



India, Greece for strategic ties



PM Modi gets the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' from the Greek President in Athens on Friday, August 25.

Photo / PTI

AUGUST 25, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP) : India and Greece on Friday, August 25, elevated their ties to the level of strategic partnership and agreed to have an institutional dialogue framework at the level of national security advisers during PM Narendra Modi's daylong visit to Athens, the first by an Indian PM in 40 years.

We will strengthen our strategic ties by increasing cooperation in defense and security, agriculture, education, new technology and skill development.

Both sides also decided to expand cooperation in defense and security, infrastructure, agriculture, education and new and emerging technologies during talks between PM Modi and his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

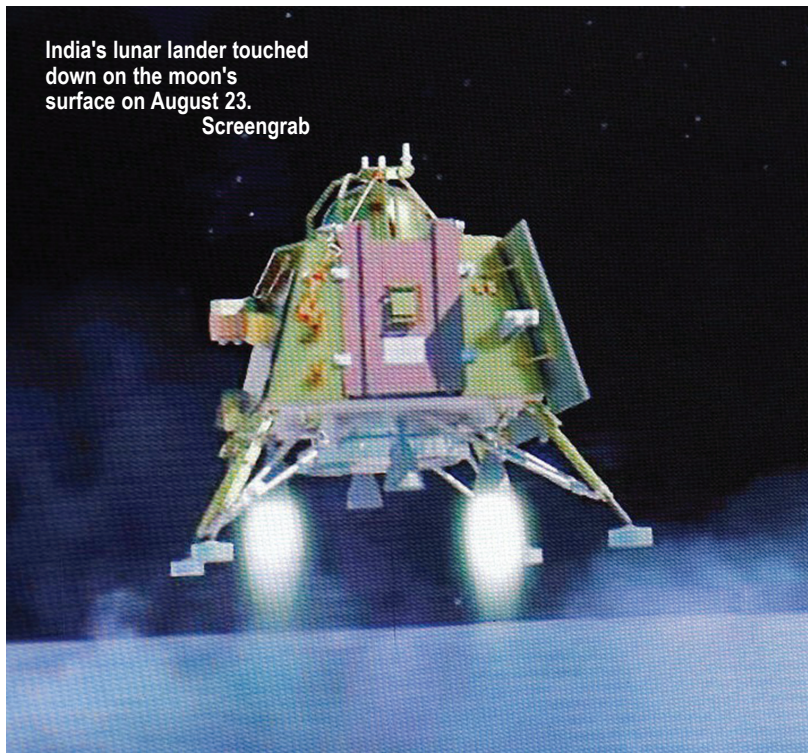
"After 40 years, an Indian PM has come to Greece. Yet, neither the depth of our relations has diminished, nor has there been any decrease in the warmth of our relations. Therefore, today the PM and I have decided to take the India-Greece partnership to a strategic level," the Greek PM said.

PM Modi was also conferred with the "Grand Cross of the Order of Honour" award by President of Greece Katerina Sakellaropoulou. (Source: TNS)

India becomes the first country in the world to land spacecraft on the Southern Pole of the Moon

INDIAN DIASPORA REJOICES THE CONQUEST OF THE MOON

India's lunar lander touched down on the moon's surface on August 23. Screenshot



AUGUST 23, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP) How important is the landing of Chandrayan 3 on the moon on August 23, 2023 can be gauged from the news coverage of the event. All major US newspapers including The New York Times, and the TV channels including the CNN have prominently carried the news. CNN headlined "India becomes the fourth country ever to land a spacecraft on the Moon". It said: "The mission could cement India's status as a global superpower in space. Previously, only the United States, China and the former Soviet Union have completed soft landings on the lunar surface."

Chandrayaan-3's landing site is also closer to the moon's south pole than any other spacecraft in history has ventured.

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41st India Day Parade in Manhattan drew large crowds



Marching in the 41st India Day Parade in Manhattan on August 20, 2023. L to R: FIA Advisor Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Faith Group Head Geeta Fofandi, FIA President Kenny Desai, Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar, Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, BJP spokesperson Shazia IImi, The Indian Panorama publisher Indrajit Saluja

Sri Sri Ravishankar, Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Jacqueline Fernandez, NY City Mayor Eric Adams and Public Advocate Jumaane Williams graced the historic event

AUGUST 21, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A crowd of over 100 thousand lined up to witness the 41st India Day parade. The streets came alive with different hues of color, culture, and diversity.

The theme for this year's Parade was Mission Life - An India led global movement for a sustainable lifestyle for a greener and healthier planet.

CONTD ON PAGE 3

President Trump booked, released from Fulton County Jail, Mugshot released

AUGUST 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): Embattled Donald Trump has surrendered to authorities in Georgia on charges of plotting to overturn the state's 2020 election results in an arrest that saw the first-ever mugshot of a former US president. Trump, 77, spent about 22 minutes inside the Fulton County Jail on Thursday where he was booked on felony charges of racketeering and conspiracy linked to his alleged efforts to overturn his 2020 re-election loss in Georgia. In January 2021, riots took place at Capitol in Washington by his supporters after Trump alleged voter fraud in the election.



Donald Trump's mugshot taken by jail staff in Georgia Image / Fulton County District Attorney's Office

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GUEST COMMENT

Kudos to ISRO for soft landing of Chandrayaan-3

India took a giant leap in the space domain on Wednesday as Chandrayaan-3's lander module made a soft landing on the moon's surface. Four years ago, it had been an agonizing case of 'so near and yet so far' as Chandrayaan-2's lander 'Vikram' had crashed into the lunar surface minutes before the scheduled touchdown, even as its orbiter had been deployed successfully. Thanks to the tireless efforts of ISRO scientists, 'Vikram' landed without a hitch this time. The make-or-break '17 minutes of terror' passed off smoothly as the lander fired its engines at the right time and the right altitude, using the right amount of fuel. Chandrayaan-2 might have been

described as only partially successful, but its orbiter played a key role in easing the journey of Chandrayaan-3. Earlier this week, ISRO had established communication between the Chandrayaan-3 lander module and the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. The latter's 'Welcome, buddy!' message gladdened the entire nation, even as everybody kept their fingers crossed till the very end.

Becoming the first country to reach the uncharted south pole of the moon is a major milestone in India's space history. It comes almost four decades after Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian to venture into space - with Soviet collaboration. The Mars Orbiter Mission, launched in November 2013,

was an enormous feat for ISRO. Mangalyaan, which remained in the Martian orbit for around eight years, helped India join a select group of nations which had successfully explored the red planet. Up next is Gaganyaan, India's maiden human space flight mission; the first test vehicle mission for the validation of the crew escape system is going to be undertaken shortly. There is no stopping India's ambitious space programme. The joke is now surely on the New York Times, which had in 2014 published a cartoon of an Indian farmer, accompanied by a cow, knocking on the door of the Elite Space Club.

(Tribune, India)

Concrete alliance: On the BRICS grouping and its expansion

BRICS found new purpose with its expansion, but also more contradictions

If there was any doubt about the relevance of the BRICS grouping (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa), which held its 15th Summit in Johannesburg this week, the massive global interest in its outcomes should have put those to rest. Ever since the grouping, set up as a coalition of emerging economies, said last year that it was open to new members, as many as 40 countries from the global south have evinced interest in joining, with at least 22 formal applications. The decision to more than double its membership overnight, from 5 to 11, by inducting four major middle eastern players, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Ethiopia and Argentina, from Africa and South America, respectively, is significant. The enthusiasm is obvious. BRICS has weathered several storms and is today seen, if not as any alternative, as a counter-narrative creator to the western-led G-7 club on diverse issues: from climate change commitments and UN reform to its rejection of unilateral

western sanctions against Iran, Russia and Venezuela. By also creating the New Development Bank, which has funded nearly 100 projects so far, instituting a Contingent Reserve Arrangement, and other institutional mechanisms, the BRICS countries have also shown their ability to work on practical initiatives. While the grouping may not yet rival the wealth of the G-7, it does now rival its share of the global GDP (approximately 30% each), and represents a more equitable representation across 40% of the world's population to the G-7 countries that make up just 10%. Once the new members join, six of 10 of the biggest global oil suppliers will be BRICS countries, giving BRICS a new heft in the field of energy.

While the battle of proving its raison d'être may have been substantially won, the BRICS countries still fall short in showing a coherence of purpose, and are still mired by inner contradictions. The rivalry between India and China has no doubt slowed the grouping down and the induction of arch rivals Iran and Saudi

Arabia-UAE, despite their recent détente, could well create similar issues for the group in the future. In addition, any overtly political, anti-western stance by BRICS will make India, and other countries in the grouping who walk a tightrope between the global powers, including Egypt, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Brazil, uncomfortable. Russia's invasion of Ukraine too has caused uneasiness, and BRICS members did not vote as a bloc on any of the UN votes; nor did any of the other members support Russia's actions. Above all, any attempts by China to overpower the group with its strategic or economic vision will require a firm pushback if the foundational idea of BRICS, to assert the strategic autonomy of its members, is to be followed. Eventually it is the promise of shared prosperity and a more democratic model of global governance that attracts so many in the global south to the grouping, and will provide the mortar for an expanded line-up of BRICS countries.

(The Hindu)

READERS WRITE

Congratulations to ISRO scientists for the historic landing of Chandrayaan-3

India has made tremendous strides in space exploration by landing the Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's south pole. It is a remarkable achievement for

the scientific community in India that makes the whole nation proud of this pioneering effort. We also owe a debt of gratitude to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who started the Chandrayaan program, and the current government that has taken the program forward," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA.

India's space journey began on February 23, 1962, with the formation of INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research), thanks to the vision

of Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai with the crucial support and guidance by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime Minister of India. INCOSPAR was later renamed to ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) in 1969.

IOCUSA congratulates all scientists, technical staff, and others for their dedicated effort that has made history today.

George Abraham,
Vice Chairman, IOC USA
New York

41st India Day Parade in Manhattan drew large crowds

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

The Parade started at 12.30 from the corner of Madison & E 38th Street as Consul General of India Sh. Randhir Jaiswal, spiritual guru HH Sri Sri Ravishankar ji led it along with New York City Mayor Mr. Eric Adams, Indian Films Industry Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu & Jacqueline Fernandez, and New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

Sh. Randhir Jaiswal said that it's an occasion to celebrate America and India together and their shared spirit of democracy.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu said that the Parade made her realize how rich her culture and heritage is. The memories of the Parade will last her a lifetime.

New York Public Advocate Jumaane D Williams recognized Federation of Indian Associations for having exemplary events in the city of New York

Grammy award winner Falu Shah rendered a song dedicated to the International year of Millets - 'Abundance in Millets'



Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu addressing the gathering.

L to R: Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Sri Sri Ravishankar, and Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal



The State Bank of India float. Seen in the front are Country Head Mr. Vinod Bansal, and the CE of SBI



New York City Mayor Eric Adams addressing the gathering.

L to R: Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Mayor Adams, Sri Sri Ravishankar, Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, and Dr. Sudhir Parikh



New York Public Advocate Jumaane D Williams recognized Federation of Indian Associations for having exemplary events in the city of New York.

L to R: Kenny Desai, Mayor Adams, Jumaane Williams, Sri Sri Ravishankar, and Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal



The Bihar Float. Seen in the front is Mr. Alok Kumar, President of Bihar Association.



Mayor presented a Proclamation to FIA President Kenny Desai.

L to R: Kenny Desai, Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Mayor Adams, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and Sri Sri Ravishankar



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal greeting Indian Americans on the Independence Day of India.

L to R: Si Sri Ravishankar, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, and Dr. Sudhir Parikh



Noted singer Falu Shah singing a patriotic song. L to R: Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment and Innovation in Mayor Adam's office, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez, Falu Shah, and Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph



A Maharashtra Dhol Tasha group

DCG Dr Varun Jeph said that lets unite in the theme of the Parade - Mission Life to make our planet greener for our future generations to come.

FIA President said that the Parade aims to foster unity among the diverse Indian American Diaspora.

Mr. Ankur Vaidya said that the parade aims to showcase our motherland India in our homeland India and also to keep the Diaspora connected to their cultural roots.

The vibrant India Day parade has been organized by Federation of Indian Associations since 1981 and witnesses colorful floats, marching bands, colorful traditional attires, cultural performances, booth fairs - all representing India's Unity in Diversity.



A view of the parade

Indian American Naeem Khan wins National Design Award for fashion



Naeem Khan won the award in the fashion design category for creating "clothing that embodies beauty, glamour, and femininity while purposefully evolving his vision in the world of fashion."

AUGUST 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American fashion designer Naeem Khan is among recipients of 2023 National Design Awards given by the New York-based Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

Born and raised in India, Khan won the award in the fashion design category for creating "clothing that embodies beauty, glamour, and femininity while purposefully evolving his vision in the world of fashion."

The National Design Awards honor innovation and impact and recognize the power of design to change the world.

Established in 2000 as a project of the White House Millennium Council, the National Design Awards bring national recognition to the ways in which design enriches everyday life.

Born and raised in India surrounded by the beauty of its culture, architecture, history, and design, Naeem Khan launched his eponymous collection in 2003, according to the citation.

"These influences helped cultivate his vast knowledge of textiles. Khan is known for the exquisite hand-embroidery in his work, crafted by artisans in his family-owned factory founded by his grandfather decades ago."

"As a teenager, Khan moved to the United States and apprenticed for Halston, where he absorbed the ethos of modernism, and the secrets of draping and cutting fabric to create clean, elegant, and timeless silhouettes," it noted.

"Today, his focus is to create clothing that embodies beauty, glamour, and femininity while purposefully evolving his vision in the world of fashion. A key element to Khan's work is keeping the tradition and craft of making clothes by hand," the citation added.

Khan's collections have adorned glamorous women around the world, including Beyoncé, Jennifer Lopez, Taylor Swift, Rachel McAdams, former First Lady Michelle Obama, Queen Noor of Jordan, and the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, among others.

(Read full story at

www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American chef Jassi Bindra wins \$10,000 'Chopped' award

AUGUST 23, 2023

DALLAS (TIP): Jassi Bindra, the Indian American chef known for his eclectic spin on Indian cuisine, won the \$10,000 grand prize on a recently aired episode on the Food Network series "Chopped."

In the episode that aired on August 15, Bindra, co-owner and executive chef at Amrina in Woodlands, Texas, beat out three other chefs in a set of three 20- to 30-minute cooking rounds, impressing judges Chris Santos, Maneet Chauhan and Eric Adjepong.

The chef appeared to go into the challenge with confidence, intending to use traditional recipes from India with his own eclectic touch, according to Eater, Houston.

"I'm here to show how Indian cuisine can be sexy," said Bindra before facing off in the appetizer challenge against Massachusetts chef Emilie Rose Bishop, traveling celebrity chef Morgan Ferguson from Maryland, and Rachel McGill, the first James Beard Award-nominated chef from Lincoln, Nebraska.

The chef held a watch party at Amrina on Aug 16, inviting guests to watch the excitement unfold, according to Eater. Bindra said reservations began "blowing



Jassi Bindra, co-owner and executive chef at Amrina in Woodlands, Texas has won a \$10,000 grand prize on a recently aired episode on the Food Network series "Chopped."

up" starting at 5 pm and by the time of the episode, it was a packed house full of curious diners.

People kept asking him whether he won. "I just said, 'Keep watching!' ... The fun was actually in watching. It felt like a game show with all the cheering," he said.

Bindra says the show was a fun challenge. "It really brings out your inner qualities with planning and time management," he said. "If I get a chance

again, I'd love to showcase my skills again."

Until then, the chef will celebrate his win, which he considers a win for Houston and the Sikh community, too.

Bindra told Eater this could be the first time a turbaned chef from the community has won a reality TV cooking competition like Chopped, which is part of the reason he busted out with the Punjabi phrase "Balle Balle" and a popular dance Punjabi dance move following his win.

He's hoping to share the experience, too. Bindra says he'll donate some of his \$10,000 to charity, particularly the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

The remainder will go to gadgets for his kitchen, gifts for his son, and partying with his friends. Then, after restaurant week, he'll offer a three-course Chopped menu at Amrina, with a twist on the three dishes featured on the show, so diners can get a literal taste.

Before crafting the Amrina concept alongside co-owners and brothers Surpreet and Preet Paul Singh in 2022, Bindra spent several years at the Michelin Guide-featured Northern Indian restaurant Punjab Grill in Washington, DC.

Indian-origin UK based professor Jasjit Singh appointed by Singapore National University to internationally raise appreciation of Sikh way of life



UK-based Indian-origin academician Jasjit Singh has been appointed by as a visiting faculty by the University of Singapore to conduct lectures on Sikh beliefs and raise appreciation of the Sikh way of life internationally.

AUGUST 24, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): The prestigious National University of Singapore on Wednesday, August 23, appointed UK-based Indian-origin academician Jasjit Singh as a visiting faculty to conduct lectures on Sikh beliefs and raise appreciation of the Sikh way of life internationally.

Singh, 51, currently an associate professor at the UK's University of Leeds, is considered a leading authority in Sikh studies.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Sikh leader who 'threatened' to burn gurdwara in California's Bakersfield to appear in court



Rajvir Singh will be making an appearance in Kern County Court for a motion on August 31 for a preliminary hearing

PARMINDER SINGH AUJLA

AUGUST 21, 2023

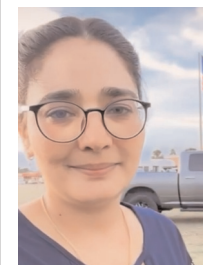
BAKERSFIELD, CA (TIP): A former Bakersfield city council Sikh candidate, who allegedly threatened to burn down a gurdwara in a California city, will be making a court appearance on August 31 for a preliminary hearing, a media report said.

Rajvir Singh Gill, 60, was arrested in March on suspicion of trying to hire hitmen to shoot members of Bakersfield Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Ji Khalsa Darbar, and burn down the property, the media reported.

Gill, charged with seven counts of soliciting specified criminal acts, is expected to be back in Kern County Court for a motion on August 31, the news report said.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian girl shot dead by boyfriend in US; family in India waits for her body



Nav Saran, a popular blogger and social media personality, was shot dead by her boyfriend Simranjit Singh in US

AUGUST 25, 2023

LUDHIANA / NEW YORK (TIP): Social media activities of once a ruralite girl belonging to a small peasant family of Brahmampur village in Ludhiana district cost her dear as she was shot dead by her friend after inviting her to Westfield Galleria Mall in Roseville, USA, on Saturday morning.

The family, headed by Harwinder Singh alias Satnam Baba, is now running from pillar to post to get the body of their daughter back to India, which is still lying in a morgue in custody of Roseville Police.

Identified as Simranjit Singh (29), the alleged killer has been booked for homicide by the Placer County Jail Police.

Harpreet Kaur alias Nav Saran (34), who, along with her siblings had toiled hard in fields during her stay at Brahmampur, had shifted to Malaysia in search of greener pastures around nine years ago.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Vivek Ramaswamy is a 'very promising candidate', says Elon Musk

AUGUST 18, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Republican presidential aspirant Vivek Ramaswamy has received a big shout-out from Elon Musk, the billionaire Tesla and SpaceX CEO.

"He is a very promising candidate," Musk posted on X, formerly Twitter, after watching Ramaswamy's video interview with former Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson.

He also reposted a snippet of the interview on X. In the 45-minute interview, Ramaswamy, the youngest Republican presidential contender at 37, spoke about the "void" he is trying to fill in American politics.

Ramaswamy also argued that the US is at a point where the "government and the broader establishment believe that the citizens of the nation cannot be trusted with the truth."

Praising the candidate after the interview, Carlson, the former Fox News primetime host said that the Republican hopeful is "one of the best-versed voices in policy" he has spoken with.

"Vivek Ramaswamy is the youngest Republican presidential candidate ever. He's worth listening to," Carlson wrote.

The Musk endorsement was considered intriguing given the history between Musk and Ramaswamy. A few months ago, the Republican leader had castigated



Vivek Ramaswamy has earned an endorsement from Musk who tweeted "He is a very promising candidate".

Musk's interactions with Chinese leaders during a trip to China.

