath, they started feeling cold and went to warm themselves near a fire, except for Arundhati, the wife of Vashishtha. Agni secretly transferred Lord Shiva’s semen to them, and those six women became pregnant.

The Birth of Lord Kartikeya

When their husbands came to know about it, they drove them out of their homes and cursed them. They became the constellations of Krittikas, moving in the sky. At that time, all of them became distressed due to their deviation from chastity and aborted Lord Shiva’s semen on top of the Himalayas, which flowed into the river Ganges. It finally developed into a child with six faces on the bank of the Ganges.

The Killing of Tarakasura

All the gods rejoiced at the birth of Lord Shiva’s son, made him the chief of their army, and prepared to attack



Tarakasura. Tarakasura and his army came out of Patala Loka and the war began.

Initially, a fierce battle between Tarakasura and Virbhadrha began. When Virbhadrha was about to pierce Tarakasura with his trident, Lord Kartikeya stopped him. Then the battle between Kartikeya and Tarakasura began. Tarakasura hurled a divine weapon toward Kartikeya that made him unconscious for some time, but he regained the consciousness and started fighting again. After a long fierce battle, Kartikeya cut off the head of Tarakasura. All the gods and sages hailed Kartikeya.

The Race Between Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya

Lord Kartikeya and Lord Ganesha both wanted to get married and expressed their desire to their parents. As both the sons were dearer to them, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati decided to arrange a competition.

Therefore, they called both of them and told them that whoever would go around the world three times and return to Kailasa first would get married first.

Lord Kartikeya sat on his peacock and took off immediately. Lord Ganesha was very slow because his vahana was a mouse. He knew that he would never win the race on a mouse. So, he came up with an idea. He made Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati sit together at a place and went around them three times in a clockwise direction. When asked about this, Lord Ganesha explained that parents are like a world to a child. Hence, going around them is like going around the world.

Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati were impressed by Lord Ganesha’s intelligence and devotion and got him married to Riddhi and Siddhi.

Why did Kartikeya leave Kailasa?

When Lord Kartikeya returned to Mount Kailash, he got the news about Lord Ganesha’s marriage and felt tricked. He got upset and went to Mount Krauncha for ascetic practice against his parents’ advice. His distressed parents went there to convince him, but he went further out of disregard for their love.

Why is a Peacock the Carrier of Lord Kartikeya?

Once there was a despotic demon named Soorpadaman. Lord Kartikeya decided to teach him a lesson and went to fight with him. Soorpadaman took the form of a mango tree. Lord Kartikeya threw his divine spear at it. The Vel split Soorpadaman’s body in two; one half becoming a rooster and the other half a peacock.

Lord Kartikeya made the peacock to be his vahana and the rooster to be the emblem on his battle flag.

Family of Lord Murugan

There are different stories about Lord Murugan’s marital status. Per some stories, he became an ascetic and never married, but the other stories tell us about his marriages. As per these stories, Lord Kartikeya has two wives; Devasena and Valli.

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“If Hindus don’t maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?”

“If India’s own children don’t cling to their faith, who shall guard it?”

“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”

contd from page 1

Deadly communal violence flares in...

Clashes spread to several districts of the finance and tech hub, Gurugram, also known as Gurgaon, home to more than 1.5 million people and hundreds of global firms, where violent mobs predominantly targeted Muslim-owned properties, setting buildings ablaze and smashing shops and restaurants.

At least six people died, including two police personnel and a cleric who was inside a mosque that was set alight, and more than 110 people have been arrested, authorities said.

Gurugram's district authorities urged residents to remain home and ordered the closure of some private education institutes and government offices.

As the violence unfolded, about 1,300 kilometers (807 miles) south in Maharashtra on a train traveling to Mumbai, another deadly attack demonstrated the depth of the country's sectarian divide.

A police officer opened fire on a moving train, killing four people, including a senior constable and three Muslim passengers, according to local reports and some family members CNN has spoken with.

In a video that has emerged of the aftermath and quickly gone viral, the officer can be seen standing over a lifeless body, rifle in arm, as terrified travelers huddle at the end the coach.

The officer glances at the body, then scans the carriage before saying: "If you want to vote, if you want to live in Hindustan (India), then there's only (Narendra) Modi and Yogi (Adityanath)."

Referencing the country's leader, and the Hindu monk turned chief minister of India's most populous state, he appeared to be advocating their popular, but deeply divisive policies.

One of the victims, Asgar Ali, was a bangle seller on his way to take a new job in Mumbai when the fatal attack took place, his cousin Mohammed told CNN, adding that Ali is survived by a wife and four children.

"We haven't heard a lot from the authorities," he added. "But I believe this happened because we are Muslim."

Police have arrested the officer and a motive is yet to be determined, authorities have said. However, opposition politicians and activists have called the attack a "hate crime" that targeted India's Muslim minority population.

Police haven't released the names of the passengers. CNN has contacted the Maharashtra police but is yet to receive a response.

Asaduddin Owaisi, a member of parliament and leader of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen political party called it a "terror attack that specifically targeted Muslims."

Another lawmaker and member of India's main opposition Congress party, Jairam Ramesh, said it was a "cold-blooded murder" that was the result of a polarized media and political landscape.

The image of India that Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) want to project is one of a confident, vibrant, and modern superpower - and it will be one they want on display in India when G20 leaders meet in New Delhi next month.

But analysts say these scenes of violence underscore an uncomfortable reality as the BJP's Hindu nationalist policies gain momentum in the world's largest democracy after nearly a decade of Modi's rule.