Musk, who had met China's Foreign Minister and announced plans to expand his business in the country, drew criticism from Ramaswamy, who accused China of manipulating prominent American business leaders to advance its agenda.

"It's deeply concerning that Elon Musk met with China's foreign minister...," Ramaswamy then wrote.

Ramaswamy, dubbed by the New Yorker magazine as the "CEO of Anti-Woke Inc," is one of three Indian American

Republican candidates with Nikki Haley and Hirsh Vardhan Singh setting their sights on the 2024 White House race.

Ramaswamy was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, and hails from a family of Indian immigrants. His father is an engineer at General Electric and his mother a geriatric psychiatrist.

A self-proclaimed "capitalist and citizen," Ramaswamy studied at Harvard and Yale universities and reportedly has a net worth exceeding \$500 million.

The biotech entrepreneur has emerged as a breakout candidate in the Republican primaries as he challenges former US President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for a Republican nomination.

Notably, Ramaswamy, who wears his Hindu faith on his sleeve, has managed to carve a distinct niche in a party traditionally dominated by evangelical Christians.

His campaign message emphasizes the alignment of his Hindu values with the Judeo-Christian foundation of the United States.

Ramaswamy has risen in Republican primary polls according to RealClearPolitics, placing third behind former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis with 6.4% percent support.

Indian-origin Suri Sehgal gets Swaminathan Award for leadership in agriculture



Dr. Surinder (Suri) Sehgal has received the prestigious Dr. MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture for 2022

AUGUST 22, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Dr. Surinder (Suri) Sehgal, visionary agricultural entrepreneur, and founder of SM Sehgal Foundation (India) and Sehgal Foundation (USA), has received the prestigious Dr. MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture for 2022.

The award is presented annually to an eminent agricultural expert who has made remarkable contributions towards enhancing food security, alleviating poverty, and effecting positive change within the farming community and the national agricultural landscape.

Noted India-based think tank, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) instituted this award in 2004 in honor of Dr. MS Swaminathan, a doyen of Indian agriculture. Twelve eminent agricultural leaders have received this award so far. Dr. Suri Sehgal was a global leader in the development and spread of the hybrid seed industry worldwide and helped build the Indian seed sector through the establishment of Proagro Group of seed companies (now Bayer) and Hytech Seed India based in Hyderabad, India.

He is renowned for his unwavering commitment to empowering communities and fostering sustainable agricultural practices through his development initiatives through S M Sehgal Foundation (India) and Sehgal Foundation (USA).

SM Sehgal Foundation (SMSF) reaches more than 4.2 million people in 2,040 villages in India. SMSF has been instrumental in improving availability, access, and quality of water; improved farming practices and farmer income; promoted local participation, especially women, in government programs; empowered village youth, especially girls, with digital and life skills learning; transformed school environments; and continues to expand their reach to empower rural India. During the event, a short film on Dr. Sehgal's life and his transformational impact on farmers and rural communities in India and elsewhere was shown.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American researcher Nalinikanth Kotagiri leads imaging study to speedily diagnose lung infections

AUGUST 21, 2023

CINCINNATI (TIP): A federally funded study, led by an Indian American researcher Nalinikanth Kotagiri, looks to develop a new imaging method that can identify certain types of lung infections - in real-time - in order to speed up treatment for critically ill patients.

Kotagiri, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the UC James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy, has been awarded a five-year \$3 million, R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to develop and study the effectiveness of different kinds of injectable probes (metallic contrast agents) that would collect at the site of the infection and immediately light up under a nuclear imaging machine, known as a PET scan, according to a University of Cincinnati press release.

Currently, radiologists use chest X-rays to confirm the diagnosis of pneumonia and other infections in the lungs. An X-ray, however, cannot determine the specifics of the infection or whether the infection is bacterial, viral or fungal. A specific diagnosis can only be determined by a pathologist, after culturing a sample of lung tissue which is collected from an invasive procedure (called a bronchoscopy) and takes time, typically two to three days. Critically ill patients, however, such as those with infectious pneumonia and underlying conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), might not have time to spare, says Kotagiri.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Nalinikanth Kotagiri has been awarded a five-year \$3 million, R01 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) to develop a new imaging method that can identify certain types of lung infections in real-time. Photo/Colleen Kelley - University of Cincinnati

Indian American family of Punjabi-origin owns Miss World America pageant

AUGUST 25, 2023

SEATTLE, WA (TIP): An Indian-origin family now owns the Miss World America pageant, preliminary to the Miss World competition.

The family comprises Ekta, who belongs to Abohar, and husband Sanjay Saini of Ludhiana.

Earlier, they were appointed new national directors of Miss World America pageant.

Last year, their daughter, Shree Saini, won the Miss World America contest and was the first runners-up in the Miss World pageant. Shree is the first Indian-American Miss World America, who has served with over one hundred non-profit organizations.

The Miss World Organisation, located in the UK, recently announced new national directors for the US in Ekta and Sanjay Saini, based in Washington state.

The National Miss World America organization's headquarters for the US is now in Seattle, Washington.

Ekta and Sanjay are the first of south-Asian descent to hold this position and hope to change the landscape of the Miss World America Organization by creating the most giving pageant in the world and transforming the lives of its contestants.



Ekta and Sanjay Saini are the first of South-Asian descent to hold the positions of national directors of Miss World America pageant

Parliament of the World's Religions 2023 impels faiths toward activism

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA
AUGUST 24, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): Parliament of the World's Religions (PoWR) 2023 convened in Chicago from August 14-18 under the chairmanship of an Indian American, Nitin Ajmera, tried to propel faith groups towards activism. The title makes the focus clear: 'A Call to Conscience: Defending Freedom & Human Rights'.

Knowing that PoWR has emerged as the biggest interfaith movement in the world, they are pushing for faith groups to get involved in global issues like social justice and climate action. Quite a few symposiums scheduled for the 5-day event had these themes. The presence of Black Lives Matter in the exhibition area also made a point.

When queried, Nitin Ajmera, a Jain CPA from Plainview, NY, explained to me, "Our pressing problems are not about respecting each other's religion anymore. What we are now striving for is how our faith and religious groups support solutions to global problems. What are we going to do about climate change that is going to make our lives difficult in 30 to 50 years? What are we going to do about issues like inequality?"

However, Eric Lawson, senior leader of Brahma Kumaris, who is a regular at PoWRs, is unsure of the Parliament's transition away from reflection, introversion, and qualities of meditation.



Audience at the opening session

PoWR, as we know, was revived in 1993, a century after its first convening in Chicago in 1893, made famous by the electric speech by Swami Vivekananda that became an important contact between the East and the West.

According to the organizers, over 6,500 people from 95 countries belonging to over 200 religious-spiritual groups ranging from Buddhists to Zoroastrians attended the massive event at the McCormick Place convention center in the Windy City. An estimated 500 people flew in from India. The diversity of humankind and the bonhomie witnessed among people, many wearing their colorful ethnic attires was worth a watch.

The convention was opened by the Mayor of Chicago, Brandon Johnson. US ambassador-at-large for religious freedom, Rashad Husain, said the US strives to protect religious freedom for all everywhere in the world. Dignitaries who sent video messages included UN Secretary-General António Guterres,



Jesse Jackson is honored

former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and US Senator Dick Durbin.

Religious leaders who graced the convention included Cardinal Blasé J. Cupich from Chicago, Swami Ishatmananda of Vedanta Society - Chicago, and Bhai Mohinder Singh, Chairman of Nishkam Sewak Jatha, UK.

The Parade of Faiths on August 13 which preceded the Parliament, was a colorful affair with hundreds of people from different faith groups based in Chicago marching near the convention venue. The Sikh group was visibly the largest. The Sikh community also served the langar lunch for all convention attendees over 5 days. The community raised half a million dollars for the purpose, an insider shared, adding that local trade unions resisted the free meals inside the venue, so they had to pitch tents outside for langar.

At the parade, I spotted Hindu spiritual guru Amma Sri Karunamayi ensconced in a ceremonial horse-driven carriage, and Jain guru Acharya Lokesh Muni.

With over 600 breakout panels and



The Sikh community served the langar (free lunch) to all convention attendees over 5 days.



Author at the Mormons' booth

workshops, it was hard to decide which ones to attend. You also needed many hours to browse at the 200 booths in the exhibition hall, to gawk at the art exhibits, or to walk the labyrinth. I made it a point to attend the soul-satisfying Sacred Music Night on August 17, where the wheelchair-bound civil rights icon Jesse Jackson was honored.

(Parveen Chopra, founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, attended the Parliament of the World's Religions)

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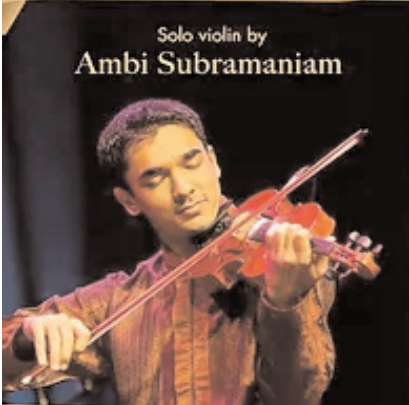
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Independence Day of India celebrated at Town of Oyster Bay



L to R: Indu Jaiswal, Dr Nori, Jagdish Sewhani, Joseph Saladino, Bobby Kumar, Kamlesh Mehta, Jay Singh, Dyal Singh



AUGUST 23, 2023
OYSTER BAY, NY (TIP): Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino hosted a celebration of the 77th Independence Day of India at Town headquarters on August 15.

Mr. Saladino hoisted the Indian National flag and congratulated the Indian American community on the occasion.

Members of the Indian American community participated.

L to R: Pradeep Tandon, Joseph Saladino, Jagdish Sewhani, Narinder Kapur

Legislator Lafazan Honors East Norwich's Award-Winning Junior Firefighters

Award-winning Junior firefighters were honored by Legislator Lafazan

Photo credit/ Office of Legislator Joshua Lafazan



AUGUST 24, 2023

EAST NORWICH, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (D - Woodbury) recently honored the 19 members and eight advisors of East Norwich Volunteer Fire Company No. 1's Junior Firefighters for their accomplishments in community service.

The Juniors received the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) Youth Group of the Year and National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) National Junior Firefighter Program of the Year awards. Launched in 1994, the

East Norwich Juniors teach valuable firefighting and safety skills to their 12 - 17-year-old members, including hose lines, aerial and ground ladders, forcible entry, bailout, and more.

"These outstanding volunteers are proudly continuing the rich tradition of service that has sustained Long Island's volunteer fire departments for generations," Legislator Lafazan said. "It was truly a privilege to honor this amazing group of young people, and we are all so grateful for the fact that men and women courageously step up to keep us safe!"

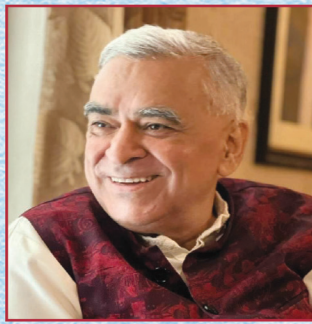


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INDIA THRIVES IN ITS SMALL TOWNS WHERE THE MIRACLE OF HUMAN CAPITAL HAPPENS



BY RAJESH
RAMACHANDRAN

"BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE SUCH AS SARABHAI, SATISH DHAWAN, BRAHM PRAKASH AND APJ ABDUL KALAM AND LESSER-KNOWN ONES LIKE AE MUTHUNAYAGAM HAVE OVER THE DECADES BUILT UP THE EDIFICE WHICH HAS NOW BECOME A BEACON OF INDIA'S HOPE AND SELF-ASSURANCE. BUT WHAT MAKES ISRO STAND OUT IS THAT IT SUCCEEDED WHERE MANY PROJECTS INITIATED BY THE NATION-BUILDERS FAILED OR STRUGGLED TO STAY AFLOAT. IN THE LAST 30 YEARS, AFTER THE NARASIMHA RAO GOVERNMENT OPENED UP THE COUNTRY TO UNFAIR COMPETITION, DISMANTLING THE STRUCTURES THAT WERE PAINSTAKINGLY BUILT OVER DECADES, MOST OF THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE NATION WERE EITHER SOLD OFF TO COMPRADOR BOURGEOISIE OR MADE VALUELESS. WHY, EVEN THE FAMED STEEL FRAME OF THE GOVERNMENT STARTED RUSTING AND BREAKING UNDER OVERBEARING POLITICAL INTERFERENCE."

Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, has in a smart alec social media post made his constituents feel good by pointing out that while IITians went to Silicon Valley, the CET (College of Engineering, Trivandrum) alumni took India to the



ISRO succeeded where many projects initiated by the nation-builders failed or struggled to stay afloat. Credit / PTI

moon. There are quite a few engineers from CET in the team that made the moon mission a success. Of course, Tharoor also acknowledges the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman's alma mater in the neighboring district, Kollam. Tharoor's wisecrack has a great sociological truth in it. The tier-two towns are building the new India. Their vast reserves of human capital remain unappreciated and even unmapped.

The only prayer to our politicians is not to reduce universities and other institutions of higher education to their political fiefs.

S Somanath, the ISRO head, did his BTEch in mechanical engineering from Thangal Kunju Musaliar College of Engineering (TKMCE) from the same batch as that of my brother and some of my closest friends. Then, most of my family, friends and neighbors went to TKMCE; and nobody held much in store for those like me who didn't make it. Such was the veneration for this college, which those outside the state would not even have heard of. Almost every small town in India holds one such mystery - a college or an institution that lets its children soar, literally to the heavens.

For Kollam, this mystery was an unlettered man who made millions selling cashew nuts. He actually turned this town into a global hub of cashew trade. And he put his hard-earned money in a newspaper, which folded up, and also two colleges. While hailing Somanath's success, one has to pay homage to philanthropist Thangal Kunju Musaliar, who invited the President of India to lay the foundation stone to build Kerala's first private engineering college in 1956 with his own money and threw it open to meritorious students. And Somanath was a TKMCE topper who walked into Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram for a low-paying sarkari job.

Chandrayaan-3's project director P Veeramuthuvel is from a similar small

town, Villupuram, in Tamil Nadu. Veeramuthuvel first did a diploma from a local private polytechnic before joining an engineering college to get a degree in mechanical engineering. Sure, it would be unfair for a few newbies to lay claim to ISRO's success. It was indeed the grand vision of the country's founding fathers that led to this success, no doubt. Amongst our foreign-educated nation-builders Gandhi, Nehru, Bose, Patel and Ambedkar should be counted Homi Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai, too. And a grateful ISRO has rightly named the space vehicle that landed on the moon Vikram; Sarabhai's dreams indeed touched down on the moon.

Brilliant scientists of international repute such as Sarabhai, Satish Dhawan, Brahm Prakash and APJ Abdul Kalam and lesser-known ones like AE Muthunayagam have over the decades built up the edifice which has now become a beacon of India's hope and self-assurance. But what makes ISRO stand out is that it succeeded where many projects initiated by the nation-builders failed or struggled to stay afloat. In the last 30 years, after the Narasimha Rao government opened up the country to unfair competition, dismantling the structures that were painstakingly built over decades, most of the crown jewels of the nation were either sold off to comprador bourgeoisie or made valueless. Why, even the famed steel frame of the government started rusting and breaking under overbearing political interference.

It is in this context that these sarkari engineers from tier-two towns need to be lauded. Their accents give away the regional-language medium schools they went to. But their success bears testimony to the bottomless small-town talent pools. There may not be many institutions like ISRO that had to bear the brunt of public scrutiny, ridicule and derision. Initially, the space scientists and engineers were laughed at for their regular, repeated failures. Thumba

THE TIER-TWO TOWNS ARE BUILDING THE NEW INDIA. THEIR VAST RESERVES OF HUMAN CAPITAL REMAIN UNAPPRECIATED AND EVEN UNMAPPED.

Equatorial Rocket Launching Station was the first such facility to be set up in the country in 1963 and anybody who worked there would always be asked: does any of your rockets ever go up?

Then came the ISRO spy scandal in the 1990s - a false case foisted by the local police in Kerala and a couple of Intelligence Bureau officials. Even the families of ISRO employees were not spared by ugly mobs, which even hurled stones at the space station's buses ferrying scientists and engineers. Still, these young engineers did not lose heart. Even by the normal standards of measuring merit, they were not the best in the country. Toppers, obviously, were the IITians with their own Bombay-Delhi-Madras hierarchy, who would not count these poor cousins as even second best. So, with no glamour, no vanity degree from foreign shores, these poorly paid engineers were left to fend for themselves with the worst possible budget allocation in the world of space exploration.

Now, it has become a self-deprecatory joke for ISRO engineers to say that since they live frugally on government salaries, they can carry out space missions on shoestring budgets. But this austerity is not just about government pay and perks; it's also about a tier-two attitude. While the best students after studying in elite colleges funded by Indian taxpayers enrich US Big Tech companies or some banker in Wall Street, it is left to the tier-two town boy or girl to conceive data localization or to reinvent the wheel to ensure that the Indian hardware industry does not get crushed by a Chinese embargo or western sanctions. All this has been happening without much help from our governments and the only prayer to our politicians is not to reduce universities and other institutions of higher education to their political fiefs. Otherwise, there won't be any tier-two talent either.

With some investment, autonomy and spirit of enquiry, the nation can reap rich dividends in tech advancements from the tier-two people. India thrives in its small towns, but the miracle of the Indian human capital is that it is not merely geographical, not just about small places, but also includes those deprived of opportunities in big cities.

(The author is Editor-in-chief of Tribune Group of newspapers)

BRICS grouping expands to a team of eleven

THE NEW MEMBERS ARE NEITHER AVERSE TO INDIA NOR CAN BE SEEN AS ONLY PRO-CHINESE. SOME HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE WEST.

"REGARDING 'DEPOLARIZATION', IT SEEMS TO BE AN OVERRATED CONCEPT. DESPITE PROCLAIMED CHINESE STRENGTH, ITS ECONOMY IS NOT DOING WELL. RUSSIA IS UNDER SANCTIONS. SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY ITSELF IS IN THE DOLDRUMS. THE ORIGINAL REASON FOR THE FORMATION OF BRICS WAS TO BRING TOGETHER A GROUP OF ROBUST EMERGING ECONOMIES, WHICH HAD SLOWED DOWN. COUNTRIES WITHIN BRICS ARE TRADING AMONG THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN CURRENCIES. NOW, MORE EFFORTS WILL BE MADE. THE FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS WILL DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF LOCAL CURRENCIES, PAYMENT INSTRUMENTS AND PLATFORMS, AND REPORT AT THE NEXT SUMMIT IN RUSSIA. THE NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK (NDB) IS ALSO MAKING AN EFFORT IN THAT DIRECTION BUT TRADING IN THEIR OWN CURRENCIES WITHOUT A CLEAR REFERENCE CURRENCY, OR A STATED MONETARY POLICY, SEEMS FAR."



Leaders of BRICS nations met in Johannesburg this week.

Credit / PTI

The 15th BRICS summit, the first in-person edition since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic, was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, earlier this week. Its key outcome was a 94-paragraph communique; deciding to add six members and holding a BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue encompassing almost half of the Non-Aligned Movement countries were its highlights.

There were some major points of interest regarding this summit. The first was what direction it would take. Would it be more of a Chinese and Russian-backed view of the growing bipolarity and become a part of it, or would it remain a middle-of-the-road alternative? BRICS came into being as emerging economies wanted an alternative to the Bretton Woods system. The financial crisis of 2008 led to the first BRICS summit in 2009 and the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.

Amid the Ukraine crisis, China has challenged the US and made more friends. Hence, the expansion of BRICS is viewed as an opportunity to create a phalanx of countries which would be beholden to China and its economic might, and a challenge the US domination.

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) trilateral of 2003 preceded BRICS. It was a three-continent, three-democracy grouping of the Global South. When South Africa was included in BRICS, IBSA more or less got merged with it and has had no separate summit since 2011.

As China and Russia are pushing BRICS towards an anti-US stance, the IBSA could have prevented BRICS from moving in that direction. The IBSA coordination would also have been useful in the context of the G20 presidency, currently held by India and to be taken

by Brazil and South Africa (endorsed in the Johannesburg Declaration). However, these hopes were belied because South Africa has largely followed the Chinese lead in pursuing the BRICS goals.

This is a loss for the Global South. South Africa invited 69 countries, including all African nations, to the BRICS summit. They included the 22 countries that had formally requested to join it. Holding such a large, unwieldy event was perhaps an effort by South Africa, backed by China, to indicate that they too - like India - are champions of the Global South.

Besides this approach, the other important aspects were expansion, what shape it would take and the so-called effort towards 'de dollarization'. It was widely expected that India and Brazil would resist quick expansion, and instead look for a criteria-based approach. Up to a point in the summit, it appeared that this was the way things would go and other countries would be included in a phased membership process, beginning with BRICS Plus or BRICS partners, which could later graduate to membership. In the early stages of the summit, after much effort, a document on the process and the criteria for expansion was adopted. Within a day of that, six new members were announced. The expectation that there would be some processes undertaken before that was belied. The communique does say that the criteria established now will have the foreign ministers look at new partners, which means that the BRICS expansion is not yet over.

In the later stages of the summit, the China-Russia-South Africa combine pushed through an immediate expansion. India and Brazil were not averse to it and, therefore, seemed ready with who they were to support in case of



BY GURJIT SINGH

expansion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announced meetings prior to the summit included those with the leaders of Iran and Ethiopia, who were admitted as members. The PM also met Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique, a major energy partner, and Senegal President Macky Sall, who had approached India for the African Union's admission to the G20.

Indian support for Argentina, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE was easier as they are all New Delhi's strategic partners. While the expansion was virtually sudden, the new members admitted are neither averse to India nor can be seen as only pro-Chinese. Some have good relations with the US and the West as well.

The criteria are not yet known. Nigeria and Indonesia, both big countries with emerging economy status, were ignored. Are democracy and economic status not criteria for membership? Sources say that, perhaps, Nigeria and Indonesia were diffident about joining BRICS. Perhaps, it was the strong lobbying by those ultimately admitted that led to them getting ahead in the process.

Regarding 'de dollarization', it seems to be an overrated concept. Despite proclaimed Chinese strength, its economy is not doing well. Russia is under sanctions. South African economy itself is in the doldrums. The original reason for the formation of BRICS was to bring together a group of robust emerging economies, which had slowed down. Countries within BRICS are trading among themselves in their own currencies. Now, more efforts will be made. The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors will discuss the issue of local currencies, payment instruments and platforms, and report at the next summit in Russia. The New Development Bank (NDB) is also making an effort in that direction but trading in their own currencies without a clear reference currency, or a stated monetary policy, seems far.

The best part of BRICS has been NDB, which is modest but steady. The new members need to contribute to it in equal measure and not be junior partners. Some like the UAE and Saudi Arabia have robust capacities and can be expected to invest. Among the new members, the UAE and Egypt are now in the NDB, as are Bangladesh and Uruguay, but the other new entrants need to join the bank.

The other new members would have some problems since they are eagerly looking for support rather than to contribute. Therefore, the criteria to expand BRICS should have included a minimum threshold of GDP, and the ability to contribute to BRICS and the NDB. After all, BRICS membership should not bring only the right to milk the system, but also to be an important part of a pole in the preferred multipolar order.

(The author is a former ambassador)

India's Moon Milestone

BESIDES TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC GOALS, LUNAR MISSIONS HAVE GREAT GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE



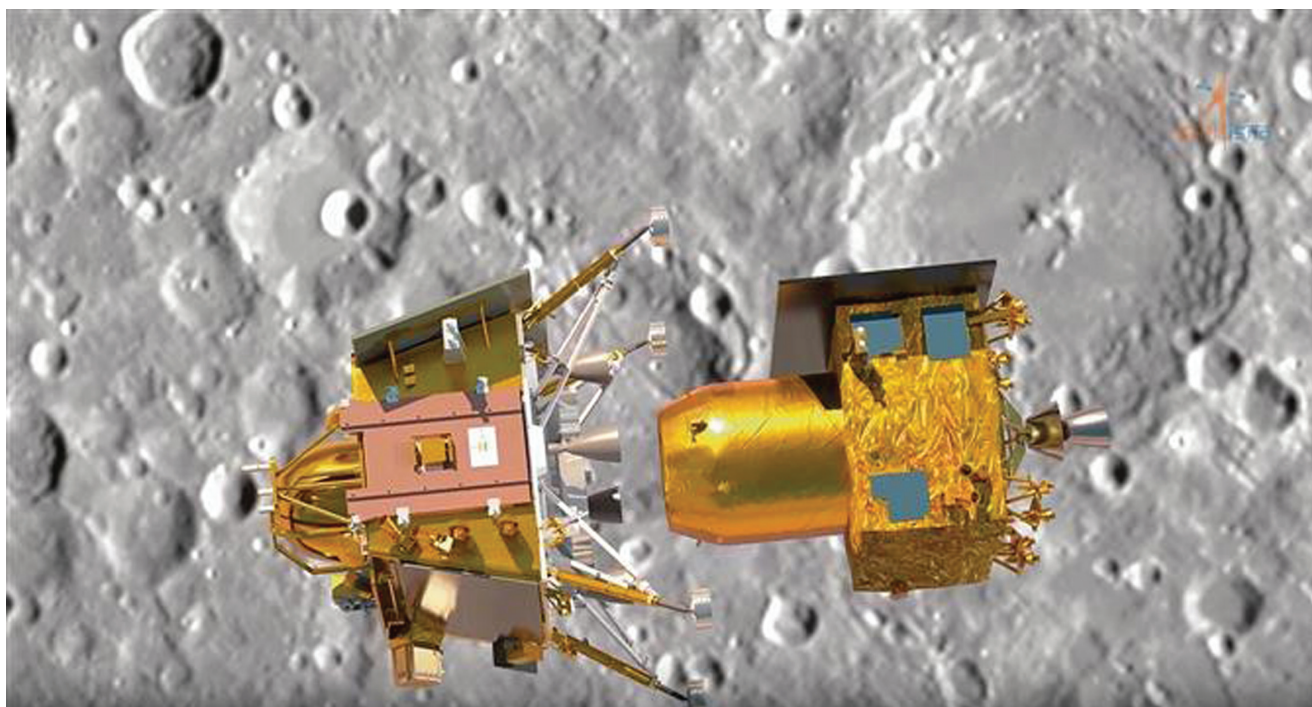
BY DINESH C.
SHARMA

"BESIDES THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC GOALS, THE MOON MISSIONS HAVE GREAT GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE SPACE RACE WAS MOSTLY DRIVEN BY POLITICAL AMBITIONS AND THE COLD WAR. AFTER THE USA WON THE FIRST ROUND BY ACCOMPLISHING A MANNED MISSION ON THE MOON, THE SOVIETS TOOK TO ROBOTIC MISSIONS FOR LUNAR EXPLORATION AND PIONEERED ROVER AND 'SAMPLE RETURN' MISSIONS. DECADES LATER, CHINA JOINED THE RACE AND HAS EXECUTED LANDER AND SAMPLE RETURN MISSIONS; IT PLANS TO SEND A MANNED MISSION TO THE MOON BY 2030. ITS YUTU-2 ROVER, WHICH LANDED IN JANUARY 2019, IS STILL ALIVE ON THE LUNAR SURFACE. RUSSIA REVIVED ITS INTEREST IN LUNAR MISSIONS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY ITS LATEST LANDER-ROVER LUNAR MISSION WHICH FAILED DAYS AHEAD OF INDIA'S SUCCEEDED. AN AGGRESSIVE SPACE PROGRAMME BEING PURSUED BY CHINA, STEADY PROGRESS BEING MADE BY INDIA AND NEW COLLABORATION EMERGING BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA HAVE ADDED NEW DIMENSIONS TO THE CONTEMPORARY SPACE RACE."

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has executed one of its most complex missions till now. Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the surface of the moon on Wednesday. The lander, with the rover in its belly, descended on the moon as planned, and is expected to explore the lunar surface over the next 14 days. This is not only a scientific and technological landmark but also marks India's entry into an exclusive club of spacefaring nations which have accomplished a soft landing on the moon. Since the beginning of the space age over half a century ago, only three countries have been able to achieve a soft landing on the moon - the USA, Soviet Union/Russia and China.

This is not only a scientific and technological landmark but also marks India's entry into an exclusive club of spacefaring nations.

Chandrayaan-3 is India's fourth deep-space mission (three lunar missions and one to Mars) and the second one designed to soft-land on the lunar surface. Indian space scientists began thinking of deep-space missions around 2000 as a logical next step after having launched several communication, remote sensing and earth observation satellites. The three lunar missions have had clear scientific and technological objectives. The overall objective is to develop and demonstrate end-to-end technological capability to design, fabricate, launch



Chandrayaan-3 was designed to achieve what its predecessor could not.

Credit / ANI

and operate deep-space missions. Chandrayaan-1, launched in October 2008, consisted of an orbiter and the Moon Impact Probe (MIP) that was designed to crash into the lunar surface (as opposed to landing softly). The orbiter was successfully placed around the moon to collect chemical, mineralogical and photo-geological data from the lunar surface using onboard scientific instruments. The MIP was crash-landed into the lunar surface near the Shackleton Crater on the lunar south pole.

Chandrayaan-2, launched in August 2019, was an advancement over the first mission as it included a lander and a rover in addition to the orbiter. The lander and the rover were to be placed on the lunar surface through soft landing, unlike the MIP of Chandrayaan-1. While the orbiter was successfully placed in the lunar orbit and ejected the lander module, its soft landing on the lunar surface could not be achieved. The present mission, Chandrayaan-3, did not have an orbiter component. Its primary objective was to deploy the lander and the rover to carry out scientific experiments. Future missions will have to be designed to not only land on the lunar surface but also bring soil and rock samples back to Earth.

The missions so far have yielded important scientific results. During its freefall, the MIP released by Chandrayaan-1 collected valuable data and the plume it produced after it hit the lunar surface suggested the existence of water in the lunar atmosphere. Subsequent analysis of data collected by instruments in the orbiter, such as the Moon Mineralogical Mapper, confirmed the presence of water-bearing molecules. The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter carried a camera of very high resolution (0.3 meters), providing data which proved to be of great value to the global scientific community. The orbiter has lasted much longer than its planned life of one year. The scientific payloads on the lander and the rover in the present mission are expected to yield new data about the chemical and elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks.

The journeys to the moon have been rocky for ISRO. Chandrayaan-1 did not last its designed mission life of two years. It faced technical issues from November 2008 onwards due to the abnormally high heating of some of its instruments. After a few months, its orbit was raised from 100 km to 200 km to keep the onboard temperature at tolerable levels. Then, it suffered a sensor failure, which ultimately made the satellite inoperable. ISRO lost communication with Chandrayaan-1 on August 29,

2009. Chandrayaan-2 was a partial success as the orbiter was successfully transported and placed in the lunar orbit, but the lander failed to touch down as planned. Chandrayaan-3 was designed to achieve that task. Instead of an orbiter, it had a propulsion module to carry the lander and rover from the injection orbit till the 100-km lunar orbit.

Besides the technological and scientific goals, the moon missions have great geopolitical significance. The space race was mostly driven by political ambitions and the Cold War. After the USA won the first round by accomplishing a manned mission on the moon, the Soviets took to robotic missions for lunar exploration and pioneered rover and 'sample return' missions. Decades later, China joined the race and has executed lander and sample return missions; it plans to send a manned mission to the moon by 2030. Its Yutu-2 rover, which landed in January 2019, is still alive on the lunar surface. Russia revived its interest in lunar missions, as demonstrated by its latest lander-rover lunar mission which failed days ahead of India's succeeded. An aggressive space programme being pursued by China, steady progress being made by India and new collaboration emerging between China and Russia have added new dimensions to the contemporary space race.

Chandrayaan-1 was a turning point for ISRO not only because it was its first deep-space mission but also because it attracted much wider public attention. The mission fired the public imagination in many ways. For instance, ISRO was flooded with applications from aspiring scientists and engineers wanting to work for it. All this made the agency realize the importance of public engagement. Then followed the Mars Orbiter Mission, which also garnered attention. In the run-up to Chandrayaan-3, the space agency aggressively leveraged social media platforms to reach out to the public with updates and images of the lunar surface taken by the lander module. For the first time, ISRO invited educational institutions to "actively publicize" the mission and organize live-streaming of the Chandrayaan-3 soft landing in schools and colleges. While ISRO reaching out to educational institutions is welcome, such engagement should go beyond publicity. Missions like Chandrayaan should be used to promote greater understanding of science and scientific temper. This is much needed at a time when pseudoscience is on the rise and scientific ideas are under attack.

(The author is a Science Commentator)

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India Day Parade organized by the Federation of Indian Associations NYNJCT (FIA) over the Years in Pics by Jay Mandal



Photos by Jay Mandal/ on assignment

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA

Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) came into being in 1977 after changing the name of umbrella organization "Joint Committee of Indian Organizations" founded in 1975, under the leadership of Rajan Ghosh. The main goal of this organization was to celebrate India's Independence and Republic days in Tristate area by bringing under one roof Indian students organizations: India Club of New York University, India Club of Columbia University and Association of Indians in America, The Bharathi Society of America and the Tagore Society of America. The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin

(GOPIO) Founder, Thomas Abraham, a Christian from Kerala, was elected First President of FIA in 1977. The India Day Parade has since been an annual feature.

A notable addition to the annual parade was made in 1983 to have a film star as Parade's Grand Marshal. Bollywood actor- Sunil Dutt- was the first to be invited as the Grand Marshal of the Parade, and from then on it became a tradition to have a Bollywood actor as Parade's Grand Marshal.

Ace photographer Jay Mandal presents here selected photographs of India Day Parade organized by the FIA from 2004 to 2019

Also included here are some photographs from

Independence Day celebration at the Indian Consulate in New York in 2016. It was the 1st time that in 2016 the Independence Day of India was celebrated in the street outside the Indian Consulate in New York. Then Deputy Consul General and presently India's Ambassador to Guatemala, Manoj Mahapatra was instrumental to get the city's permission, and the Indian Tricolor was hoisted by then MOS MJ Akbar on 64th Street, between 5th Ave and Madison Ave.

Included here are also a few pictures of Independence Day celebration at the Permanent Mission of India in 2018.

2004



2005



2006



CONTD FROM PAGE 12

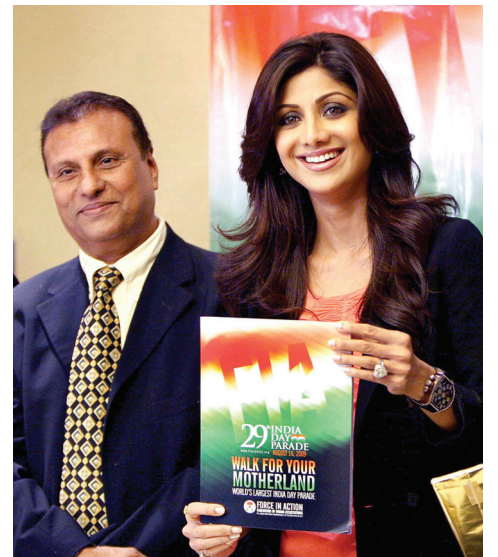
2007



2008



2008



2011



CONTD ON PAGE 24

Trump rakes up India tax issue; says would impose reciprocal tax if voted to power

AUGUST 21, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former US president Donald Trump, who is seeking his term, has once again raised the issue of high tax by India on certain American products in particular the iconic Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and has threatened to slap with reciprocal tax if voted to power in the 2024 presidential elections.

During his first term as the US president, Trump described India as a "tariff king" and in May 2019, terminated India's preferential market access -- Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) -- to the United States alleging India has not given the United States "equitable and reasonable access to its markets."

In an interview to Larry Kudlow of Fox Business News, Trump came down heavily on India tax rates, which he alleged was quite high.

"The other thing I want to have is a matching tax where, if India charges us - India is very big with tariffs. I mean, I saw it with Harley-Davidson. I was saying, how do you do in a place like India? Oh, no good sir. Why? They have 100 per cent and 150 per cent and 200 per cent tariffs," said the former president.

"So, I said, so they can sell their Indian motorbike. They actually make a bike, an Indian motorbike. They can sell that into our country with no tax, no tariff, but when you make a Harley, when you send it over there -- because they were doing no business. I said, how come you don't do business with India? The tariff is so high that nobody wants it. But what they want us to do is, they want us to go over and build a plant, and then you have no tariff," Trump said.

"They said, well, that's not good. That's not our deal, OK? That's not our deal. And I came down very hard on them. But

India is very big. Brazil is very big on tariffs, I mean, very, very big. We had a couple of people, like the senator from a place called Pennsylvania that I love. But this guy was just horrendous. I said, let me ask you a question. If India is charging us 200 per cent, and we're charging them nothing for products, can we charge them 100 per cent? No, sir, that's not free trade. Can we charge them 50 per cent? No, sir. Twenty-five, 10, anything? No. I said, what the hell is wrong? There's something wrong. You know what I'm talking about," he said.

"If India is charging us too, so what I want to have is a -- call it retribution. You could call it whatever you want. If they are charging us, we charge them," Trump said in response to a question.

The former president, who is facing a series of court cases and indictments, is leading the Republican presidential primaries, and accounts for more than



In an interview to Larry Kudlow of Fox Business News, Trump came down heavily on India tax rates, which he alleged was quite high.

half of the GOP votes according to major national polls.

(Source: PTI)

Vivek Ramaswamy's popularity surges with impressive fundraising post-debate

AUGUST 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American multimillionaire biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy's popularity rating and online fundraising have surged, a day after his impressive performance at the first Republican presidential primary debate.



According to the Ramaswamy campaign, the 38-year-old presidential aspirant raised more than USD 450,000, with an average donation of USD 38, in the first hour after the debate on Wednesday, August 23.

According to the Ramaswamy campaign, the 38-year-old presidential aspirant raised more than USD 450,000, with an average donation of USD 38, in the first hour after the debate on Wednesday.

The entrepreneur-turned-politician was being hit hard by three of his top rivals - former New Jersey Governor Chris Christies, former Vice President Mike Pence and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

"In Trump's absence, Ramaswamy drives the GOP debate," popular Axis reported on Thursday.

The first poll that came out after the debate said that 28 per cent of the 504 respondents said that Ramaswamy performed the best. He was followed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis with 27 per cent, and Pence (13 per cent). Indian-American Haley received the vote of seven per cent.

According to Fox News, Ramaswamy was the most Google-searched GOP candidate for the first Republican presidential debate. He was followed by fellow Indian-American Haley.

Both the Indian-Americans were

standing next to each other on the debate stage.

"Vivek Ramaswamy Grabs Spotlight at First Republican Primary Debate," reported The Wall Street Journal. Its editorial board in its editorial was critical of his foreign policy proposals and said this will not get him to the White House.

A second-generation Indian-American, Ramaswamy founded Roivant Sciences in 2014 and led the largest biotech IPOs of 2015 and 2016, eventually culminating in successful clinical trials in multiple disease areas that led to FDA-approved products, according to his bio.

"Vivek Ramaswamy, the political novice, grabbed the spotlight at Wednesday's prime-time GOP presidential debate, but there was little sign he or any other contender had found a new strategy for overtaking front-runner Donald Trump," the financial daily said.

"With unchecked confidence and insults, the biotech entrepreneur baited his rivals into skirmishes that dominated Republicans' first debate," wrote The New York Times. "He came in hot, slamming his rivals, smiling wide and showing little deference to the more experienced candidates on stage," the daily wrote.

NBC News described the first debate as "Vivek Ramaswamy Show".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

You would make America less safe: Haley tells Vivek Ramaswamy at Republican Party's first presidential primary debate

AUGUST 24, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American US presidential aspirants Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy clashed during the Republican Party's maiden presidential primary debate over foreign policy issues, with the former South Carolina Governor criticizing her rival and entrepreneur for lacking foreign policy experience and supporting Russia.

Haley, 51, and Ramaswamy, 38, have been clashing over foreign policy issues over the past few days on social media.

During the debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Wednesday, Haley accused Ramaswamy of supporting America's foreign adversaries and abandoning its friends after he said he would not support Ukraine in the war against Russia.