On Wednesday, August 2, hundreds of members from the Hindu extremist right-wing Bajrang Dal group took to the streets in several cities, including Delhi, burning effigies and chanting slogans against Muslims in protest against what they called "Islamic jihad and terrorism."

Add the attack by right wing motorcycle borne youth to a slum in Gurugram .

Asim Ali, a political researcher based in New Delhi and no relation to Asgar Ali, said that official silence over sectarian assaults and rhetoric is encouraging for the radical groups and such attacks have become "more brazen" since BJP ascended to power nearly a decade

ago. "When you don't take action against these elements, the message that gets sent is that it's okay," he told CNN. "If the government spoke (against it), it would help."

Ethnic violence has been raging in the northeastern state of Manipur for the last two months, a topic that has received little public comment from Modi.

Ali fears sectarian tensions may only worsen next year as India heads into a bitterly fought election with Modi seeking a third term and an opposition building a coalition to unseat him.

Increase in hate crimes

The latest communal violence comes against a broader rise in hate crimes against minority groups.

A study by economist Deepankar Basu noted a 786% increase in hate crimes against all minorities between 2014 and 2018, following the BJP's election victory.

The BJP, however, says it does not discriminate against minorities and "treats all its citizens with equality."

But Basu's study shows - and news reports indicate - the brunt of these hate crimes targeted Muslims. And activists point to a host of recent incidents that they say contribute to India's sharp communal divide.

Last month, the BJP chief minister of the state of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, blamed Muslims for the soaring prices of tomatoes. His accusation came weeks after he lashed out at former US President Barack Obama, saying Indian police should "take care of" the many "Hussain Obama" in the country, referring to the country's Muslims.

Meanwhile Adityanath, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh who was referenced by the police officer allegedly involved in the train shooting, is among the most divisive of the BJP politicians.

Since he took office, the state has already passed legislation that, critics say, is rooted in "Hindutva" - the ideological bedrock of Hindu nationalism.

It has protected cows, an animal considered sacred to Hindus, from slaughter, and made it increasingly difficult to transport cattle. It also introduced a controversial anti-conversion bill, which makes it difficult for interfaith couples to marry or for people to convert to Islam or Christianity. Some cities named after historic Muslim figures have also been renamed to reflect India's Hindu history.

Adityanath is also known for his provocative rhetoric against Muslims.

He once praised former US President Donald Trump's travel ban barring citizens of several Muslim-majority countries and called for India to take similar measures, according to local channel NDTV.

India has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world with an estimated 170 million adherents, roughly 15 percent of its 1.4 billion population.

Adityanath's cabinet members have previously denied allegations they are promoting Hindu nationalism.

But prominent Muslim author and journalist, Rana Ayyub, who has written extensively about India's sectarian shift, says the current political rhetoric "emboldens" radical right wing groups who feel increasingly protected and untouchable in today's India.

"It feels like an Orwellian novel playing out in front of you," she said, adding she fears for the safety of her Muslim friends and family. "I think the silence of the country is a tacit approval for these hate politics." (With inputs from Esha Mitra / CNN)

Trump pleads not guilty at...

to deny the charges, which are the most serious criminal allegations he is facing. While cameras were not allowed in the courtroom, CBS News reporters were on the scene to document the proceeding.

When the arraignment got underway shortly after 4 p.m., the former president stood to be sworn in, stating his name and age. Judge Moxila Upadhyaya then formally read the charges and reminded him of his rights. He said he understood, and entered his plea of "not guilty." Smith was present for the hearing, the

second time he and Trump have come face to face in a federal courtroom.

The judge agreed to release Trump under the conditions that he not violate federal law and appear in court when required. He is also barred from discussing the facts of the case with any potential witnesses, except through attorneys. The arraignment lasted about a half an hour. The next hearing is set for Aug. 28 before a different judge who will now oversee the case, but Trump will not be required to attend.

A federal grand jury hearing evidence in Smith's investigation approved a historic indictment on Tuesday charging Trump with four felony counts: conspiracy to defraud the United States; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of and attempt to obstruct an official proceeding; and conspiracy against rights.

The 45-page charging document accuses Trump and six co-conspirators of pursuing several schemes to block the transfer of power to Joe Biden after Trump lost the 2020 election, culminating in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. The indictment alleges Trump knew his claims of widespread voter fraud were false but "repeated and widely disseminated them anyway - to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, create an intense national atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and erode public faith in the administration of the election."

The former president traveled from New Jersey on his private plane for Thursday's hearing. His motorcade made its way into D.C., weaving through downtown traffic on its way to the courthouse near the Capitol. Trump has denounced Smith's probe as politically motivated and denies any wrongdoing.

This was Trump's third arraignment on criminal charges in four months. In April, he was booked and processed in New York on state charges related to an alleged "hush money" payment to an adult film star in 2016. In June, he appeared in court in Miami to face federal charges in Smith's parallel investigation into his handling of classified documents found at his Mar-a-Lago resort. He pleaded not guilty in those cases, as well.

The former president spoke briefly to reporters on the tarmac in Virginia before he departed. He reiterated much of what he has said for months, insisting President Biden and his allies are trying to damage him politically.

"A very sad day for America," the former president said, standing under an umbrella in the rain. "And it was also very sad driving through Washington, D.C., and seeing the filth and the decay and all of the broken buildings and walls and the graffiti. This is not the place that I love. It's a very sad thing to see.