Form Standing next to him, Haley, the former US Ambassador to the UN, slammed her fellow Indian-American that he is taking the side of a "murderer" Russian president and said that the US would be unsafe under his presidency.

"He wants to hand Ukraine to Russia, he wants to let China eat Taiwan, he wants to go and stop funding Israel," Haley said. "You don't do that to friends. What you do instead is you have the backs of your friends." While Haley was speaking, Ramaswamy kept on saying false, false.

Ramaswamy accused her of "pushing this lie" about him.

With former president Donald Trump skipping the first 2024 Republican presidential primary debate, eight of his primary rivals brawled for second-place status, US media reported.



Republican presidential aspiring candidates Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy clashed during the Republican Party's maiden presidential primary debate over foreign policy issues on August 23

In the last two presidential elections, Indian-Americans have thrown their hats into the ring for the White House. The first one was Bobby Jindal in 2016 and Vice President Kamala Harris in 2022.

But this is the first time in American presidential history that two Indian-Americans were standing on the same primary presidential debate stage.

"You are choosing a murderer over a pro-American country ... You would make America less safe. You have no foreign policy experience, and it shows," Haley told Ramaswamy. The next debate will be on September 22.

Ramaswamy said he would not support giving more aid to war-torn Ukraine.

"I would not, and this is disastrous. We should use those same military resources to prevent the invasion of our own southern border here in the United States. ... Ukraine is not a priority for the United States of America," Ramaswamy said as he differed on foreign policy issues with Haley and other presidential aspirants.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

'Proud, glad to be your partner': America hails India on Chandrayaan-3 moon landing

AUGUST 24, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): American politicians, newspapers and space research institutions hailed India Wednesday, August 23, on the successful moon landing of Chandrayaan-3 as the country entered the elite club of three other nations -- United States, Russia and China -- that have a rover on the lunar surface.

In the process, India became the first country among the elite group to have its rover on the moon's south pole region, which the Indian Space Research Organisation believes could have traces of water.

"Congratulations to India for the historic landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the southern polar region of the moon," US Vice President Kamala Harris said on X, known as Twitter till recently.

"It is an incredible feat for all the scientists and engineers involved. We are proud to partner with you on this mission and space exploration more broadly," said Harris, whose mother was from India. The vice president heads the National Space Council.

Space cooperation was one of the major topics of discussion during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to the US this summer. India signed the Artemis accord, and also the two countries decided to work together on an international space station.

"Congratulations ISRO on your successful Chandrayaan-3 lunar South Pole landing! And congratulations to India on being the 4th country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon. We're glad to be your partner on this mission!" said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

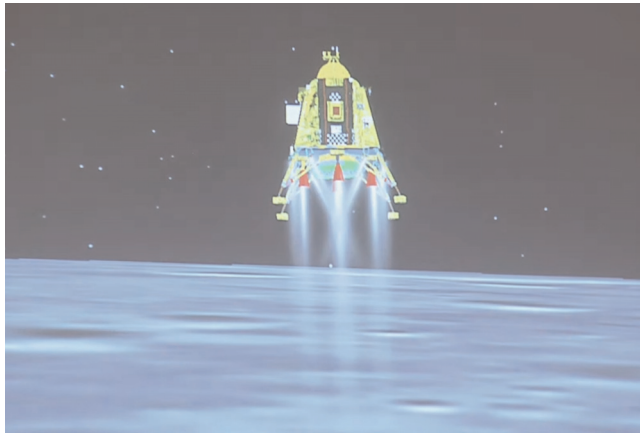
Chandrayaan-3 touched down on the uncharted lunar south pole at 6.04 pm on Wednesday. No country has ever landed on the treacherous south pole that scientists believe could hold important reserves of frozen water and precious elements. Russia's south pole-bound Luna-25 spacecraft crashed into the Moon on Sunday after spinning out of control.

"Congratulations to ISRO and the people of India for the Chandrayaan-3's historic landing on the South Pole of the Moon. We look forward to deepening our partnership with India on space exploration in the years ahead," US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, said Chandrayaan-3 landing on the moon was a 'victory cry of a new India'.

Congressman Rich McCormick said it was an "amazing achievement for our friends in India".

Congressman Don Beyer congratulated the ISRO and



Chandrayaan-3 lands on the Moon

all who worked to make the "remarkable and historic" achievement possible.

Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said the successful landing of the Vikram lander on the moon's surface is a historic accomplishment for India, and a major step in lunar discovery for the world.

Congressman Michael McCaul, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he was looking forward to see what India and the US can accomplish in the outer space together. "I want to congratulate India for being the fourth country to land on the moon. This historic success adds a new dimension to our partnership."

Congratulations to India for its successful landing of Chandrayaan3 on the moon, said Congressman Brad Sherman. "India is the first country to ever land a craft on this part of the lunar surface."

The Science wing of the US Department of State congratulated their "Artemis Accords partner ISRO". "Your success will power the imagination and light the future of people around the world," it said.

Mainstream American newspapers, many of which had been skeptical of India's space mission and sometimes even made fun of it through cartoons, noted the great Indian achievement.

"The Chandrayaan-3 mission makes India the first country to reach the lunar south polar region in one piece and adds to the achievements of the country's homegrown space program," The New York Times reported.

The Washington Post wrote a couple of stories covering various perspectives and an opinion piece to celebrate this historic occasion.

"It is a marvelous achievement for India's space

program - and symbolic of an important moment in geopolitics. For the successful landing came just days after a Russian mission to the same region went haywire and smashed into the lunar surface like a hammer coming down on the last nail in the coffin of Russia's decline," wrote David Von Drehle, Deputy Opinion Editor of the daily.

"India Is on the Moon': Chandrayaan-3 Spacecraft Lands on Lunar South Pole," wrote The Wall Street Journal.

Congratulatory messages came from several eminent people as well. Indian American CEOs Satya Nadell from Microsoft and Sunder Pichai of Google led the US corporate sector in lauding the success of India's mission.

"My congratulations to ISRO on the moon landing of the Chandrayaan-3. What an exciting moment for India - and the future of space exploration," Nadella wrote.

Pichai described an incredible moment! "Congratulations to ISRO for the successful landing of #Chandrayaan3 on the moon this morning. Today India became the first country to successfully achieve a soft landing on the southern polar region of the moon," he said.

"Wow! Chandrayaan-3's moon landing is a great achievement for India and all humanity! Congratulations to the ISRO team and all of India," said Gita Gopinath, First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF.

"India, you have made history today," said African American singer Mary Millben in a video message posted on various social media platforms.

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, who has more than 14 million followers on X, said, "Congratulations to India for landing Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon - joining Russia, USA, & China as the only countries to have achieved this feat. More importantly, it's the first mission of any country to arrive near the Lunar South Pole - a possible location for future Moon bases."

Dr. Michael Salla, author of the Secret Space Programs Book series, said India is fast becoming a major space power. "It's PM, N. Modi, believes ancient Vedic India also flew to the Moon on Vimanas," he said.

Sending her "warmest congratulations" to everyone at ISRO for becoming the very first team to land at the lunar south pole, US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the global scientific community is a strong and united one, and together "we advance opportunity for all humankind".

(Source: PTI)

Interest rates increase for the fourth quarter 2023

AUG. 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today announced that interest rates will increase for the calendar quarter beginning Oct.1, 2023.

For individuals, the rate for overpayments and underpayments will be 8% per year, compounded daily. Here is a complete list of the new rates:

8% for overpayments (payments made in excess of the amount owed),

7% for corporations.5.5% for the portion of a corporate overpayment exceeding \$10,000.

8% for underpayments (taxes owed but not fully paid).

10% for large corporate underpayments.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, the rate of interest is determined on a quarterly basis. For taxpayers other than corporations,



the overpayment and underpayment rate is the federal short-term rate plus 3 percentage points.

Generally, in the case of a corporation, the underpayment rate is the federal short-term rate plus 3 percentage points and the overpayment rate is the federal short-term rate plus 2 percentage points. The rate for large corporate underpayments is the federal short-term rate plus 5 percentage points. The rate on the portion of a corporate overpayment of tax exceeding \$10,000 for a taxable period is the federal short-term rate plus one-half (0.5) of a percentage point.

The interest rates announced today are computed from the federal short-term rate determined during July 2023. See the revenue ruling for details.

IRS announces administrative transition period for new Roth catch-up requirement; catch-up contributions still permitted after 2023

AUG. 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Today, the Internal Revenue Service announced an administrative transition period that extends until 2026 the new requirement that any catch-up contributions made by higher-income participants in 401(k) and similar retirement plans must be designated as after-tax Roth contributions.

At the same time, the IRS also clarified that plan participants who are age 50 and over can continue to make catch-up contributions after 2023, regardless of income.

Today's announcements were included in Notice 2023-62, now posted on IRS.gov. This notice provides initial guidance for section 603 of the SECURE 2.0 Act, enacted in December 2022. Under that provision, starting in 2024, the new Roth catch-up contribution rule applies to an employee who participates in a 401(k), 403(b) or governmental 457(b) plan and whose prior-year Social Security wages exceeded \$145,000.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Russian Prez won't attend G20 meet

Russia announced on Friday, August 25, that President Vladimir Putin will not personally attend the G20 Summit to be hosted by India next month, ending swirling speculation in diplomatic circles about his presence at the meeting.

Putin has skipped multilateral meetings since the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and virtually participated in the Brics (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit in Johannesburg this week. He also did not attend the 2021 G20 Summit in Rome over Covid-19-related concerns and last year's G20 Summit in Bali in the face of Western criticism of the Ukraine crisis.

Asked by Russian media about Putin's in-person participation in the G20 Summit in New Delhi during September 9-10, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "No, the President has no such plans."

The format of Putin's participation will be determined later, Peskov said. Pointing to Putin's virtual participation in the Brics Summit remotely, he said: "Well...now he really has a busy schedule. And of course, the main focus is still the special military operation. So direct travel is not on the agenda right now."

India has invited all the G20 leaders and heads of nine guest countries to the summit. External affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi recently said New Delhi expects all these leaders to attend the summit.

August 23 to be celebrated as National Space Day, says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, August 26, announced that to mark the success of Chandrayaan 3's Moon landing, August 23 will be celebrated as National Space Day. Modi's announcement came as he was addressing the Indian Space Research Organisation scientists at the ISRO command centre in Bengaluru.

Modi visited the space agency's Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex to congratulate the Chandrayaan 3 team on the mission's success. During his visit, the PM also announced that the touchdown point of Chandrayaan 3 on the Moon's surface will be called 'Shiv Shakti', adding that the point where Chandrayaan 2 crash-landed on the Moon in 2019 will be called 'Tiranga'. "Women scientists have played a key role in Chandrayaan 3 mission..the 'Shiv Shakti' point will inspire the upcoming generations to use science for the welfare of people..." he said.

He also lauded the ISRO scientists for taking the 'Make in India' initiative to the moon.

Lalu Yadav playing badminton after bail on medical grounds: CBI tells SC

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The CBI on Friday, August 25, told the Supreme Court that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad was playing badminton after being enlarged on bail in a fodder scam case on medical grounds, as it sought cancellation of the relief granted to the former Bihar chief minister.

Prasad's counsel opposed any move to cancel septuagenarian leader's bail, saying he has undergone a kidney transplant recently.

The CBI has approached the seeking cancellation of Prasad's bail in the Doranda treasury case in which he has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, submitted that the Jharkhand High court order granting bail to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader was "bad in law" and "erroneous".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Prasad, opposed the CBI's application on account of the former union minister having gone a kidney transplant surgery.

Sibal told the bench that Prasad has already served 42 months behind bars in the case.

"He is playing badminton. He has been granted bail after conviction in the case. I will demonstrate that the high court order is bad in toto. There's a short question of law. The bail has been granted on erroneous assumption that he has spent more than 3.5 years considering that sentences are concurrent and not consecutive," Raju told the court.

Prasad has so far been sentenced in five cases of the Rs 950 crore fodder scam, which took place between 1992 and 1995 when he was the Bihar chief minister and held the finance and animal husbandry portfolios.

Huge money was withdrawn from different treasuries in Bihar and the present-day Jharkhand on the basis of fake and forged bills and vouchers related to fodder, medicines and



artificial insemination.

A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and M M Sundresh adjourned the matter to October 17.

In his reply to the CBI's appeal seeking cancellation of his bail, Prasad has cited poor health and said no purpose would be served by keeping him in custody.

The Jharkhand High Court had granted bail to Prasad, 75, on April 22, 2022 in the Doranda treasury embezzlement case.

The former Bihar chief minister was sentenced to five years in prison and slapped with a fine of Rs 60 lakh by a special CBI court in Ranchi in February 2022 in connection with the fifth fodder scam case involving embezzlement of more than Rs 139 crore from the Doranda treasury.

SC moves 27 Manipur cases to Assam courts

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, August 25, shifted 27 cases being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the ethnic strife in Manipur to a set of designated judges in Assam to ensure protection of victims and witnesses, besides facilitating fair and quick trials.

A bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, accepted the request made by solicitor general (SG) Tushar Mehta to shift the CBI cases to magisterial and sessions courts in Assam in view of the prevailing situation in Manipur and the possibility of aspersions against the trial judges in Manipur who may belong to one or the other community.

Asking the chief justice of the Guwahati high court to nominate as many trial judges as deemed suitable to take up the 27 CBI cases, the bench, which also comprised justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, pointed out that the directions are being passed "in view of the overall environment in Manipur and to ensure a fair process of the justice delivery system".

The court said that the production, remand and custody of accused will be allowed in online mode due to distance and security reasons, while their test identification parade (TIP) will be done



in Manipur in the presence of a local magistrate. Applications such as those seeking search and arrest warrants can be permitted to be made by investigating officers in the online mode, said the bench, adding that the high court chief justice may preferably pick judges who are conversant with one or more languages spoken in Manipur.

The bench clarified that the statements of the victims will be recorded in Manipur or wherever they are presently residing, in the presence of a local magistrate.

"This is in the interest of the victims and the survivors. We are not asking the government to pick judges, but the Guwahati high court chief justice will do it. Also, we are not going to ask the

survivors to travel anywhere. They will give their evidence from wherever they are residing. We are very clear neither the victims nor the witnesses will be made to travel," the bench remarked, as senior advocates Indira Jaising and Colin Gonsalves, representing some of the petitioners in the matter, expressed reservations against shifting the cases to Assam.

While Jaising questioned why Assam has been preferred over other states, Gonsalves pressed for continuation of trial in Manipur.

The bench, in response, asked the lawyers to acknowledge the "reality of the ground situation" and let all procedural directions that go in preparation of the trials be carried out smoothly.

"If you genuinely want the trials to take place, some provisions will have to be made. These trials otherwise will not take place for the next several months if you insist on holding them in Manipur... There have been victims in the valley and victims in the hills of Manipur. People belonging to community A in hills as well as community B in valley have suffered. We are not on who suffered more. But the fact is both suffered. We are on ensuring fair trial. There are certain pre-trial directions required immediately," it added.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi poses for a picture with a local from Ladakh holding the National flag during his visit to Kargil. | Photo Credit: ANI/Congress Twitter

'China snatched India's land, PM is lying': Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, August 25, vowed to raise in Parliament the issues of the people of Ladakh as he alleged that their "political voice" was being suppressed and the promises of the central government on employment had turned out to be "false".

Gandhi has been touring the Union Territory of Ladakh for the past week.

"I went to every corner of Ladakh and talked to the youth, mothers and sisters and the poor. There are other leaders who only talk about their 'Mann Ki Baat'. I want to listen to your 'Mann Ki Baat'," the former Congress leader said in an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast.

"China has snatched away thousands of kilometers of India's land. The prime minister is lying by denying this and every person in Ladakh knows this," Gandhi said in a post in Hindi on X.

He said the main issues of Ladakh are that the political voice of the people here is being "suppressed", all the promises of the government on employment have turned out to be "false" and the lack of mobile network and air connectivity.

"I will raise all these issues in Parliament in the next session," Gandhi said and thanked Ladakh for the welcome and love he had received.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post in Hindi on X, said that taking forward the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi met the people of Ladakh.

In the spirit of the foot march, he listened to their thoughts, he said.

"It is clear after listening to these problems that the Modi government has left Ladakh to fend itself. Leaders who are only interested in their 'Mann Ki Baat' can never allow the people's voice to be heard," Ramesh said.

Gandhi reached Ladakh on August 17, his first visit to the region since it was granted UT status after being carved out from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was also turned into a Union Territory with its special status under Article 370 revoked.

'Request from Chinese side': India denies Beijing's claims on Modi-Xi Jinping meet

NEW DELHI (TIP)

As China claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the BRICS meeting in South Africa took place on India's request, top government sources refuted it and said there was a "pending request from the Chinese side".

"There was a pending request from the Chinese side for a bilateral meeting," government sources said.

The sources said the two leaders, however, had an "informal conversation" at the Leaders Lounge during the BRICS Summit at Johannesburg.

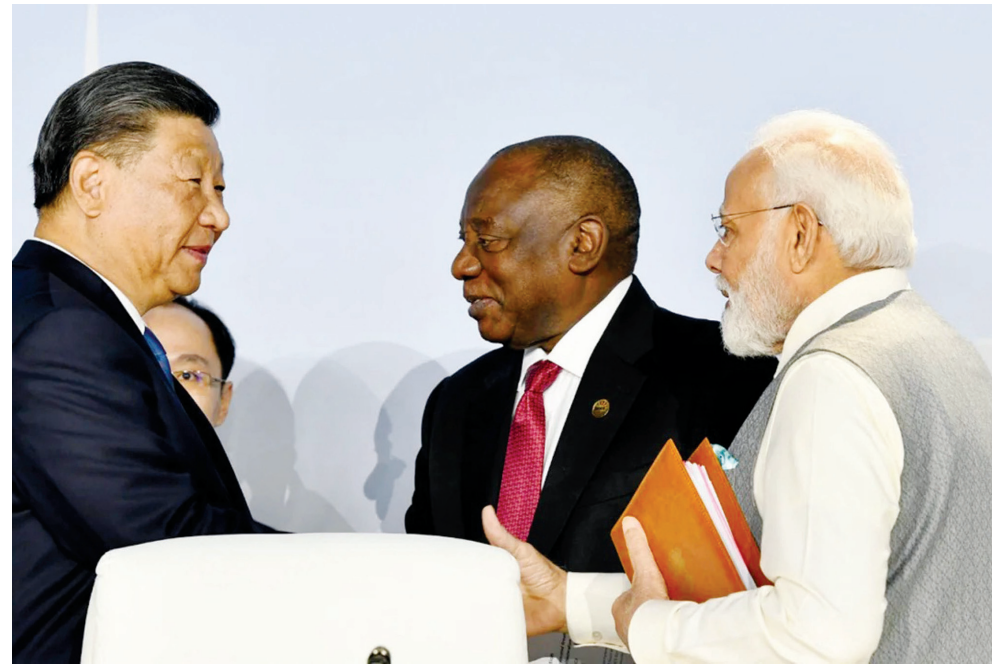
The Chinese foreign ministry had said, "President Xi Jinping talked with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at the latter's request on August 23".

The two leaders in the meeting agreed to work for "expeditious de-escalation" along the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC), where tensions have been high since June 2020, when the two sides clashed in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley.

They also agreed to direct officials in their countries to work on expeditious disengagement along the LAC.

"It was a conversation with President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. Prime Minister had interaction with other BRICS leaders. In the conversation with President Xi Jinping, the Prime Minister highlighted India's concerns over unresolved issues along the LAC and other areas along the India-China border," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters on Thursday.

According to a Chinese readout, the two leaders had a "candid and in-depth exchange of views on current China-India



Chinese leader Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 24.

relations and other questions of shared interest.

President Xi, the statement said, stressed "improving China-India relations serves common interests of the two countries and peoples, and is also conducive to peace, stability and development of the world and the region".

"The two sides should bear in mind the overall interests of their bilateral relations and handle properly the border issue so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border region," the Chinese foreign ministry said, quoting Xi.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan

Kwatra said that "the PM highlighted India's concerns on unresolved issues" and "underlined that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas and observing and respecting the LAC are essential for the normalisation of India-China ties". He said the two leaders agreed to direct their officials to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement. This aspect was not present in the Chinese readout. The MFA said Jinping told PM Modi "the two sides should bear in mind the overall interests of their relations and handle properly the border issue so as to jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border region".

10 dead, over 20 injured in massive fire in train compartment in Tamil Nadu

MADURAI (TIP)

At least 10 people have died and more than 20 are injured in a massive fire that broke out inside a stationary train compartment in Madurai railway station early on August 26 morning.

The Southern Railway said that an "illegal gas cylinder" on board led to the fire. The passengers of the "private party coach" had arrived from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

Madurai district collector MS Sangeetha, who rushed to the station to enquire, said 10 persons were killed in the fire accident in the train compartment. 20 people with injuries have been admitted to a hospital for treatment.

"10 persons reported dead," in the fire, a Southern Railway release said.

Police, fire and rescue services personnel besides railway staff, involved in dousing the fire, extricated the charred bodies from the compartment.



The fire broke out at 5:15 am today and the fire service personnel who arrived at the spot half an hour later put down the blaze by 7:15 am, a Southern Railway release said.

"This is a private party coach that was attached at Nagercoil Junction yesterday (Aug 25) by train no. 16730 (Punalur-Madurai Exp). Party coach was detached and kept at Madurai Stabling line. The passengers in the private party coach have...smuggled gas cylinder and this has caused the fire," the release said.

The party coach had started the

journey from Lucknow on August 17, scheduled to return to Chennai on Sunday and return to Lucknow from there, it added.

"While the coach was stabled/parked, some members of the party in the private party coach were using the illegally smuggled cooking gas cylinder unauthorisedly for preparing tea/snacks, which caused the fire in the stabled/parked coach. Most of the passengers could get out of the coach on noticing fire. Some passengers had already got down at platform also before detachment of coach," it added.

An amount of ? 10 lakh was being paid to each of the family of those who died, it said. Any individual can book party coach using IRCTC portal. They are not allowed to carry any inflammable material like gas cylinder. The coach is to be used only for transportation purpose, the release said, adding senior officials were rushing to the spot.

India in history this Week

AUGUST 25, 2023, TO AUGUST 31, 2023

25 AUGUST

1957 India won the title of world winner by winning the final of the Polo World Championship in France.

1917 In 1917, 7 Indians serving in the British India Army received the Kigs Commission for the first time.

1957 India won the title of world champion by winning the final of the Polo World Championship in France.

2003 The 2003 car bombings near Mumbai's Gateway of India and Mumbi Devi Temple killed more than 50 people and injured more than 150.



2008 The Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2008 requested to insure all students of government schools for the year 2008-09.

1351 Sultan Ferozeshah Tughlaq III was crowned.

26 AUGUST

1303 Alauddin Khilji captured Chittorgarh after defeating Rana Bhim Singh.

1910 Nobel Peace Prize-awarded Mother Teresa was born in Skopje, Yugoslavia.



1914 Bengal revolutionaries attacked the British fleet in Calcutta and looted 50 mausers and 46 thousand rounds.

1975 Dr. Narayan Subbarao Hardikar, a freedom fighter, journalist and Padma Bhushan, died.

27 AUGUST

1859 Dorabji Tata, who laid the foundation of Tata Steel, was born.



1976 The great singer Mukesh died.

1972 Indian professional wrestler and lifter Dalip Singh Rana aka Great Khali was born.

1870 The working union was established on this day.

It was the first trade union of India.

1976 Major General G. Ali Ram, the first woman general of the Indian Armed Forces, was appointed Director of the Military Nursing Service.

1999 Sonali Banerjee became India's first female Marine Engineer.

2008 Retired Supreme Court Judge A.K. Mathur was made the first chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal.

2013 One of the infamous riots in Uttar Pradesh was the rioting in Muzaffarnagar.

28 AUGUST

1896 Famous Urdu poet Firaq Gorakhpuri was born.

1986 Bhagyashree Sathe became the first woman in India to become a grandmaster in chess.



1999 Major Sameer Kotwal martyred in an encounter with a faction of militants in Assam.

2018 Manjit Singh of India won the gold medal in the men's 800 meter race of the Jakarta Asian Games.

2008 International magazine Forbes included Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati among 100 powerful women in the world.

29 AUGUST

1898 Goodyear Tyre Company was established.

1905 Hockey magician Major Dhyanchand was born.



1976 India's famous poet Kazi Nazrul Islam died.

2014 Richard Attenbarra, the Oscar-winning director for the film Gandhi, died.

1612 An important event took place in the colonial era of India. The Portuguese had to face defeat in the battle of Surat at the hands of the British.

1887 Ever been a doctor of Gandhiji and born Jivraj Mehta, the first Chief Minister of Gujarat.

1931 The death of Naga spiritual master Jadonang, who laid the foundation of the powerful Naga movement.

1949 One of the top scientists of India. Birth of Radhakrishnan. Under his leadership, India made its Mangalyaan on Mars in the first attempt.

1952 Sister Euprasia, the Indian Christian woman saint known as the Praying Saint.

1957 The Civil Rights Act, 1957 was passed.

1969 Major Manoj Talwar, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born.

1974 Chaudhary Charan Singh founded the Lok Dal Party.

1980 Birth of Madhav Shrihari Ane, who became a freedom fighter and Governor of India after independence.

1998 Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar honored with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

2008 Important event of industrial history of Bengal. Tata Motors started the Nano project in Singur, which was strongly opposed by Trinamool Congress workers. Enraged by the protest, Tata removed employees from the Nano project site.

30 AUGUST

1559 Birth of Jahangir, son of the great emperor Akbar and ruler of the Mughal dynasty.

1659 Aurangzeb hanged his elder brother Dara Shikoh to occupy his father's throne.

1928 Ras Bihari Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru founded The Independence of India League in India. Its purpose was to inspire the diaspora to remove the British rule in India.

1947 A committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar to draft the Indian Constitution.

1952 Osborne Smith, the first governor of the Reserve Bank of India passed away.

1976 Good storyteller, storyteller, besides a better actor G.P. Shrivastava passed away.

2003 Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the third time.

2008 The death of the famous industrialist of the Birla family, Krishna Kumar Birla.

2014 The famous historian Bipin Chandra passed away.

1574 Guru Ram Das became the fourth Guru of the Sikhs.

2013 India's first defense satellite GSAT-7 was launched from French Guiana in South America.

31 AUGUST

1919 Famous litterateur Amrita Pritam was born.



1778 During the British Revolution, 17 Sharebridge Indians were killed in the British Bronx.

1956 The then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad approved the State Reorganization Bill.

1968 Two-stage rounding rocket Rohini-MSV1 was successfully launched in India.

2010 The Indian Parliament passed the Nuclear Public Liability Bill to ensure prompt compensation in the event of an accident at the nuclear plant.

1983 India's satellite INSAT-1B was aired from the US space shuttle Challenger in 1983.

2010 In 2010, the Government of India increased the amount of assistance for Pakistani flood victims from 50 lakh to 25 million dollars.



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 ERIC FRASER FLUTE  AMIT CHATTERJEE TABLA	 PALLAB BANDOPADHYAY VIOLIN  AMIT CHATTERJEE TABLA	 NAREN BUDHAKAR TABLA  ROHAN MISHRA SARANGI  SUPRATIK SENGUPTA SITAR
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History of Chandrayaan: India's lunar exploration journey

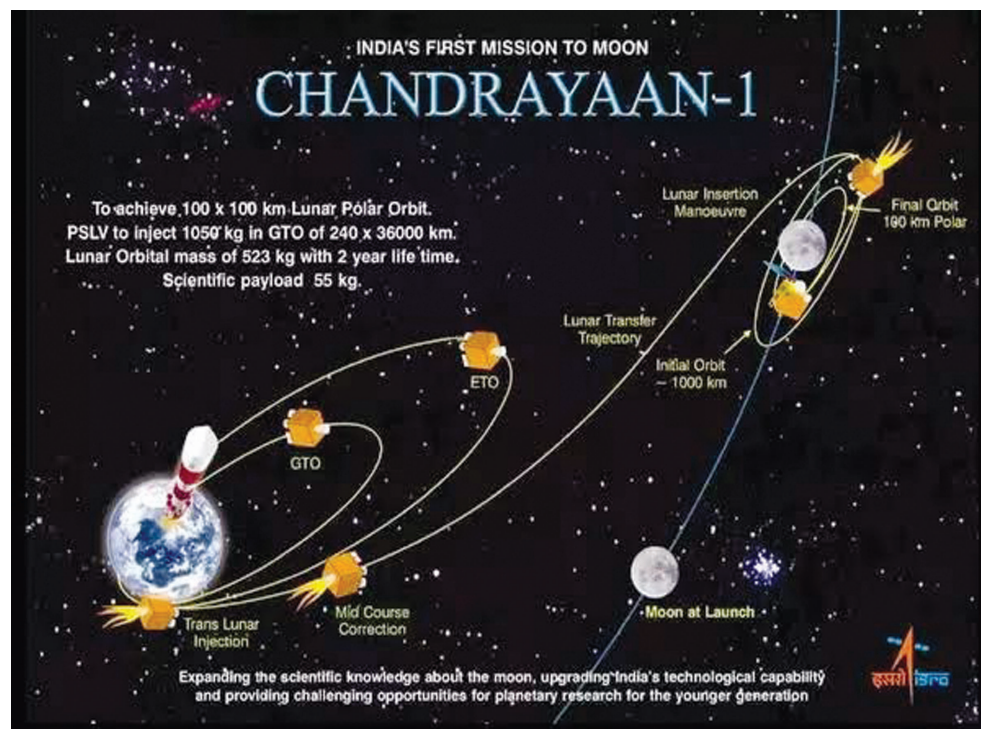
The Chandrayaan program exemplifies India's dedication to lunar exploration, showcasing both successes and the resilience to learn from setbacks

Chandrayaan, meaning "mooncraft" in Sanskrit, represents India's lunar exploration program launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Chandrayaan program aims to study the moon's surface, minerals, water ice presence, and enhance India's space capabilities.

There have been three missions so far with a total of two orbiters, landers and rovers each. While the two orbiters were successful, the first lander and rover which were part of the Chandrayaan-2 mission, crashed on the surface.

The current Chandrayaan-3 mission's rover "ramped down" from the lander and "India took a walk on the Moon!", the ISRO said. The Vikram lander successfully touched down as planned on Wednesday, August 23, evening.

With this, India joins an elite club of countries to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, after the US, the former Soviet Union and China.



spacecraft was successfully put into lunar orbit on August 20, 2019 but the lander was lost while attempting to land on 6 September 2019. The orbiter is operational, collecting scientific data, and is expected to function for 7.5 years.

Chandrayaan-3

In November 2019, ISRO officials stated that a new lunar lander mission was being studied for launch in November 2020. This new proposal is called Chandrayaan-3 and it would be a re-attempt to demonstrate the landing capabilities needed for the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission proposed in partnership with Japan for 2025. This spacecraft configuration would not include launching an orbiter and would have a lander, rover, and a propulsion module with mission costing Rs 250 crore with additional launch costs of Rs 365 crore for LVM3.

Chandrayaan-3 was launched on 14 July 2023 at 9:05:17 UTC. The primary goals of the Chandrayaan-3 mission encompass three key aspects. Firstly, it aims to showcase a successful and controlled touchdown on the lunar surface. Secondly, it intends to demonstrate the mobility of a rover on the Moon's terrain. Lastly, it seeks to carry out scientific experiments directly on the lunar surface.

India's Space Ambitions

Chandrayaan missions showcase India's growing space capabilities and technological advancements.

Successes and setbacks alike contribute to the nation's experience and expertise in space exploration.

Future Lunar Endeavors

Chandrayaan program is expected to pave the way for more ambitious lunar missions in the future.

India aims to continue expanding its lunar exploration capabilities and contribute to global lunar research efforts.

International Recognition

Chandrayaan missions have earned India international recognition in the field of space exploration.

They highlight India's commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and space technology.

Lunar Polar Exploration Mission

The next mission will be the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission or Chandrayaan-4, suggested to be launched in a time frame of 2026-28. India is collaborating with Japan in this mission but the mission is not yet defined. It will be a lander-rover mission near lunar pole to perform on site sampling and analysis of collected lunar material and demonstrate lunar night survival technologies.

Program structure

The Chandrayaan (Indian Lunar Exploration Programme) is a multiple mission programme. As of September 2019, one orbiter with an impactor probe has been sent to the Moon, using ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket. The second spacecraft consisting of orbiter, soft lander and rover was launched on 22 July 2019, by using a LVM3 rocket. The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched in 14 July 2023 using LVM-3.

Phase I: Orbiter and Impactor

Chandrayaan-1

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced the Chandrayaan project on course in his Independence Day speech on 15 August 2003. The mission was a major boost to India's space program. The idea of an Indian scientific mission to the Moon was first mooted in 1999 during a meeting of the Indian Academy of Sciences. The Astronautical Society of India carried forward the idea in 2000. Soon after, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) set up the National Lunar Mission Task Force which concluded that ISRO has the technical expertise to carry out an Indian mission to the Moon. In April 2003 over 100 eminent Indian scientists in the fields of planetary and space sciences, Earth sciences, physics, chemistry, astronomy, astrophysics and engineering and communication sciences discussed and approved the Task Force recommendation to launch an Indian probe to the Moon. Six months later, in November, the Indian government

Mission moon 2.0 A look at the four key components of Chandrayaan 2 — launcher, orbiter, lander and rover

Launcher — GSLV Mk-III | It will carry Chandrayaan 2 to its designated orbit. This three-stage vehicle is India's most powerful launcher to date, and is capable of launching 4-tonne class of satellites to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit

ORBITER
Weight: 2,379 kg
Power generation capability: 1,000 W
Capable of communicating with the Indian Deep Space Network at Byalalu and the Vikram lander. It will be placed in a 100X100 km lunar polar orbit

LANDER — VIKRAM
Weight: 1,471 kg
Power generation capability: 650 W
Named after Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian space programme, it is designed to function for one lunar day, equivalent to about 14 earth days

ROVER — PRAGYAN
Weight: 27 kg
Power generation capability: 50 W
This 6-wheeled robotic vehicle can travel up to 500 m and uses solar energy for its functioning. It can communicate only with the lander

gave the nod for the mission.

Chandrayaan-1, launched on 22 October 2008 aboard a PSLV-XL rocket, was a big success for ISRO as the Moon Impact Probe, a payload on board the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, discovered water on the Moon. Apart from detecting water the Chandrayaan-1 mission performed several other tasks such as mapping and atmospheric profiling of the Moon.

Phase II: Soft landers, rovers

Chandrayaan-2

On 18 September 2008, the First Manmohan Singh Cabinet approved the mission. Although ISRO finalised

the payload for Chandrayaan-2 per schedule, the mission was postponed in January 2013[10] and rescheduled to 2016 because Russia was unable to develop the lander on time.

Roscosmos later withdrew in wake of the failure of the Fobos-Grunt mission to Mars, since the technical aspects connected with the Fobos-Grunt mission were also used in the lunar projects, which needed to be reviewed. When Russia cited its inability to provide the lander even by 2015, India decided to develop the lunar mission independently and unused orbiter hardware was repurposed to be used for Mars Orbiter Mission.

Chandrayaan-2 was launched on 22 July 2019 aboard a LVM3 rocket. The

Scientists behind the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission success

ISRO has made India proud and created history. The highly ambitious Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully landed on the South Pole of the Moon on August 23 at 18:04 PM (IST), making India the first country in the world to do so. August 23 will go down in history as one of the most proud days for India and the scientific community. Let's commemorate this marvelous achievement by celebrating the scientists behind the lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3.

S. Somanath, Chairman, ISRO



- The chairman of the elite space research agency, S Somanath is an accomplished aerospace engineer.
- He has been the Chairman of ISRO since 2022.
- He played a pivotal role in crafting the design of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3, or the Bahubali rocket, which launched Chandrayaan-3 into orbit.
- Under his leadership, India became the fourth nation in the world to successfully land on the Moon's surface.
- Somanath has a B. Tech in Mechanical Engineering from TKM College of Engineering, Kollam, and a Masters degree (M. Tech) in Aerospace Engineering from IIS (Indian Institute of Science) in Bangalore.

S Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre



- Nair was also one of the major figures behind the success of Chandrayaan-3.
- He and his team at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) were in charge of building the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-III, also known as the Launch Vehicle Mark-III, also known as the Bahubali rocket, alongside S. Somanath.
- Nair has a B.Tech. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Mar Athanasius College of Engineering affiliated with Kerala University, a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from IISc, Bengaluru, and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Madras, Chennai.

B N Ramakrishna, Director, ISTRAC



- Ramakrishna is the 7th director of ISTRAC.
- ISTRAC connected to an ISRO deep space network station near Bengaluru and international earth stations for Chandrayaan-3.
- He is an expert in areas of navigation and orbit determination of spacecrafts.
- Ramakrishna has a Master's Degree in Science.

Mohana Kumar, Mission Director



- Mohana Kumar is a veteran who has been a part of ISRO for over 30 years.
- He was the Mission Director for Chandrayaan-3 and he officially announced the launch of the spacecraft from Sriharikota Space Center on July 14.

M Sankaran, Director, U R Rao Satellite Centre



- Sankaran is the head of the ISRO Satellite Centre, the organisation that produces spacecraft for the agency's space missions.
- Chandrayaan-3 was developed by ISRO Satellite Centre.
- His primary job included ensuring that the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was appropriately heat and cold tested.
- He was also responsible for testing the strength of the Vikram Lander.
- He was also involved in the construction of solar arrays, power systems and communication systems for Chandrayaan-1 and 2 and the Mars Orbiter Mission.
- Sankaran holds a Master's Degree in Physics from Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

Kalpana K, Deputy Project Director



- She was the Deputy Project Director for the lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3.
- She is an engineer who has also worked in Chandrayaan-2 and Mangalyaan.

Muthayya Vanitha, Deputy Director, U R Rao Satellite Center



- Vanitha is the first female project director at ISRO and also the first woman to lead an interplanetary mission.
- She is an electronics system engineer and was the Deputy Director for the Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- She graduated from College of Engineering, Guindy, Chennai.

Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, Senior scientist, ISRO



- Also known as the 'Indian Rocket Woman,' Srivastava is a senior scientist at ISRO.
- She was also the Deputy Operations Director for the 2014 Mars Orbiter Mission, popularly known as the MOM mission.
- She oversaw the lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 as well.
- Srivastava has a B. Sc. in Physics from the University of Lucknow and an M. Sc. in Physics from the University of Lucknow.
- She is also currently enrolled in a Doctorate course in the Physics Department of the University of Lucknow.

Years of hard work paid off: Isro chief credits success to his team

BENGALURU (TIP)

The lessons that we learnt from our failure helped us perfect this mission, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief S Somanath said on Wednesday, August 23, as he credited the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission to the hard work of all the scientists who worked on it for over a decade.

"Many, many years of hard work has paid off today. Chandrayaan-3's work started four years back, but our scientists have been working on Chandrayaan-2 and before that on Chandrayaan-1 for years. We failed last time, but the lessons that we learnt from our failure, helped us perfect this mission," Somanath said while addressing the media at the Isro Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru, after the spacecraft's successful soft-landing.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-up mission of Chandrayaan-2, India's second lunar mission which was launched in 2019 but failed to make a soft landing on the Moon.

Acknowledging the contribution of a generation of leadership by the scientists of the country's space agency for the mission's success, he said this is an

"incremental progress" and "definitely a huge one".

"It (success of Chandrayaan-3 mission) gives confidence to configure missions to not only go to the Moon, but also to go to Mars, sometimes (perhaps) land on Mars, maybe in future go to Venus and other planets... We went through a lot of pain and agony," he said.

"Most of the people who were with Chandrayaan-2 are with us helping us to do Chandrayaan-3. They are a part of this, they have gone through such an agony...the technology that we have in Chandrayaan-3 is no less complex or inferior to any other technology that goes to the Moon. So, we have the best of the sensors of the world, best in class (equipment) in Chandrayaan-3", he said, explaining that it was a completely "Made-in-India" mission using world-class components.