"When you look at what's happening, this is a persecution of a political opponent," he continued. "This was never supposed to happen in America. This is the persecution of the person that's leading by very, very substantial numbers in the Republican primary and leading Biden by a lot. So, if you can't beat him, you persecute him or you prosecute him. We can't let this happen in America. Thank you very much." (Source: CBS News)

US completes second lottery round...

All the successful applicants eligible for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, have been notified about it, it said.

USCIS had to conduct an unprecedented second round of the H-1B lottery, which is held in the first week of April, mainly because of a large number of unqualified applications that were successful in the first H-1B lottery.

"The large number of eligible registrations for beneficiaries with multiple eligible registrations - much larger than in previous years - has raised serious concerns that some may have tried to gain an unfair advantage by working together to submit multiple registrations on behalf of the same beneficiary," USCIS said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Popularly known as the 'Coffee Land of Karnataka', Chikmagalur is situated in the foothills of the Mullayangiri Range and is one of the most beautiful hill stations in Karnataka. Chikmagalur has a perpetual fragrance of coffee lingering in the air with it plenty of coffee plantations. Famous for its tall mountains, lush green forests and its tranquil environment (apart from its coffee production), Chikmagalur is a very popular tourist destination and is a quick retreat for the people of Karnataka.

Being the largest producer of coffee in the country, Chikmagalur is mainly all about its coffee. So if you're a coffee enthusiast as well as a nature lover, taking a walk through one (or a few) of the numerous coffee plantations in the city is a must-do activity. Many of these coffee estates not only allow visitors to take guided tours through the plantations, but they also provide homestays right within the estates, so you can literally wake up to and end your day with the smell of coffee in the air.

Chikmagalur is a very popular trekking spot and boasts of many incredible trekking trails, such as the Mullayangiri trek, the Kemmanagundi trek, and the Baba Budangiri trek. Mullayangiri is the highest peak in all of Karnataka and is the best place to get a perfect view of the sun rising from behind the mountains.

Mullayanagiri

Perched at an altitude of 1930 m above the sea level, Mullayanagiri peak is located in the Baba Budan Giri Range of Western Ghats and is just 45 minutes from Chikmagalur. It serves as the highest peak between the Nilgiris and the Himalayas offering its visitors a peaceful getaway with temperature ranging between 20 - 25 degrees Celsius. Known for its serene ambience and nature's raw beauty, this peak is adorned with verdant grassland, rugged rocks, and a good trek path is also quite popular among adventure lovers. Mullayanagiri is also known for coffee plantations that are situated nearby.

Mullayanagiri is best known as a hub for adventure enthusiasts, especially trekkers as this destination is adorned with perfect trek trails. The starting point of this 4 km trek is Sarpadhari which is a steep trail. One can also engage in other thrilling activities such as mountain biking and road biking. The place is perfect for those looking for solitude as well as visitors with an adventurous streak. Chikmagalur serves as the nearest town to Mullayanagiri peak. You can explore the small caves, which are located just below the peak. There is a temple of Lord Shiva on the hilltop. Standing atop the peak on a clear day, you can see the Western Ghats in their full-fledged glory.

Rafting in Bhadra River

Located in Karnataka, Chikmagalur is a haven for adventure-seekers. It is situated 45 kms from Bhadra River which is equidistant from well-known hill stations and wildlife regions in the Western Ghats such as Sakleshpur, Kudremukh, Charamadi Ghats.

River Bhadra originates in the Western Ghats and flows across Deccan Plateau through the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary providing rafters with a spectacular view of the lush greenery of the Western Ghats, quaint villages and

Chikmagalur: The coffee land of Karnataka



plantations. It is fed by the tributaries Somavahini, Thadabehalla and Odirayanahalla. The rapids span out over a distance of 8 km and the rafting activity takes 1.5 hours to complete.

Kemmanagundi

A hill station of widespread views and scents of beautiful gardens, Kemmanagundi or KR hills offer a perfect summer retreat for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts. The area also has trekking, nature walks and picnics. The Royal Horticulture Society of Karnataka is located here and has some of the most beautiful gardens. The Rock garden, Z point, Hebbe falls, Kalahasti falls and the Shiva temple are a few must-see attractions here.

The name Kemmanagudi means red soil which the region is popularly known for. It was a summer retreat for the Mysore King Krishnaraj Wodeyar IV. Completely awestruck and mesmerised by the beauty of the surroundings, he donated his resort to the government of Karnataka. This place has a lot to offer right from the beautiful waterfalls to nature treks. The weather is lovely throughout the year, and you can visit it all year round.

Baba Budangiri

To the north of Chikmagalur district of Karnataka, lies the Baba Budan Range of the Western Ghats of India. Baba Budangiri is a mountain in the Baba Budan Range and is renowned for its shrine to the Sufi Saint, Hazrat Dada Hayat Khalandar (also known as Baba Budan). This is a famous pilgrim site for both Hindus and Muslims and is often flocked by travellers. This famous mountain range is also known as Dattagiri Hill Range, as the shrine here is believed to be associated with Hindu God Guru Dattatreya. This mountain range proudly exhibits one of the



highest mountain peaks, with altitude lying between that of the Himalayas and the Nilgiris. Legend has it that via the Chikmagalur district, coffee was first brought into India when the coffee crop was grown in Baba Budangiri Hills by Sufi Baba Budan during 1670 AD.

Baba Budangiri Hills are famous for their unique forest range in addition to hiking and trekking. Mullayanagiri and Baba Budangiri have an amazing trekking trail in between. In addition to this, all the adventure lovers can hike through the forest to see the ancient shrine of Deviramma Betta. Sitalayanna Giri offers picturesque views of the surrounding mountain ranges. The most well-known trekking

trails include- Baba Budangiri to Mullayanagiri of 12 km, Budangiri to Gaalikere of 4 km, Budangiri to Manikyadhara Falls of 7 km, and from Attigudi Junction to Baba Budangiri of 6 km.

Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

Covering a vast area of over 490 sq.kms, the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over the districts of Shimoga and Chikmagalur, 38 km west of the Chikmagalur town in Karnataka. Surrounded by hills of the Western Ghats on all sides, the view of the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary looks like a scene right out of a movie!

Source: Holidify



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Bajrang Punia summoned in defamation case

Delhi Court on Thursday, Aug 3, issued a summons to Olympic bronze medallist wrestler Bajrang Punia in a criminal defamation case filed by wrestling coach Naresh Dahiya. "I am of the prima facie view that all the ingredients of defamation are made out....In view of the same, let accused, namely, Bajrang Punia be summoned for the commission of offence punishable under Section 499 read with Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code," said metropolitan magistrate Yashdeep Chahal in his order. The court has directed Punia to appear before it on September 6. Dahiya had, through his advocate Sudhir Nagar, moved a criminal defamation complaint alleging that Punia, during the wrestlers' protest on May 10, made certain defamatory remarks against him during a press conference held at Jantar Mantar. He had alleged that a malicious attack was made to tarnish his reputation as well as his credibility. The court while issuing the summons noted that the evidence placed before the court reveal that Punia had made a reference to an ongoing rape case against Dahiya in Tis Hazari Court and had stated that he has no credibility to oppose the protest.

Messi taking MLS by storm

Lionel Messi scored in his third straight game and had his second consecutive multi-goal performance for Inter Miami after the start of the Leagues Cup contest against Orlando City on Wednesday, Aug 2, night was delayed 95 minutes because of thunderstorms. Messi scored seven minutes into the match then added a second strike in the 72nd minute. On Messi's first goal, he stopped a pass from Robert Taylor on his chest, dribbled a couple of yards near the edge of the 6-yard box and converted a shot that landed under the crossbar. The goal gave Inter Miami a 1-0 lead in the Round of 32 match. Orlando tied it 11 minutes later. Messi struck again when he received a pass from Josef Martinez and converted a right-footed shot that landed inside the left post and put Inter Miami ahead 3-1.

Debutant Tilak Varma's knock in vain as India lose opening T20I

TAROUBA (TIP)

N Tilak Varma looked very much at home on his international debut before India made a mess of a modest run-chase to lose the opening T20I of their five-match series against West Indies by four runs here on August 3.

Rovman Powell (48 off 32) played a captain's knock to take West Indies to 149 for six after the hosts opted to bat at the Brian Lara Stadium.

With 37 needed off the last 30 balls and six wickets in hand, India self-destructed to end at 145 for nine in 20 overs.

Jason Holder brought the West Indies back into the game by producing a maiden in the 16th over, when he found the stumps of India skipper Hardik Pandya (19) before Sanju Samson (12) got run out.

Tail-ender Arshdeep Singh (12) made the game more interesting with a couple of fours in the penultimate over, making use of an extra fielder in the circle due to the home team's slow over rate.

Eventually, Romario Shepherd was able to defend 10 runs off the final over.

The sole bright spot of the chase was Varma's fearless 39 off 22 balls on his maiden outing for India. The 20-year-old southpaw dispatched West Indies' quickest bowler, Alzarri Joseph for back to back sixes over deep square leg to announce his arrival in international cricket.

His third and final six came off an aerial drive of pacer Shepherd.



Tilak Varma impresses with brisk 39 on debut in 1st T20I. Courtesy: AP

It was not the easiest of pitches to bat on and most of the Indian batters found stroke making tough.

The opening duo of Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill perished cheaply before Suryakumar Yadav (21) and Varma got together.

Suryakumar came up with a spectacular cut short off Joseph that went all the way before the star Indian batter was caught brilliantly by Shimron Hetmyer at extra cover.

Earlier, Powell and the in-form Nicholas Pooran (41 off 34) took the hosts to a respectable total.

Besides Varma, pacer Mukesh Kumar, who made his Test and ODI debut earlier on the tour, was also handed his maiden T20 cap.

With the new ball not doing much in the powerplay, the Indian pace duo of Mukesh and Arshdeep Singh was not able to put the West Indies top-order under pressure.

Hardik introduced spin in the fourth over and Brandon King (28 off 19) made his intentions clear with an inside out six over cover off Axar Patel.

Yuzvendra Chahal (2/24) was brought into the attack in the following over and a struggling Kyle Myers (1) missed a slog sweep off the leggie's googly only to be adjudged lbw. The replays showed the ball was missing the stumps but Myers chose not to review.

Source: PTI

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY



India's Akashdeep Singh gets into the danger area. PTI

Harmanpreet, Varun score braces as India hammer China 7-2 in opener

CHENNAI (TIP)

Drag-flickers Harmanpreet Singh and Varun Kumar scored a brace each as India began their campaign at the Asian Champions Trophy with a 7-2 win against China here on August 3.

Seven of the goals in the game came from penalty corners, with world No. 4 India converting six of their nine and China finishing one of four.

Apart from skipper Harmanpreet (5th and 8th minutes) and Varun (19th and 30th), the other scorers for India were Sukhjeet Singh (15th), Akashdeep Singh (16th) and Mandeep Singh (40th). Interestingly, all the scorers for the hosts hail from Punjab. E Wenhui (18th) and Gao Jiasheng (25th) scored for world No. 25 China.