Conveying the greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Isro team, he said, "The Honourable PM called me and conveyed his greetings to each one of you and your family for the wonderful work you did in Isro."

He further hailed the support from the government in pursuing the space missions, both scientific and commercial.

A mission to the Moon, at a fraction of the cost

Chandrayaan-3, which became the first spacecraft to land near the moon's uncharted south pole on Wednesday, August 23, was built and launched at an estimated budget of \$75 million, according to most recent information available.

In comparison, Russia's Luna-25, which crashed while trying to reach the same area of the moon last week, took roughly \$200 million to build and launch, making India's programme notable for success despite requiring much lower spending. The mission itself, Isro officials said in the past and reiterated on Wednesday, was meant to demonstrate the Indian space agency's aspirations of interplanetary travel and doing so at shoestring budgets unheard of in other countries.

Wednesday's success also bodes well for the country's attempts to open up its space sector. "The thing is that everyone wants to collaborate with agencies that can produce successful missions. But over the years we have established our place in the global space industry. We

are known to successfully conduct exploratory missions at a much cheaper cost," S Somanath, Isro chief, told HT in an interview on Tuesday.

The difference between Luna-25 and Chandrayaan-3 illustrates how Isro saved costs. The Russian craft was strapped with a more powerful rocket at launch, and had more powerful thrusters to boost its journey from Earth to moon — features that allowed it to complete the (eventually unsuccessful) journey in 10 days.

By comparison, Chandrayaan-3 took 40 days, using less powerful rockets. The additional days it spent in space were first, in gathering momentum, using the Earth's gravity to slingshot to the moon after multiple revolutions around the planet (Luna-25 circumvented Earth just once), and then around the moon to slow down. India's approach was to make the mission more cost-effective by using the "slingshot" method, officials told HT shortly after the Luna-25 crash, stressing on the fact that comparisons may not be fair. *Source: HT*

Embassy of India in Guatemala Organizes a string of programs to celebrate the 77th Independence Day of India



A vibrant celebration of unity and patriotism at the Indian Embassy premises as Ambassador Dr. Manoj Mohapatra unfurled the national flag, followed by the soul-stirring National Anthem on August 15, 2023

AUGUST 16, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala celebrated the 77th Independence Day on August 15, 2023, with a fervent spirit of patriotism and unity with the participation of more than 200 Indian community and friends of India. The event commenced with Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra unfurling the tricolor Indian flag, a symbol of the nation's freedom and resilience. The ceremony commenced with the soul-stirring rendition of the National Anthem, echoing through the embassy premises.

In a poignant homage to the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra readout the speech delivered by the Hon'ble President of India on the eve of Independence Day. The highlights of the speech emphasized India's continued commitment to progress, unity, and inclusiveness. The President's address underlined the nation's achievements while acknowledging the importance of fostering harmony and development for all citizens.

The Ambassador extended heartfelt gratitude to the Indian community for their unwavering support. He expressed his sincere appreciation for their active involvement in various Embassy events and initiatives. Additionally, he conveyed the exciting news of the commencement of Bollywood and Indian classical dance classes at the Embassy. This endeavor aims to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of India and provide a platform for community members to come together and immerse themselves in the joy of dance. The Ambassador's message underscored the importance of community collaboration and highlighted the Embassy's commitment to nurturing cultural bonds and fostering a sense of unity among the Indian community.



Embracing the Panch Pran Pledge, a visionary commitment to India's future! Five resolutions for 2047 Developing India, eradicating servility, cherishing heritage, nurturing unity, and fulfilling duty

A notable highlight of the celebration was the symbolic administration of the

"Panch Pran Pledge" by Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra. The "Panch Pran Pledge" urges individuals to channel their efforts into five pivotal resolutions aimed at shaping India's trajectory over the next 25 years. These resolutions encompass making India a developed nation, eradicating remnants of subjugation, fostering pride in its cultural heritage, fortifying unity, and dutifully fulfilling civic responsibilities. This pledge signifies an ambitious commitment to steer India's future through resolute dedication. It comprises five core promises, intended to be accomplished by 2047, mirroring the nation's aspirations for comprehensive advancement. The first pledge ardently underscores the necessity of India's transformation into a developed nation by 2047, signifying comprehensive growth across all sectors. The second pledge underscores the imperative of discarding all traces of subservience, spotlighting the essence of self-reliance and sovereignty, particularly by eliminating remnants of colonial thinking. The third pledge embraces an embrace of India's cultural legacy, spotlighting the importance of safeguarding and cherishing its cultural roots. The fourth pledge champions unity's strength, transcending diversities through harmonious coexistence, while also paying homage to those who safeguarded the nation. Lastly, the fifth pledge emphasizes diligent fulfilment of civic responsibilities, underscoring collective action as pivotal for societal advancement. The "Panch Pran Pledge" encapsulates India's collective determination to propel the nation towards a future characterized by prosperity, self-esteem, unity, and conscientious citizenship.



Enthralling cultural performances by the vibrant Indian community members showcased the heart and soul of India's rich heritage! From soulful songs to mesmerizing dances, their talent ignited patriotism

The cultural mosaic of India came alive in the cultural program presented by the Indian community members. Enthusiastic participants showcased their talents through patriotic songs, evocative poems, and spirited dances, embodying the spirit of the nation. The atmosphere reverberated with a sense of pride and belonging, fostering a deep connection among attendees.



Embassy of India organized Partition Horror Remembrance Day exhibition shedding light on a poignant chapter, reminding us of the importance of unity and understanding

CONTD ON PAGE 23



Celebrating creativity and dedication! Honoring the winners of the Yoga My Pride Photography Contest 2023, whose captivating captures truly embodied the essence of yoga's beauty and spirit

CONTD FROM PAGE 22

In line with the spirit of remembrance, an exhibition titled "Partition Horror Remembrance Day" was organized. This exhibition aimed to raise awareness about the tragic events of India's partition and pay homage to the sacrifices made during that tumultuous period. It served as a powerful reminder of the importance of unity, harmony, and the pursuit of a peaceful coexistence. The impact of the "Partition Horror Remembrance Day" exhibition was profound, as it allowed attendees to reflect on the lessons learned from history. The exhibition underscored the significance of preserving peace and understanding among diverse communities and the dire consequences of division. It served as a call for unity and tolerance, transcending borders and generations.

The Embassy organized a prize distribution ceremony to honor the winners of the Yoga My Pride Photography Contest 2023. This contest invited individuals to capture the essence of yoga through their camera lenses, celebrating the beauty, serenity, and strength that yoga brings to our lives. The event aimed to promote artistic expression while highlighting the transformative power of yoga. The submitted photographs beautifully depicted moments of yoga practice, meditation, and harmony with nature. The contest not only encouraged creativity but also raised awareness about

yoga's numerous benefits for physical and mental well-being. A committee from the Embassy evaluated the diverse range of entries and selected the deserving winners, who were presented with trophies in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the contest.

The Embassy actively rallied the Indian community through its diverse social media channels, urging their participation in the noteworthy "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign initiated by the Government of India. This initiative holds paramount importance as it endeavors to foster a collective sense of national pride and unity. The campaign's essence lies in urging each Indian household to unfurl the national flag, the Tiranga, a symbol that represents the unity and diversity of our nation. The Embassy extended its support to the Indian community by facilitating the provision of the tricolor flag, enabling households to be part of this movement.

The Flag Hoisting Celebrations at the Embassy of India, Guatemala, were a heartfelt tribute to the nation's journey of freedom, resilience, and progress. The event not only rekindled the flames of patriotism but also reinforced the bonds between the Indian community and the host country, Guatemala, fostering an atmosphere of shared values and mutual respect.

(With inputs from the Embassy of India in Guatemala)

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2018



2019



'LOVE IN EXILE' TEAM GIVES US A SNEAK PEAK INTO THEIR RECORD

BY MABEL PAIS

('Love in Exile' is a project) "manifestation in musical telepathy" - NPR.

Do you want to get a sneak peak into 'Love in Exile?'

The 'Love in Exile' team, in anticipation of their record of the same name, would like you to get a sneak peak into their record. The World Music Institute presents 'Love in Exile' (on a very limited basis) on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at The Town Hall (12 West 43rd Street, New York City) at 8 pm. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

'Love In Exile' creates lush, haunting collaborative soundscapes of meditation and yearning. Vocalist Arooj Aftab described the project as "about self-exile, and the search for freedom and identity, and finding it through love and music."

'Love In Exile' is the creation of three world-class musicians, steeped in jazz and South Asian musical traditions, who come together to forge a singular voice and musical vision. It is the latest album from Arooj Aftab, and is a collaborative effort put forth with fellow world-class musicians Vijay Iyer, and Shahzad Ismaily.

The significance of the name 'Love in Exile' points towards the similarities between the feelings of longing and diaspora and the mysterious way in which a group can improvise songs that are free of traditional structure, tempo, or genre.

AROOJ AFTAB is a GRAMMY award-winning semi-classical Hindustani singer and songwriter,



left to right - Shahzad Ismaily, Vijay Iyer, Arooj Aftab

Credit / worldmusicinstitute.org

minimalist composer, and producer working in various musical styles and idioms, including jazz, minimalism, and Urdu poetry. She was recently awarded the Grammy for Best Global Music Performance and is the first ever Pakistani artist to receive a Grammy Award.

VIJAY IYER, pianist, is one of the leading music-

makers of his generation. His honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a United States Artist Fellowship, a Grammy nomination, and the Alpert Award in the Arts.

SHAHZAD ISMAILY is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. He has recorded and performed with an incredibly diverse assemblage of musicians, including Laurie Anderson and Lou Reed, Tom Waits, and Jolie Holland to name a few.

Producer and multi-instrumentalist Shahzad Ismaily's sensitivity and technical acumen has made him a legend, recording and touring with musicians like Beth Orton, Yoko Ono, Feist, and many others. Love In Exile's self-titled debut album was one of the most critically-acclaimed releases of 2003 so far, creating lush, haunting collaborative soundscapes of meditation and yearning. NPR described the project as a "manifestation in musical telepathy". Onstage, this trio draws on the improvisatory spirit of jazz and the Urdu poetic tradition to explore one-of-a-kind performances defined by a sense of timeless beauty and sudden surprise.

KALIA VANDEVER, opening act, is an American trombonist and composer living in Brooklyn, NY. Her approach to the trombone is distinctive and defined by her sonorous tone and lyrical improvisational voice. She leans into the challenges of the instrument and allows patience and melody to guide her process.

TICKETS

For tickets to the performance, visit worldmusicinstitute.org/love-in-exile-with-arooj-aftab-vijay-iyer-and-shahzad-ismaily

CELEBRATE SARAH VAUGHAN'S BIRTH CENTENARY AT WOMEN@NJ PAC GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

At this year's Spotlight Opening Gala, Women@NJ PAC have planned an extraordinary show!

The music and the impact of one of Newark's greatest jazz icons, Sarah Vaughan, (fondly called the 'Divine One' or "Sassy") on what would have been her 100th birthday will be celebrated on September 30. Join Women@NJ PAC for this unforgettable evening of music and the party of the year, the Spotlight Gala!

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF SARAH VAUGHAN

Sarah Vaughan's praises will be sung (literally) by performers whose careers were launched by NJPAC's lasting tribute to Vaughan: The Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. GRAMMY® Award nominee Jazzmeia Horn and French-Dominican chanteuse Cyrille Aimée - the first two winners of the Competition - will perform. They'll be joined by two vocalists beloved by NJPAC audiences, the honey-voiced Gregory Porter and New Jersey-born The Voice and American Idol finalist Wé Ani. NJPAC's Jazz Advisor, Christian McBride, will serve as the evening's

musical director, fronting an All-Star Band.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30PM Cocktails
6:45PM Gourmet Dinner
8:00PM Gala Performance & Founders Award Ceremony
9:30PM Dessert, Dancing & After-Party

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Carmen Villar
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For more information, contact Women@NJ PAC or call Sarah Rosen, Managing Director at 973.297.5806.

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A new option for receiving your Spotlight Gala Tickets to use for your entrance, the performance, and your dinner seating! You can now get your tickets in advance via text on Wednesday, September 27 or you can opt to receive your tickets in advance via USPS, on Wednesday, September 20. You will be contacted in advance for this information.

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

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A CIA-backed 1953 coup in Iran haunts the country with people still trying to make sense of it

TEHRAN (TIP): Seventy years after a CIA-orchestrated coup toppled Iran's prime minister, its legacy remains both contentious and complicated for the Islamic Republic as tensions stay high with the United States.

While highlighted as a symbol of Western imperialism by Iran's theocracy, the coup unseating Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh — over America's fears about a possible tilt toward the Soviet Union and the loss of Iranian crude oil — appeared backed at the time by the country's leading Shiite clergy.

But nowadays, hard-line Iranian state television airs repeated segments describing the coup as showing how America can't be trusted, while authorities bar the public from visiting Mossadegh's grave in a village outside of Tehran.

Such conflicts are common in Iran, where "Death to America" can still be heard at August 25 prayers in Tehran while many on its streets say they'd welcome a better relationship with the U.S. But as memories of the coup further fade away along with those alive during it, controlling which allegory Iranians see in it has grown more important for both the country's government and its people.

"Maybe the U.S. did this out of fear of the emerging power of the Soviet Union, but it was like wishing for an earthquake to get rid of a bad neighbor," said Rana, a 24-year-old painter who like some others who spoke to The Associated Press gave



only her first name for fear of reprisals. For Iranians, "the rancor has never melted."

The August 1953 coup stemmed from U.S. fears over the Soviet Union increasingly wanting a piece of Iran as Communists agitated within the country. The ground had been laid partially by the British, who wanted to wrest back access to the Iranian oil industry, which had been nationalized earlier by Mossadegh.

Though looking initially like it failed, the coup toppled Mossadegh and cemented the power of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It also lit the fuse for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which saw the fatally ill shah flee Iran and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini usher in the theocracy that still governs the country.

Today, several who spoke to the AP about the coup and possible relations

with the U.S. put it in the context of Iran's ailing economy, which has been battered by years of sanctions after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Lower tensions with the U.S. "will bring more money for my business," said Hossein, 47, who runs a canteen for cab drivers in southern Tehran. "Now taxi drivers spend less compared to the past years and it is because of these bad relations, sanctions."

"I know about this bitter history but it should come to end sometime soon," added Majid Shamsi, who works as a parcel carrier in central Tehran. "Young people in Iran seek a better life and it cannot come as a result of enmity with" the U.S.

Even during increasingly common protests by teachers, farmers and others in Iran, some of the regular chants

include: "Our enemy is here; they lied to us (that the enemy) is the U.S."

"Iran today should accept a deal with the U.S. like what it did to release dual nationals," added teacher Reza Seifi, 26. "I need it for my better future, for a better future for all."

But like with the exchanges with the U.S., there are limits to how far Iran's government will go in remembering Mossadegh.

Last weekend, State television's English-language Press TV aired a segment with a journalist standing on Mossadegh Street in northern Tehran. However, over the last 20 years, police have restricted access to those wanting to visit his grave in his ancestral home in the village of Ahmadabad, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) northwest of Tehran. In the village, tall walls and a locked gate keep those wanting to pay their respects out, while officers question those who look like they don't live there.

Some found other ways to mark the 70th anniversary of the coup.

"I could not go to his grave to pay tribute but I have visited the graves of his supporters and allies like Hossein Fatemi," said Ebrahim Nazeri, 32, as he, his wife and two children stood at the graveside of Fatemi, Mossadegh's foreign minister who was executed after the coup. "He was a hero like Mossadegh."

Another visitor to Fatemi's grave, teacher Ehsan Rahmani simply said that "the U.S. planted hatred in the hearts of

UK PM RISHI SUNAK BREAKS PARLIAMENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FAILING TO DECLARE WIFE'S SHARES

LONDON (TIP): UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak should have declared his wife's stake in a company that was set to benefit from government cash, a parliamentary watchdog declared on August 24. Sunak vowed "integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level" when he came to power, after the short-lived tenure of Liz Truss and the scandal-hit premiership of Boris Johnson. But in a year in office, he has received a police fine for not wearing a seatbelt, on top of another for breaking Covid lockdown rules when he was finance minister under Johnson. House of Commons Standards Commissioner Daniel Greenberg began a probe in April after receiving a complaint about Sunak's comments to a committee of senior MPs the previous month. Sunak failed to mention to them and in a follow-up letter that his wife, Akshata Murthy, held shares in a childminding firm that would receive additional state funding. (AFP)

Russia says it thwarted Ukrainian missile strike in Kaluga, drones destroyed off Crimea

MOSCOW (TIP): Air defences thwarted a Ukrainian missile attack in the Kaluga region southwest of Moscow and several drones were destroyed off Crimea, Russian authorities said on August 25, with no reports of damage or casualties.

A missile sent by Kyiv "was detected and destroyed by air defence systems over the territory of Kaluga region," Moscow's defence ministry said in a statement. Kaluga borders the Moscow region, which has recently been targeted almost daily by drone attacks according to Russian authorities.

Airspace above Moscow's Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports was closed, the TASS news agency reported Friday, citing aviation services and without specifying why.

"Several UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) were destroyed over the sea in the area of Cape Kherones" in Crimea, Mikhail Razvozhayev, the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol wrote on Telegram.



The cape is located in the southwest of the Crimea peninsula near Sevastopol, which is home to Russia's Black Sea fleet.

Emergency services reported no damage to civilian infrastructure, Razvozhayev said, adding: "All forces and services are in a state of combat readiness."

Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, has been targeted by Kyiv throughout

Moscow's Ukraine offensive but has come under more intense, increased attacks in recent weeks.

Kyiv has repeatedly said it plans to take Crimea back.

On Thursday, Ukraine said its forces had flown the country's flag in Russian-annexed Crimea during a "special operation" to mark its second wartime Independence Day. (AFP)

Zimbabwe's election extends to a second day after long ballot delays

HARARE (TIP): Voting is still underway in Zimbabwe, where hourslong delays in distributing ballot papers forced the president to extend the general election by a day at dozens of polling stations.

Some frustrated voters slept at polling stations in the capital, Harare, snuggling under blankets or lighting fires to keep warm.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who seeks a second term, used his presidential powers to extend voting to August 24 night at dozens of polling stations. Ballot papers were still being printed late Wednesday, hours after voting should have closed. At other polling stations, counting of ballots began. Zimbabwe has a history of violent and disputed elections. The 80-year-old Mnangagwa had claimed Zimbabwe to be a "master" of democracy while criticizing Western countries that expressed concern about the credibility of the polls weeks ago.

His main challenger, Nelson Chamisa, a 45-year-old lawyer who narrowly lost a disputed election in 2018, has described this election as a sham, claiming that the voting delays were aimed at disenfranchising voters in his urban strongholds.

At many polling stations in Harare and other urban areas, people shoved and



shouted at election officials and police officers after being told ballot papers had run out. The state-run Herald newspaper quoted Justice Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi as saying the printing of ballot papers would only be complete late Wednesday night.

Some polling stations opened two hours after the official closing time, while others suspended voting and officials asked people to return in the morning.

"We spent the while night here. We are concerned. This is the first time in my life seeing a situation where people cannot vote because papers are not there. It's not making sense," said Cadwell

Munjoma, 55, wearing an overcoat at a polling station in the middle-class Mabelreign suburb at dawn.

Some waiting voters washed their faces at plastic buckets. Others were glued to their phones, urging neighbors and family members who had gone home for the night to return and prepare to vote.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission acknowledged the late distribution of ballot papers at some polling stations and blamed it on printing delays "arising from numerous court challenges." Governing party activists and the opposition had brought a flurry of cases over who could run in both presidential and parliamentary elections. (AP)

China bans seafood from Japan after Fukushima nuclear plant begins its wastewater release

OKUMA (TIP): The tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant began releasing its first batch of treated radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean on August 24 — a controversial step that prompted China to ban seafood from Japan. People inside and outside the country protested the wastewater release, with Japanese fishing groups fearing it will further damage the reputation of their seafood and groups in China and South Korea raising concerns, making it a political and diplomatic issue. In response to the wastewater release, Chinese customs authorities banned seafood from Japan, customs authorities announced Thursday. The ban started immediately and will affect all imports of "aquatic products" including seafood, according to the notice. Authorities said they will "dynamically adjust relevant regulatory measures as appropriate to prevent the risks of nuclear-contaminated water discharge to the health and food safety of our country."

Shortly after China's announcement, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings President Tomoaki Kobayakawa said the utility was preparing to compensate Japanese business owners appropriately for damages suffered by export bans from "the foreign government" over the wastewater release. (AP)

Thousands of women and girls were sexually assaulted after peace deal in Ethiopia's Tigray, study shows

NAIROBI (TIP): Scores of women and girls in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region were sexually assaulted, often by multiple men alleged to be combatants, after a peace agreement last year ended the conflict there, according to a new study of medical records released on August 24.

The youngest girl raped was 8 years old.

The Tigray conflict killed hundreds of thousands of people and left untold thousands of women and girls with the trauma of sexual assault.

At least 128 sexual assaults occurred after the peace agreement was signed last November, according to the study, which looked at records from the start of the conflict in November 2020 through June.

With most health facilities destroyed or looted as Ethiopian forces battled Tigray fighters, many women and girls were left without treatment for months. Some now have HIV or are raising the children of their rapists. Others live with incontinence or chronic pain, along with the cultural stigma around such attacks.

The study by Physicians for Human Rights and the Organization for Justice and Accountability in the Horn of Africa, along with a commentary in The Lancet medical journal, looked at more than 300 randomly selected medical records from Tigray health centers focused on helping survivors of sexual violence.

It is just a "small glimpse" of the toll, the authors say, and they fear the chance for justice will be lost if independent accountability efforts by the United Nations and others are shut down.

"All the community is a victim of sexual violence," a



Tigray-based researcher into conflict-related sexual violence told The Associated Press. A collaborator on the study, he has spoken with hundreds of women and girls and said not one feels healed.

"Rape survivors, they are suffering the most," he said. Like many Tigrayans, he spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from Ethiopian authorities.

At least 128 sexual assaults occurred after the peace agreement was signed last November, according to the study, which looked at records from the start of the conflict in November 2020 through this June.

Overall, 76% of the 304 women and girls whose cases were reviewed were sexually assaulted by multiple people, often three or more. One was assaulted by 19 men.

In 94% of all cases, no condom was used. Many perpetrators also wielded guns, sticks or knives. Some women and girls were abducted for repeated assaults.

"They took her to their camp and raped her for six

months," one medical record cited by the study says.

Almost all the women and girls said their attackers appeared to be members of a military group, often from neighbouring Eritrea, whose soldiers fought alongside Ethiopian forces against Tigray fighters and allegedly remain in parts of western and northern Tigray.

The findings suggest that "these acts were neither isolated nor random but a systematic use of rape as a weapon of war," the study's authors write in The Lancet commentary.

Spokesmen for Ethiopia's and Eritrea's governments did not respond to requests for comment.

"It is absolutely horrifying and devastating to even read the narratives of the patients," Ranit Mishori, a senior medical adviser with Physicians for Human Rights, said in an interview. "The brutality didn't skip the children. Many were also raped by multiple perpetrators."

Mishori and her colleague, senior program officer Lindsey Green, expressed concern that independent efforts to understand the conflict's toll and bring accountability to the perpetrators are being weakened or shut down under pressure from authorities.

"Most disturbing to me is the lack of focus on these crimes," Green said.

Ethiopia's government is keen to re-engage with key partners such as the United States, the European Union and global financial institutions after the conflict. On Thursday, Ethiopia was announced as an incoming member of the BRICS economic bloc.

But Ethiopia has sharply criticized outside efforts to

LANKA: PLANNING DEVELOPMENT WITH INDIAN AID

COLOMBO (TIP) : Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has pledged to transform the Tamil-dominated Eastern Province, particularly the Trincomalee district, into a multifaceted hub and underscored the need to engage Indian assistance for it.

Addressing a special committee meeting on the developmental initiatives within the province on August 24, the president asserted the acceleration of the Eastern Development Project and emphasised fostering a conducive environment to reinvigorate the island nation's cash-strapped economy.

Stressing the need to engage India's assistance for this project, Wickremesinghe highlighted its strategic importance, a release by the President's Office said.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also the finance minister, stressed India's collaborative role in the transformation. (PTI)

More than 200 former Afghan officials and security forces killed since Taliban takeover

ISLAMABAD (TIP) : More than 200 extrajudicial killings of former Afghan government officials and security forces have taken place since the Taliban took over the country two years ago, according to a UN report released on August 23.

The groups most targeted by the Taliban have been former army, police and intelligence forces, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

UNAMA documented at least 800 human rights violations against former Afghan government officials and security forces between August 15, 2021, when the Taliban seized power, and the end of June 2023.

The Taliban swept across Afghanistan as US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from the country after two decades of war. The US-trained and backed Afghan forces crumbled in the face of the Taliban advance and former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

"Individuals were detained by the de facto (Taliban) security forces, often briefly, before being killed. Some were taken to detention facilities and killed while in custody, others were taken to unknown locations and killed, their bodies either dumped or handed over to family members," the report said.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said in a press release issued alongside the report that it "presents a sobering picture of the treatment of individuals affiliated with the former government and security forces".

(AP)

Pakistan cable car owner arrested after ignoring safety warnings: Police

PESHAWAR (TIP): The owner and operator of a stricken cable car that dangled over a Pakistan ravine for more than 12 hours have been arrested after repeatedly ignoring safety warnings, police said on August 24.

Six teenage boys were among eight people left stranded hundreds of feet in the air when two of the three chairlift cables snapped on Tuesday, leading to a daring rescue mission that brought them to safety.

"The cables being utilised were of subpar quality, and the machines were also in need of overhauling," Tahir Ayub Khan, a senior police official in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, told AFP.

"The initial notice was issued to the owner in June, followed by a second notification served in August."

He said the owner had received directives to refurbish the machinery, enhance the quality of the chains and obtain a safety certificate from the local administration.

"Both the cable car operator and the owner have been arrested by the police for an investigation into the disaster," Khan said.

Amjad Ali, another police official, confirmed that the arrests were made on Wednesday.

The six children had been on their way to school accompanied by two adults when the chairlift broke down Tuesday



morning midway through its journey above the remote Allai Valley.

"Some of the children were so frustrated and were considering to jump down, but the elder passenger gave us confidence," 15-year-old Rizwan Ullah said on Wednesday.

"When the cable car was twisting, we were terrified and we started reciting the Koran and gave confidence to each other not to jump down."

In a daring rescue operation, military helicopters plucked the first child from the chairlift and brought the student to safety after flying several sorties in the area.

Rescuers then used the cable keeping the gondola from plunging into the valley as a zipline to rescue the seven

others stranded late into Tuesday night.

Cable cars that carry passengers -- and sometimes even cars -- are common across the northern areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and Gilgit-Baltistan, and are vital in connecting villages and towns in areas where roads cannot be built.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar issued a directive for all chairlifts in mountainous areas to be inspected and for those that are not "safety compliant" to be immediately closed.

In 2017, 10 people were killed when a chairlift cable broke, sending passengers plunging into a ravine in a mountain hamlet near the capital Islamabad. (AFP)

Six Indian pilgrims among 7 killed in Nepal bus accident: Report

KATHMANDU (TIP) : Six Indian pilgrims were among seven people killed when the bus they were travelling in plunged some 50 metres from a mountain road in Nepal's Madhesh province, a media report said on August 25.

The accident happened in the early hours of Thursday in the province's Bara district when the bus carrying pilgrims from Rajasthan overturned and fell some 50 metres down the road at a riverbank south of Churiamai Temple at Simara Sub-Metropolitan City, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

Apart from the six Indians, one Nepalese citizen was also killed in the accident which also injured 19 others.

"The bus carrying six Indian pilgrims overturned and fell down the road at a river bank. A total of 26 passengers were on board and in the accident one Nepalese was also killed. The family of the deceased have been informed," said Deputy Superintendent of Police Pradeep Bahadur Chhetri.

Superintendent of Police Hobindra Bogati, who is also the chief of the Bara district police office said that they have



detained three people, including the bus driver Jilami Khan.

"The driver and the co-workers have also sustained injuries during the accident and were detained following treatment," he was quoted as saying in the report. The police said that all those injured were undergoing treatment at various hospitals in Hetauda of adjacent Makwanpur district.

Road accidents in Nepal are quite common due to the poor road infrastructure across the country, which

majorly comprises mountainous terrain.

On Wednesday, a passenger bus skidded off the main highway and plunged into a swollen river in Nepal's Bagmati province, killing at least eight people and leaving at least 15 others injured.

The accident happened when the bus en route to the scenic city of Pokhara from Kathmandu veered off and fell into the Trishuli River at Chalise in Dhading district. (PTI)



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69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Rocketry is best feature film; Allu Arjun, Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon bag acting honors

Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon have jointly won the National Film Award in the Best Actress category for their films *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and *Mimi*, respectively, while Telugu actor Allu Arjun has been named the Best Actor for his film *Pushpa: The Rise*.

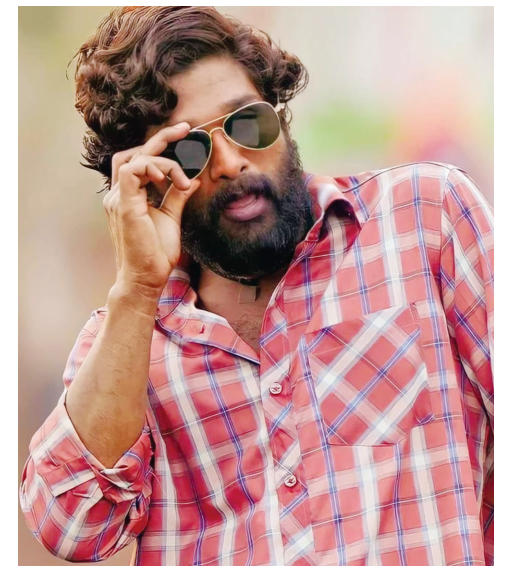
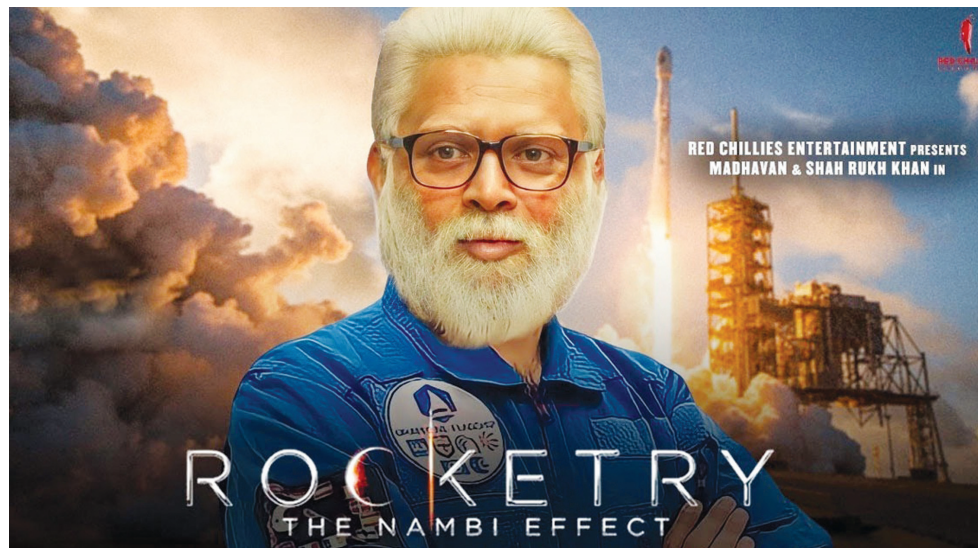
R Madhavan's *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, based on the life of former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayan, has been adjudged the Best Feature Film in the 69th National Film Awards announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi on Thursday, August 24. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's biographical drama *Gangubai Kathiawadi* has also won the Best Screenplay (adapted) — written by Bhansali and Utkarshini Vashishtha — and the Best Dialogues award for Vashishtha and Prakash Kapadia. Bhansali has also been named the best editor for the film, while Preetisheel Singh D'souza has won the award for best make-up artist for *Gangubai*. Actors Pankaj Tripathi and Pallavi Joshi have bagged the best supporting actor awards for *Mimi* and *The Kashmir Files*, respectively.

The Kashmir Files has also won the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration. Shoojit Sircar's biographical historical drama *Sardar Udham* has also bagged several awards. Apart from being named the Best Hindi Film, it has been awarded Best Cinematography (Avik Mukhopadhyay), Best Audiography (Sinoy Joseph), Best Production Design (Dmitrii Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta) and Best Costume Design (Veera Kapur Ee) awards.

The Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a director has been awarded to Malayalam film *Meppadiyan*, while Assamese film *The Resonance* has bagged the award for Best Film on Social Issues.

SS Rajamouli's *RRR* has won the Best Music Director (background score) award (M M Keeravaani), Best Special Effects (V Srinivas Mohan), Best Choreography (Prem Rakshith), Best Male Playback Singer (Kaala Bhairava for the song *Maayava Chaayavaa*) and Best Action Direction (Stunt Choreography) award (King Solomon). The film has also bagged the award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. The National Awards, 2021, were selected by an 11-member jury headed by filmmaker Ketan Mehta. The award for the Best Director went to Nikhil Mahajan for Marathi film *Godavari*. Officials said the awards are meant for films that were released/certified in 2021; the awards for the consequent year — 2022 — will be declared in a few weeks.

Music by Laxmikant Pyarelal: *The Incredibly Melodious Journey*, authored by Rajiv Vijayakar has won the Best Book on Cinema awards, while Telugu writer Purushothama Charyulu has been adjudged the Best Film Critic. Best non-feature film award has been won by *Ek Tha Gaon*, produced and directed by Srishti Lakhera.





Dune Part Two, animated Lord of the Rings delayed amid Hollywood actors' strike

The Warner Bros movie studio will delay the planned November release of a big-budget *Dune* sequel until March, a studio spokesperson said on Thursday, because its stars cannot promote the movie during the Hollywood actors' strike. The decision deals a blow to cinema chains such as AMC Entertainment, Cineplex and Cinemark which are still trying to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. *Dune* was one of the most anticipated films on the late 2023 schedule. *Dune: Part Two* will now debut on March 15, a date that had been reserved for Warner Bros film *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*. The monster movie was shifted to April 12. As a result, an animated *Lord of the Rings* film that had been set for April was moved to December.

Dune: Part Two stars Zendaya and Timothée Chalamet in a sci-fi sequel based on Frank Herbert's 1965 novel about an intergalactic battle to control a precious resource.

Leonardo DiCaprio steps out with model Vittoria Ceretti, sparks dating rumors

Leonardo DiCaprio was seen with model Vittoria Ceretti in Santa Barbara recently. As per a report by Page Six, The Wolf of Wall Street actor was seen out for an ice-cream date with the model. Both Leonardo and Vittoria twinned in white outfits.

As pictures emerged in a new report by Page Six, Leonardo and Vittoria grabbed ice cream and iced coffee to beat off the August sun. Leonardo, 48, opted for a white tee shirt and beige cargo shorts, while the 25 year-old Italian model looked pretty in long sleeved shirt and black bike shorts, which she paired with a blue handbag. The duo was seen walking together with their cups of iced coffee on the streets of Santa Barbara.

In the past few months, Leonardo was linked to several women. A few days ago, Leonardo was seen with 32 year-old Arabella Chi, star of *Love Island*, as they cruised the Mediterranean Sea. They were joined by Leo's longtime pal Tobey Maguire, British Vogue editor Edward Enninful and Chief Creative Officer of Burberry Group, Riccardo Tisci. Arabella was seen in a leopard-print bikini with a matching sheer sarong around her waist.

Reports of Leo rekindling his romance with supermodel Gigi Hadid also surfaced after the duo were seen partying in the Hamptons last month. Besides this, Leonardo was also spotted with Indian-origin British model Neelam Gill on a yacht in Sardinia.

A few days later, Neelam responded to the media speculation about them on her Instagram Stories. "Just to clear up any rumors... I am not Leonardo DiCaprio's 'new flame'. In fact, I am in a committed relationship with his good friend, and have been for many months now. The only reason we have been pictured in the same vicinity is because I have been there with my partner. I hope this clears up all the false stories," she wrote in the post.

Last year, it was reported that Leonardo ended his relationship with Camila Morrone, his girlfriend for four years, only months after the model turned 25.



On the work front, Leonardo will be next seen in Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The film also stars Robert De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Brendan Fraser and Lily Gladstone in pivotal roles. It releases in cinemas on October 6.

Kevin Costner's estranged wife accuses him of 'withholding' financial information

The ongoing divorce saga between Kevin Costner and his estranged wife, Christine, has taken another contentious turn as the couple's legal teams spar over financial matters. The pair, who filed for divorce in May after 18 years of marriage, are entangled in a legal showdown over their prenuptial agreement and child support for their three children: Grace, 13, Hayes, 14, and Cayden, 16.

The latest development involves Christine's attorneys filing a request for order in the California Superior Court, alleging that Kevin is withholding vital financial documents. In court documents obtained by People magazine, Christine's lawyer accuses Kevin of "stonewalling."

The court filing states, "[Kevin] has requested a multi-day evidentiary hearing on [Christine's] request for child support, at which time the Court will receive evidence regarding [Kevin's] gross cash flow available for support and anticipated future income. [Kevin] has also requested a trial to determine the validity of the parties' Premarital Agreement, the unconscionability of which will depend on an analysis of how the terms of that agreement compare to the parties' present financial realities." Christine's legal team asserts that they need evidence regarding Kevin's earnings and circumstances to make an informed decision. They contend that Kevin is withholding crucial information from discovery, which could impact the court's determination.

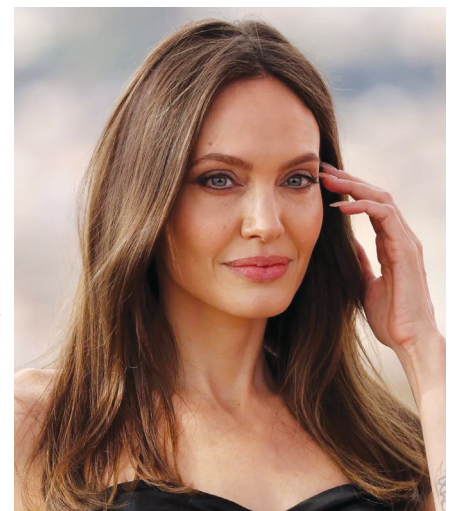


Angelina Jolie's new tattoos are not 'related with Brad Pitt'

Angelina Jolie has left her fans guessing about her new middle finger tattoos, which many believe are aimed at her ex-husband and actor Brad Pitt. Now her tattoo artist has denied all such assumptions and has said that he will soon share a picture of the actual tattoos Angelina got inked on her both middle fingers.

Tattoo artist Mr. K had shared on his Instagram page on Tuesday that he recently got lucky to have inked Hollywood star Angelina Jolie. He however, blurred the tattoo in the picture he shared on Instagram and captioned it, "@angelinajolie Still can't believe that I actually grabbed her hand and tattooed her. Guess what she got on her palm? #angelinajolie #mrktattoo."

Soon after, many in the comments section made wild guesses about what could the tattoo be. Mr K deleted most of the negative comments and replied in the comments section, "IT'S NOTHING related with Brad Pitt. Guys it's photoshopped for cover the tattoo. Let me post actual tattoo photo very soon :)."



Strawberry face masks for glowing skin

Do you wish to get a glowing skin? Strawberries can be your beauty secret. This super fruit performs miraculously when it comes to treating skin conditions and rejuvenating your skin. They have strong astringent, anti-inflammatory, and anti-oxidants properties that treat burns, protect your skin from UV rays, and delay ageing. Strawberries are packed with alpha-hydroxylic acid that can help you get rid of dead skin cells. Those who have acne can use strawberries to get rid of the skin condition. This fruit contains salicylic acid that helps in this regard.

Here are some easy ways to prepare strawberry face packs and apply for various skincare purposes.