The big win took three-time champions

India to the top of the table, with Malaysia and South Korea second and third, respectively.

Earlier, Firhan Ashari struck twice as Malaysia defeated Pakistan 3-1. For Malaysia, Ashari scored in the 28th and 29th minutes, while Shello Silverius found the net in the 44th minute. Pakistan's lone goal was scored by Abdul Rehman in the 55th minute.

The opening match of this edition saw defending champions South Korea beat Japan 2-1 in a close contest.

It all began in the sixth minute when Ryoma Oooka netted the opening goal of the tournament before Cheoleon Park equalised in the 26th, as both the teams went into the halftime break locked at 1-1. Just five minutes into the third quarter, JungHoo Kim put the Korean side in front.

Source: Agencies



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contd from page 6

Small Business Services Outreach Campaign Engages 10,000+ New Yorkers

Career Centers, 7 NYC Business Solutions Centers, and 9 Industrial Business Service Providers.

"I am thrilled to see SBS's outreach team making tremendous inroads in meeting New Yorkers where they are and bringing workforce and business services directly to those who need them most," said Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer. "Entrepreneurial spirit permeates every corner of our city, and through creative outreach we can harness the full power of the people and bring opportunity to everyone."

"As the son of immigrant New York City small business owners, I know first-hand how important it is for government to be present in our communities. Too often, New Yorkers in need don't know where to turn for help. By bringing the full force of SBS services and programs into our neighborhoods, we're closing the gap to connect New Yorkers to economic opportunity," said SBS Commissioner Kevin D. Kim. "I am proud of our phenomenal SBS outreach team - and all SBSers - who are getting the word out to more New Yorkers than ever before because when people know about SBS services, they use them, and that helps make our city more prosperous and vibrant for everyone."

REACHING NEW YORKERS WHERE THEY ARE

In the last year, SBS has engaged more than 10,000 New Yorkers to promote awareness of its programs - from services that help business owners avoid fines and fees on violations and compete for government contracts, to free job training programs that help New Yorkers jumpstart their careers, to grants for neighborhood organizations that steward commercial corridor development.

The expansion of SBS outreach is centered on innovative methods of connecting with New Yorkers where they are. New and expanded initiatives launched under SBS Commissioner Kevin D. Kim's leadership include:

Created the agency's first-ever centralized outreach unit to ensure cross promotion of all business and career services wherever SBS has a presence.

Completed the largest-ever M/WBE recertification campaign, reaching out to more than 2,800 firms with expiring certification through webinars, calls, and direct email.

Significantly expanded interagency Mobile Unit outreach, hosting 55 Mobile Unit outreach events in 35 neighborhoods with partners across 13 City agencies. The SBS Mobile Unit brings a suite of resources directly to New Yorkers in their neighborhoods, including free Wi-Fi, printers, computers, and multilingual representatives from several City agencies.

Met directly with thousands of small business owners through corridor tours in more than 40 neighborhoods, including several "little" ethnic enclaves, to understand how the City can cut red tape and support their growth.

Proclaimed for the first time ever, NYC Small Business Month in May 2023 - an expansion of National Small Business Week. NYC Small Business Month also marked the first-ever BID Day, which highlighted the special role of the City's 76 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in New York's commercial corridors and included new partnerships with the Yankees and Mets to promote services to jobseekers at their stadiums.

Launched "NYC BEST in Your Community," a new initiative of SBS's NYC Business Express Service Team (NYC BEST), by hosting 15 events with community partners in the first year of the program. NYC BEST works one-on-one with local businesses to expedite permits and licenses, and help business owners avoid fines and fees. Since FY 22, NYC BEST has helped more than 2,200 small business owners save more than \$22 million in fines, fees, and lost revenue.

Started the "Lift Off! Cannabis NYC Listening and Learning Tour," a major public engagement campaign to educate New Yorkers about the growing cannabis industry with plans for more than 40 events across the five boroughs.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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History This Week

AUG 04 - AUG 10

AUGUST 4

August 4, 1964 - Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were found murdered and buried in an earthen dam outside Philadelphia, Mississippi. They had disappeared on June 21 after being detained by Neshoba County police on charges of speeding. They were participating in the Mississippi Summer Project organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to increase black voter registration. When their car was found burned on June 23, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the FBI to search for the men.



Birthday - Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as "Satchmo," he appeared in many films and is best known for his renditions of "It's a Wonderful World" and "Hello, Dolly."

Birthday - Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg (1912-1947) was born in Stockholm. During the Holocaust, Wallenberg saved an estimated 33,000 Jews by issuing thousands of protective documents, by securing the release of Jews from deportation trains, death march convoys, labor service brigades, and by establishing the International Ghetto, a network of 31 protected houses. He was detained by Soviet agents on January 17, 1945, and is believed to have died in prison in 1947.

Birthday - Barack Obama the 44th U.S. President was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 4, 1961. His father was from Kenya, Africa, while his mother was originally from Kansas. Upon completing his college education, young Obama moved to Chicago, becoming active in community affairs. He then attended Harvard Law School, becoming the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review in 1990. He returned to Chicago, worked in a law firm, then entered politics. Elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996, he went on to become a U.S. Senator in 2004. Four years later, he successfully challenged former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination and went on to defeat Republican John McCain in the general election, November 4, 2008, thus becoming the first President of African-American origin.

AUGUST 5

August 5, 1583 - The first British colony in North America was founded by Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a British navigator and explorer. He sighted the

Newfoundland coast and took possession of the area around St. John's harbor in the name of the Queen. He was later lost at sea in a storm off the Azores on his return trip to England.



August 5, 1861 - President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3 percent tax on incomes over \$800, as an emergency wartime measure during the Civil War. However, the tax was never actually put into effect.

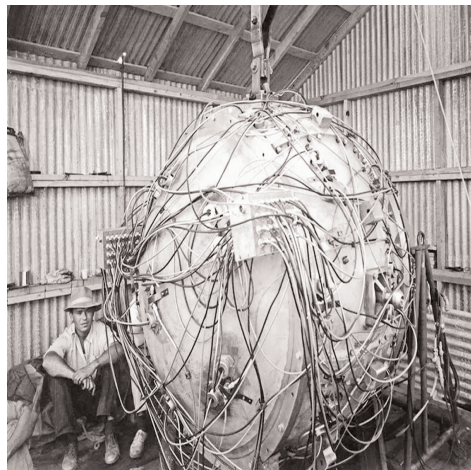
August 5, 1962 - Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 from an overdose of sleeping pills. She made 29 films during her career and came to symbolize Hollywood glamour.

August 5, 2011 - Standard & Poor's credit rating agency downgraded the United States debt from its highest rating of AAA to a lesser AA+ rating, marking the first-ever decline of credit worthiness for the U.S. The agency cited America's \$14 trillion in outstanding debt and ineffective political leadership regarding debt reduction.

Birthday - John Eliot (1604-1690) was born in Hertfordshire, England. Known as the "Apostle to the Indians," his translation of the Bible into an Indian tongue was the first Bible to be printed in America.

AUGUST 6

August 6-10, 1787 - The Great Debate occurred during the Constitutional Convention. Outcomes included the establishment of a four-year term of office for the President, granting Congress the right to regulate foreign trade and interstate commerce, and the appointment of a committee to prepare a final draft of the Constitution.



August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American

B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.

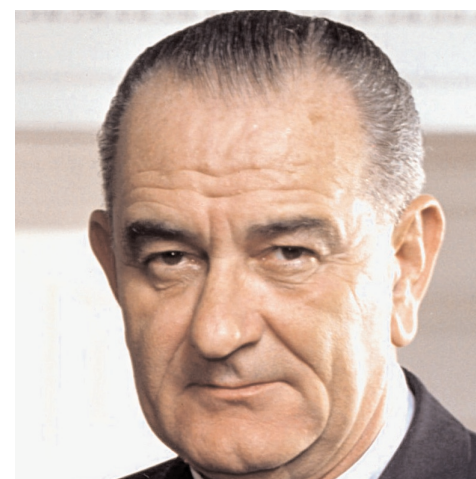
August 6, 1962 - Jamaica achieved independence after centuries of British and Spanish rule. During 150 years of Spanish rule, African slaves were first brought to the island. The British invaded in 1655 and the slave trade greatly expanded during the 1700s. Following the abolition of slavery in the 1830s, Jamaica remained a British colony.

August 6, 1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act suspended literacy, knowledge and character tests designed to keep African Americans from voting in the South. It also authorized the appointment of Federal voting examiners and barred discriminatory poll taxes. The Act was renewed by Congress in 1975, 1984 and 1991.

Birthday - British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire, England. He was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to William Wordsworth. Memorable poems by Tennyson include "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" and "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

Birthday - Penicillin discoverer Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was born in Lochfield, Scotland. By accident, he found that mold from soil killed deadly bacteria without injuring human tissue. He received the Nobel Prize in 1954.

AUGUST 7



August 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

August 7, 1990 - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.

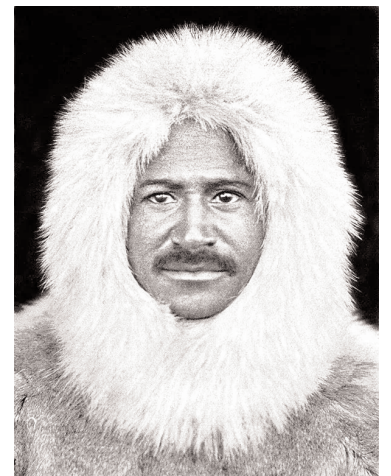
Birthday - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden,

Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. At her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.

Birthday - African American statesman and Nobel Prize recipient Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) was born in Detroit, Michigan. In 1949, as a mediator for the United Nations, he helped bring an end to hostilities in the war between Israel and the Arab League.

AUGUST 8

August 8, 1945 - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan and sent troops into Japanese-held Manchuria.



Birthday - African American explorer Matthew Henson (1866-1955) was born in Charles County, Maryland. He accompanied Robert E. Peary on several Arctic expeditions and reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

AUGUST 9

August 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.

August 9, 1974 - Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.

AUGUST 10



Birthday - Herbert Hoover (1874-1964) the 31st U.S. President was born in West Branch, Iowa. He was the first President born west of the Mississippi.



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Director Neha Lohia Co-Creates Viral "Made in Heaven Season 2" Baraat Promo, with a Stunning New York Segment

PROMO SHOWCASING GLOBAL CELEBRATION AND EMBRACING INDIAN-ORIGIN CONTENT SPARKS ANTICIPATION FOR THE HIGHLY-AWAITED SHOW



"Neha Lohia's Directorial Brilliance Sparks Global Celebration and Anticipation with a Grand Indian Baraat Promo Embracing Indian-Origin Content"

JULY 30, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Get ready for the much-awaited return of "Made in Heaven Season 2" on Amazon Prime Video, premiering on August 10, 2023. To announce this momentous release date and ignite excitement worldwide, an exuberant promo was crafted in three iconic locations - Mumbai, London, and New York City.

Neha Lohia, an acclaimed female Filmmaker from India now based in the USA, takes immense pride in her role as segment director of the New York portions for the launch promo of Made In Heaven Season 2 which showcases a groundbreaking team with a majority of All Female Directors, writers, and creatives at the helm.

With Reema Kagti co-writing and directing alongside Zoya Akhtar, Alankrita Srivastava, and Nitya Mehra, the show is majorly led by an inspiring female team. Neha's direction captures the grandeur of an Indian Baraat in the vibrant American backdrop of Times Square. Fueled by her passion for authentic storytelling and admiration particularly for Reema Kagti, one of the show creators, Neha's creative brilliance shines brightly in this captivating promo. "This project was both challenging and immensely enjoyable," shared Neha Lohia. "With a three-camera setup and an enthusiastic team, we turned Times Square into a global celebration. The response from onlookers and the incredible performances from the all-woman band and talented actors made it truly memorable, nobody wanted to stop dancing in this baraat."

The 7-episode series, co-produced by Excel Media & Entertainment and Tiger Baby, promises to be a cinematic

masterpiece, boasting an impressive lineup of directors, including Alankrita Shrivastava, Neeraj Ghaywan, Nitya Mehra, Reema Kagti, and Zoya Akhtar.



Harvenderpal Singh, the only turbaned Sikh in "Made in Heaven Season 2" Baraat Prom, in action in New York

Featuring a stellar cast in New York, including Hervender Pal Singh, Kaitlyn N.S. Mitchell, Reena Sharma, Madison Hadley, Christine Mendes, and Kai Whitehead, the promo exudes the spirit of a true Indian wedding celebration touching hearts globally. The all-woman Brass Queens NYC band provided a lively and spirited musical performance, amplifying the grandeur of this Baraat promo.

Assisting in the coordination of this international project were Abhishek Singh from Celebbazaar for the New York leg and Chaitanya Bagai from Tryz Innovazionz in Mumbai.



The cast and crew of "Made in Heaven Season 2" Baraat Promo Credit / Rob Klein, John Pina, Abdulla Yusuf. Creatrix Entertainment

The promo, launched on YouTube and Instagram, surpassed expectations with over 500,000 views within a day, garnering global attention. Audiences eagerly anticipate the return of "Made in Heaven Season 2."

As the director of the New York portion, Neha Lohia artfully helped build the show's reputation, co-creating an

unforgettable and attention-grabbing visual spectacle with the worldwide creative teams headquartered in India. "Reema has been an inspiration for me and her work in the past with her film particularly Talaash has helped me tremendously in my personal life, I hope to meet her in person someday and share with her how much her work has impacted and healed me. This promo work is my thank you and expression of gratitude to her," said Neha Lohia, the Segment Director for this promo.

"Made In Heaven Season 2" promises to deliver more spice, mad fun, and unbridled celebrations, leaving audiences worldwide on the edge of their seats. This show has garnered accolades, including nominations for Best Actor at the International Emmy Awards in season 1, and promises to be a heart-stealer in this second round.

The worldwide premiere of "Made In Heaven Season 2" on August 10 invites viewers to embark on a journey of love, celebration, and the complexities of life. Brace yourself for a captivating exploration of high-end wedding planners portrayed by Sobhita Dhulipala and Arjun Mathur in the bustling city of New Delhi. Their performance in this promo itself sets the stage and teases audiences for what lies ahead in the show with their flare and flamboyance.

Prepare to immerse yourself in the opulence and drama of Indian weddings globally while embracing the heartfelt storytelling that brings the world together. Join the grandest baraats, and get ready to revel in the wedding season and relationship dynamics once again!

"Neha Lohia's Directorial Brilliance Sparks Global Celebration and Anticipation with a Grand Indian Baraat Promo Embracing Indian-Origin Content"

Watch the GRANDEST BARAAT promo here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKQJvnnl32w>

ABOUT "MADE IN HEAVEN SEASON 2": "Made In Heaven Season 2" is a highly anticipated web series returning after four years, streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The show is known for its compelling storytelling, star-studded cast, and captivating visuals, making it a global favorite among audiences giving a taste of India to the entire world.

ABOUT NEHA LOHIA: Neha Lohia is an accomplished award-winning director with a passion for creative storytelling and visual excellence. With an impressive portfolio of successful projects, Neha's conscious creations, talent, and expertise continue to create a significant contribution to the entertainment industry. Know More: www.nehalohia.com or www.creatrixentertainment.com

Indian Christians to hold a prayer vigil in front of the U.N. for the victims of violence in Manipur, India on Saturday August 5 Noon

JULY 31, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): 'Concerned Citizens on Manipur,' an activist group, is organizing a prayer vigil in front of the United Nations building in Manhattan on Saturday, August 5th, at 11 am in solidarity with the victims of violence in the northeastern State of Manipur in India and to pray for restoration of peace. The tiny State of Manipur has witnessed violent conflict between the majority of Meitei and a minority of Kuki tribes. Stabbing, chopping, burning, shooting, and other attacks killed more than

140 people. Mobs have destroyed more than 400 churches and shrines; houses have been burnt, some with inhabitants in them and over 50,000 people have been displaced into temporary relief camps in miserable states. Parading of naked women, gang rape and sexually abusing them have occurred in public spaces. Although the Govt is supposed to protect the lives and properties of its citizens, the BJP govt in power in the State and at the Center has done very little to quell the violence. Independent observers report that the Govt has indirectly tolerated the majority Meitei community to continue the atrocities. The BJP govt is a fundamentalist Hindutva party advocating for converting India into a Hindu nation. The religious persecution behind the conflict has not been known to the public. The state govt has been suppressing the

dissemination of information by taking legal action against people who speak the truth publicly and shutting down the Internet. The current Govt led by PM Modi remains silent. There have been reliable reports that Christians are being targeted, and part of the agenda is said to be the ethnic cleansing of the Christians from the Tribal land.

There is almost a blackout by the Indian media on this ongoing tragedy, and the international media has not covered the worsening humanitarian situation in detail. The prayer vigil is primarily organized by a group of activists from different organizations and churches belonging to the Indian Christian Community. However, the vigil is also supported by other minority groups and Dalits living across the country.

PRAYER VIGIL

Manipur Support Group
In solidarity
with the victims of violence
invites you for a PRAYER VIGIL
in front of the United Nations

11:00 AM on Saturday,
05th August 2023
Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
(First Ave & 47th St)

For further information:
Anna George : 646-732-6143
Mary Philip : 347-254-9834
Paul Panackal : 718-481-3547
Koshy George : 718-314-8171
George Abraham : 917-544-4137
Jatinder Gill 718-785-5921
V. K. Macwana 215-310-8493
Leela Maret 646-539-8443
David Chigurupati 201-532-6082

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Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triples Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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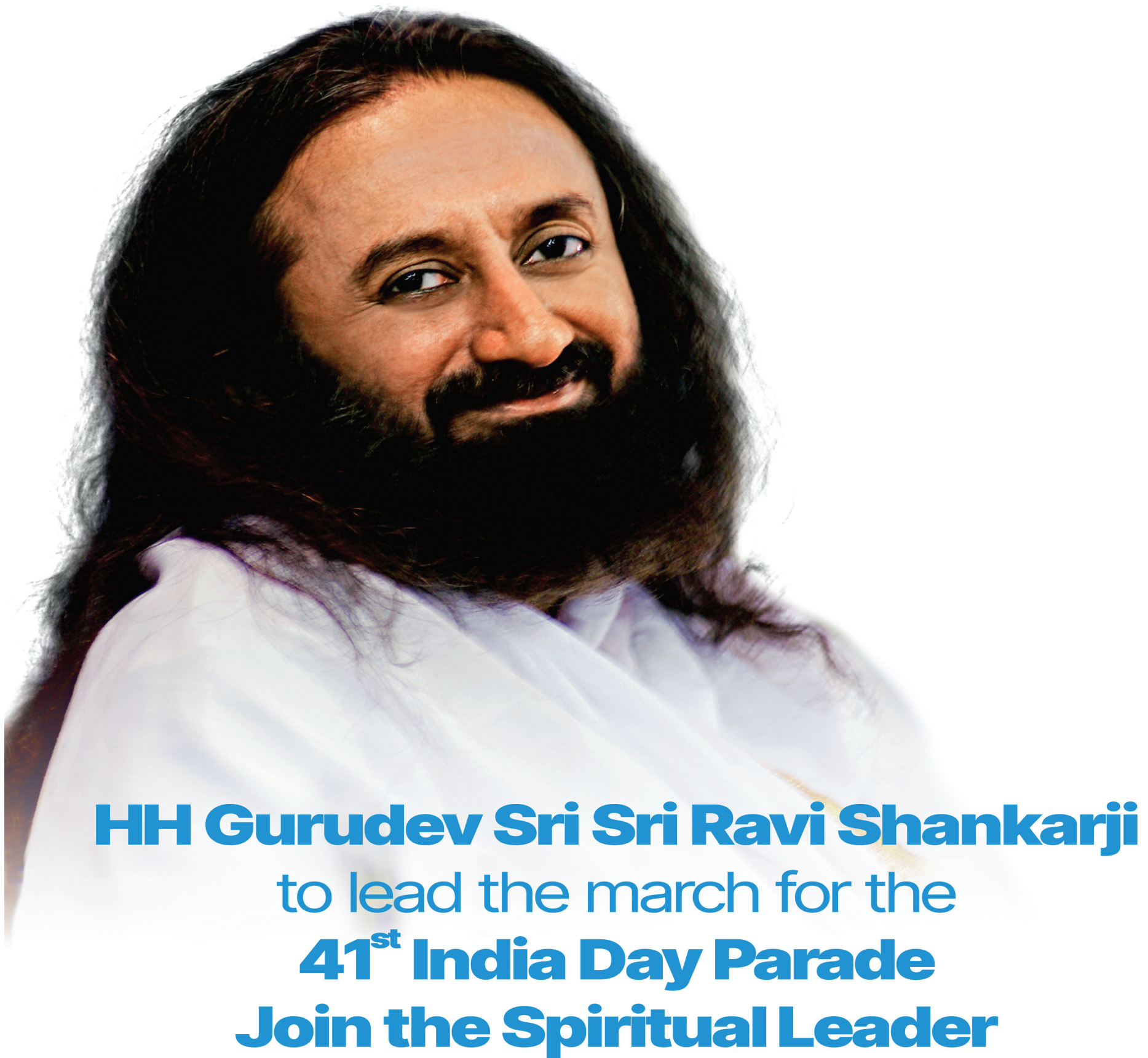
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To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-599-0705
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org



FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE

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