Strawberries And Fresh Cream Mask

To prepare it, you need to take a bowl and add strawberry puree, fresh cream (if you have dry skin) or yogurt (if you have oily skin) and a tablespoon of honey in it. Mix them well and apply on your face. Wait for around 10 minutes and then wash off using warm water. This mask can be effective in treating acne.

Strawberries And Lime Face Pack

If you have tanning and pigmentation mark on your skin, you must use this mask. To prepare it, you need to mix strawberries and a tablespoon of lime juice in a bowl. Mix them well and then apply all over the face. Wait for approximately 15 minutes and then rinse off using warm water.

Strawberry And Honey Face Mask

Honey is a strong antioxidant and can help in getting rid of skin impurities and treat acne. To prepare this face mask, firstly you need to mash a few strawberries and make a paste. Once prepared, add one



tablespoon of honey in it and mix well. Apply on your face and leave it for 15 minutes. Wash with warm water.

Rice and Strawberry Face Pack

Applying this face pack has proven to be the perfect remedy to deep cleanse the skin, get rid of dead cells, dirt and impurities. All one needs to do is take 1 tablespoon of uncooked rice soaked in water and blend it with 3 strawberries in a blender. Once a uniform paste is attained, apply it to your face and leave it on for 30 minutes. Wash your face with cold water and pat it dry. Follow this remedy two times in a week and that would be enough to gain brilliant results.

Almond Oil, Lemon Juice, Strawberry

Mash 3 fresh strawberries in a bowl until smooth. Add one tablespoon of almond oil and 5 drops of lemon juice to the strawberries. Mix well and apply the mixture with a sanitized brush all over your face and neck. Leave the mask on for not

more than ten minutes. Wash your face with warm water and pat dry with a clean towel. Follow up with a suitable skin toner or moisturizer for your skin. This will achieve you an even skin-tone and a better texture. A face pack that is suitable to your skin from the ones mentioned above can be made a part of your daily or weekly beauty regime and we can assure you it would fail you.

Strawberry and Coco Powder Mask

Want to achieve that gorgeous inner glow to your skin? Look no further than this strawberry and coco powder mask. Mix two tablespoons of coco powder with crushed strawberries. Add a tablespoon of honey and mix well. Apply the mask all over your face and leave it to dry for 15 minutes. Rinse your face with luke warm water and you'll experience immediate results. Furthermore, your skin will feel supple and you'll notice an improved texture by the day.



Benefits of pomegranate

Pomegranate is one of the healthiest fruits on earth. Pomegranate has many incredible health benefits for your body. It is called as a divine fruit because it is the most mentioned fruit in theological books. Pomegranate has anti-oxidant, anti-viral and anti-tumor properties and is said to be a good source of vitamins, especially vitamin A, vitamin C, and vitamin E, as well as folic acid. This amazing fruit consists three times as many antioxidants as both wine or green tea. Consuming pomegranate also lowers the risk of all sorts of diseases. Following are the benefits of pomegranate:

Protects us from free radicals

Pomegranate is rich in anti-oxidants and thus protects our body from free radicals, which are responsible for premature ageing. Free radicals are formed by exposure to sun and due to harmful toxins in the environment.

It thins your blood

Antioxidants present in pomegranate act as a 'thinner for your blood'. The seeds of pomegranate prevent your blood platelets from forming clots and coagulating.

There are two types of blood clots, first is the good one which speeds the recovery during a cut or an injury and second is when there is any internal clot, like in heart, arteries or anywhere else inside the body. These type of clots are not good and can be fatal.

Prevention of atherosclerosis

With increasing age and the type of lifestyle we live, the walls of our arteries become harder due to cholesterol, resulting in blockages sometimes. The anti-oxidant property of pomegranate prevents bad cholesterol from oxidizing. So, eating pomegranates removes the excess fat and prevents the hardening of artery walls.

It acts like an oxygen mask

Pomegranate helps to pump the level of oxygen in our blood. Due to anti-oxidants present in pomegranate, it fights free radicals, reduces cholesterol and prevents blood clot. All this eventually helps blood to flow freely and thus improve the level of oxygen in your body.

It prevents arthritis

Pomegranate can reduce the damage of the cartilage by fighting the enzyme that does so. Pomegranate also has the ability to reduce inflammation.

Fights erectile dysfunction

Though it is not a wonder drug but yes pomegranate juice can slightly improve erectile dysfunction. And a lot of theories prove this as true.

Fights heart disease and prostate cancer

Two studies claim that pomegranate juice has the ability to fight prostate cancer. An experiment showed that pomegranate juice slowed the growth and even killed cultured cancer cells. And as we have already mentioned in the second point, pomegranate juice thins the blood and thus improves its condition which in turn prevents cardiovascular diseases.

FOOD CORNER

Ginger Chicken Masala

Ingredients

Chicken Legs - 4, skinless (You can also use chicken breasts), onions - 100 gms, finely chopped, Ginger - 1 tsp, peeled, finely chopped, Red Chilli Powder - 1 tbslp, Curry Leaves - few Oil - 100 ml, Salt as per taste, For the masala, Ginger - 2 tsp, peeled, finely chopped, Shallots (Sambar Onions) - 2 tsp, finely chopped, Coconut - 4 tsp, grated, Black Peppercorns - 2 tsp, Cumin Seeds - 3 to 4 tsp, Saunf - 1 tsp

Method

- Add a little water to the masala ingredients and grind to a smooth paste.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
- Sauté the onions for 2 minutes.
- Add the curry leaves and ginger. Reduce flame to low.
- Cook for 30 to 60 seconds.
- Add red chilli powder and salt., Stir well.
- Add the chicken and the ground masala.
- Pour 750 to 800 ml of water.
- Stir well and simmer until the chicken is cooked and coated nicely with the masala.
- Remove and serve with rice.



Simple blood test may predict future heart, kidney risk for diabetics

A simple blood test may predict the risk of progressive heart and kidney disease in people with type 2 diabetes, according to new research.

An analysis of a clinical trial of more than 2,500 people with type 2 diabetes and kidney disease has found that high levels of four biomarkers in blood tests are strongly predictive for the development of heart and kidney issues, according to the study published in the American Heart Association's flagship journal *Circulation*.

"High levels of certain biomarkers are indicators of heart and kidney complications and may help predict future risk of disease progression," said lead author James Januzzi from Harvard Medical School, also a cardiologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

People who took canagliflozin, a sodium glucose co-transporter 2 inhibitor (SGLT2 inhibitor), had lower levels of the four biomarkers compared to those who took a placebo over the three-year study period.

Canagliflozin is a third-line medication to be tried after metformin, a first-line medication for type 2 diabetes.

Treatment with canagliflozin helped to substantially reduce the risk of hospitalisation for heart failure and other heart complications among patients considered to have the highest risk.

The researchers analysed biomarker data from the blood samples of 2,627 people to assess the effects of canagliflozin on concentrations of the four biomarkers. Patients were separated into low, medium and high risk categories.

People at highest risk showed dramatically higher rates of progressive kidney failure and cardiovascular complications throughout the three-year study period.

The analysis found high concentrations of each



biomarker at the beginning of the study were strongly predictive of the severity of the participant's heart and kidney issues.

The concentrations of each of the four biomarkers in people taking canagliflozin were lower after one year and three years compared to those taking the placebo.

After one year, the levels of all biomarkers in participants who took canagliflozin rose 3 per cent to 10 per cent, compared to an increase of 6 per cent to 29 per cent in those who took the placebo.

"It was reassuring to discover that canagliflozin helped reduce risks the most in people with the highest chances for complications. Future studies are needed to better understand how type 2 diabetes in conjunction with kidney disease develops and progresses so that we may initiate life-saving therapies earlier, before symptoms of heart and kidney disease have occurred," Januzzi said.

Source: IANS



Research reveals anxious people use less suitable section of brain to control emotions

Anxious people use a less suitable section of the forebrain when choosing their behaviour in socially difficult situations than non-anxious persons. This can be detected in brain scans, according to research conducted by Bob Bramson and Sjoerd Meijer at Radboud University's Donders Institute.

For example, an anxious and a non-anxious person both run into someone whom they've been in love with for quite some time. Both of them find this tense and both would like to ask the person out on a date. But do you walk up to that person? Or do you pretend not to see them to avoid embarrassment? Whereas the non-anxious person can put aside this emotion and choose behaviour that allows them to approach the potential lover, this is much more difficult for an anxious person. Bramson: "Anxious people use a less suitable section of the forebrain for this control. It's more difficult for them to choose alternative behaviour, so they avoid social situations more often." Decisions like this demand a balancing act between a possible threat and a reward, a decision that non-anxious people make in the prefrontal cortex. Researchers at Radboud University have now shown that socially anxious people use a different section in the forebrain for decisions like this.

Bramson and Meijer studied brain scans to see what happens in anxious and non-anxious people in a simulated social situation. "Our trial subjects were shown happy and angry faces and had to first move a joystick towards the happy face and away from the angry face. At a certain point they had to do the reverse: move towards an angry face and away from a happy face. This demands control over our automatic tendency to avoid negative situations." Anxious people proved to perform just as well as non-anxious people in this simple task, but the scans showed that a completely different section of the brain was active. "In non-anxious people we often see that, during emotional control, a signal is sent from the foremost section of the prefrontal cortex to the motor cortex, the section of the brain that directs your body to act. In anxious people a less efficient section of that foremost section is used." Other scans showed that the reason for this is probably because the 'correct' section becomes overstimulated in anxious people.

How avocados help in weight loss

One serving of avocado has only 114 calories and they have a low glycemic index. Studies have found that replacing saturated fats with unsaturated fats can improve insulin sensitivity and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

Good fat and high fibre combination of avocados can help to keep weight in check.

Good Fat - Avocados are a high satiety food. They are loaded with health promoting MUFA (Mono unsaturated fatty acids) which can help keep us full for long, and keep cravings away. With cravings in check the need to munch on unhealthy foods (which mean extra calories) is curtailed and this can help us stick to the requisite number of calories we need to eat to stay near our optimum weight.

High fibre - Half an avocado contains 15% daily recommended intake of fiber. Fiber is essential for appetite regulation and bowel health and is associated with a lower risk of heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and bowel cancer. In addition, the fibers in avocados can act as prebiotics (food for beneficial bacteria in the intestines) and have been found to improve the diversity of the intestinal microflora.

Reason 3: Loaded with nutrients

Avocados are packed with essential minerals, bioactive compounds and C, E, K and B-group vitamins (see the chart) that improve human health and help to prevent many diseases such as metabolic syndrome (a combination of diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity). Eating a nutrient rich diet is the best way to keep our weight in check.

Making healthy food more acceptable is the route to follow to ensure eating a diet that keeps our weight in check. Just tossing a few slices of avocado in your



colourful salad, or mixing some chopped avocado into your favourite salsa or and soup.

Avocados are delicious and their creamy texture and taste make them a perfect (healthier and tastier) alternative to high-calorie ingredients like mayonnaise, cheese, or butter. With avocados you can add a rich, creamy texture and flavor to dishes without compromising on health and also keeping the calories in check.

Avocado is extremely versatile. You can have them smashed, blended or sliced. And the best news is that they do not need too much preparation and is quick to put together, making planning a healthy, calorie control diet more practical.

Source: HT

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Now, users can create groups on WhatsApp without needing a name for it

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced that users can now create a group on WhatsApp without needing a name for it. This feature is rolling out globally over the next few weeks. "You're welcome to embed this post within your piece," he posted.

It is useful when "you need to create a group in a hurry, or you don't have a group topic in mind", said the company.

Unnamed groups of up to 6 participants will now be dynamically named based on who is in a group, the company announced.

The group name will display differently for each participant, based on how they have contacts saved in their phone.

If you are added into a group with people who do not have your contact saved, your phone number will appear within the group name.

Meta-owned messaging platform is also widely rolling out a video message feature on iOS.

"You can now instantly record and send video messages in chats," the company said.

Last month, the messaging platform rolled out landscape mode support for video calls and silence unknown callers option on iOS.

Zuckerberg had announced that WhatsApp users can now send photos in HD quality.

New spray technique could usher in new era of transdermal medication

Scientists at Rutgers University have devised a highly accurate method for creating coatings of biologically active materials for a variety of medical products. Such a technique could pave the way for a new era of transdermal medication, including shot-free vaccinations, researchers said.

Writing in *Nature Communications*, researchers described a new approach to electrospray deposition, an industrial spray-coating process. Essentially, Rutgers scientists developed a way to better control the target region within a spray zone as well as the electrical properties of microscopic particles that are being deposited. The greater command of those two properties means that more of the spray is likely to hit its microscopic target.

In electrospray deposition, manufacturers apply a high voltage to a flowing liquid, such as a biopharmaceutical, converting it into fine particles. Each of those droplets evaporates as it travels to a target area, depositing a solid precipitate from the original solution.

"While many people think of electrospray deposition as an efficient method, applying it normally does not work for targets that are smaller than the spray, such as the microneedle arrays in transdermal patches," said Jonathan Singer, an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Rutgers School of Engineering and an author of the study.

"Present methods only achieve about 40 per cent efficiency. However, through advanced engineering techniques we've developed, we can achieve efficiencies statistically indistinguishable from 100 per cent."

NASA and SpaceX to send next crew to the ISS

Dubbed Crew-7, the mission will be commanded by American Jasmin Moghbeli and includes Andreas Mogensen of Denmark, Satoshi Furukawa of Japan and Konstantin Borisov of Russia.

Lift-off is targeted for 3:50am (0750 GMT) from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, with a backup opportunity at 3:27 am on Saturday.

It will be the first space mission for both Moghbeli and Borisov.

"This is something I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember," said Moghbeli, a Naval test pilot, during a media call last month.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is looking back at our beautiful planet," added the 40-year-old of Iranian heritage.

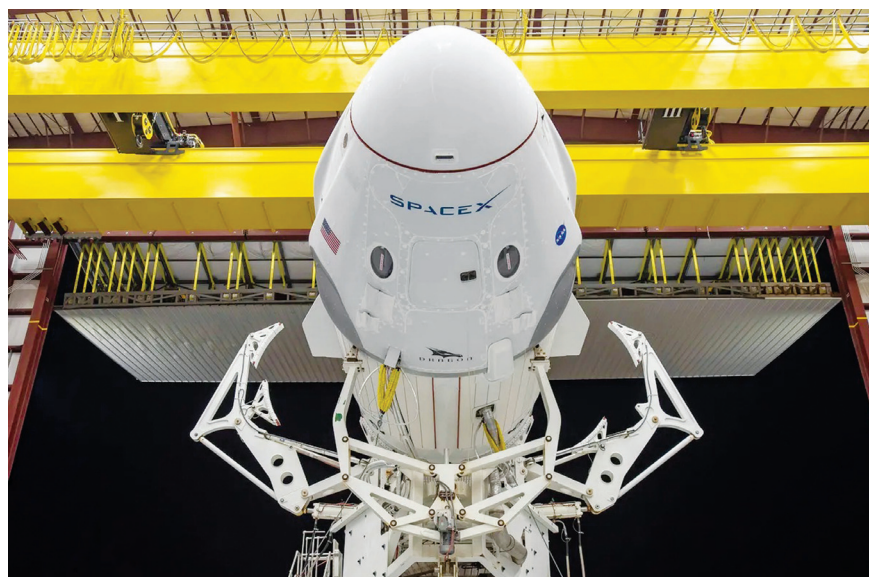
"Everyone who I've talked to who has flown already has said that was a life changing perspective -- and also floating around in space, it seems really fun."

Crew-7 is set to be the seventh routine mission to the orbital platform for Elon Musk's SpaceX, with the first coming in 2020.

NASA pays SpaceX for the taxi service as part of a commercial crew program that it put in place to reduce dependency on Russian rockets for astronaut transport after the Space Shuttle program ended in 2011.

Boeing is the other contracted private partner, but its program remains mired in delays and technical difficulties and it hasn't yet flown any crew.

Borisov will be the third Russian



to fly on a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, fixed atop a Falcon 9 rocket.

Space remains a rare area of cooperation between the US and Russia despite the invasion of Ukraine, with Americans also continuing to fly aboard Russian Soyuz rockets that launch from Kazakhstan.

The crew will spend six months aboard the ISS, where they will carry out science experiments including collecting samples during a spacewalk to determine whether the station releases microorganisms through life support system vents.

The goal is to understand if microorganisms can survive and reproduce in space.

Another experiment will aim to assess the physiological differences

between sleep on Earth and in space.

"I'm looking forward to coping with all the tasks. This is a very interesting profession: you are preparing for something that you haven't tried yet, and you really want to do it well," said Borisov.

Crew-7 will join the seven people already aboard the ISS, before members of Crew-6 leave for Earth a few days later.

The first segment of the ISS was launched in 1998, and it has been continuously inhabited by an international crew since 2001.

Its operations are set to continue until at least 2030, after which it will be decommissioned and crash into the ocean. Several private companies are working on commercial space stations to replace it.

All of neptune's clouds have anished, scientists blame it on the sun

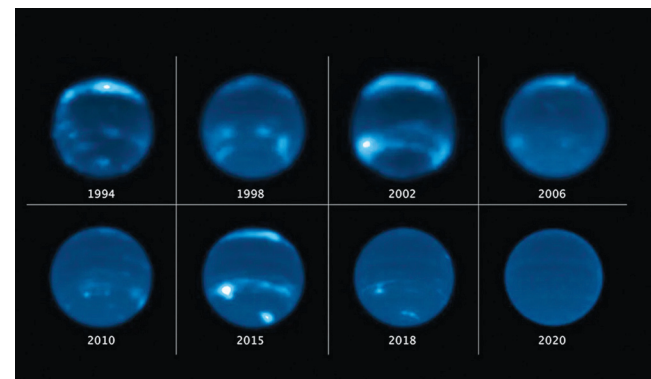
All of Neptune's clouds have disappeared, astronomers announced this unexpected update on Thursday, August 17. For the first time in three decades, Neptune is almost completely cloud-free.

Scientists observed detailed images of the planet between the years 1994 and 2022, they noticed a strange pattern beginning in 2019. Around the planet's mid-latitudes, cloud coverage seemed to start fading. Eventually, all evidence of clouds totally vanished, *Space.com* reported.

Since 2019, scientists saw only one patch of wispy white drifting around the planet's south pole.

"I was surprised by how quickly clouds disappeared on Neptune," Imke de Pater, an emeritus professor of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley and senior author of a study on the findings, said in a statement. "We essentially saw cloud activity drop within a few months."

The scientists decided to dig deeper. To monitor the evolution of Neptune's appearance, Chavez and her team analyzed Keck Observatory images taken from 2002 to 2022, the Hubble Space Telescope archival observations beginning in 1994, and data from the Lick Observatory in California from 2018 to 2019. They explained that Neptune's clouds are inextricably linked with the way our sun behaves during its 11-year-long



activity cycle.

The scientist said that the pattern somewhat matches up with the sun's 11-year cycle of activity, albeit with a two-year lag between the sun's extremes and Neptune's. It seems that when the sun is most active, more clouds begin to form on Neptune, and when it is least active, Neptune's clouds dissipate, a *New Scientist* report said.

According to NASA's release, when it's stormy weather on the Sun, more intense ultraviolet (UV) radiation floods the solar system. The team found that two years after the solar cycle's peak, an increasing number of clouds appear on Neptune.

India to clock highest growth among top 5 global economies: Finance Secretary

Finance Secretary TV Somanathan on Thursday, August 24, said India will continue to clock the highest growth rate among the top five economies in the world in the foreseeable future and asked Indian diaspora to act as a catalyst and supplement government efforts in making India the biggest opportunity.

India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world. The top four are US, China, Japan and Germany.

An S&P Global report had earlier this month projected India's economy to double to \$6.7 trillion by 2031, from \$3.4 trillion currently.

"India is already the world's fifth largest economy and it is the largest country by population. India's rate of growth by any measurement is much faster than the top four. Today we can safely say that all four are likely to have lower growth rates than India in the foreseeable future. "... in terms of the size of opportunity, India is arguably the biggest development opportunity of the future because we are large and we are growing faster than the other large economies," Somanathan said in his address at the Indiaspora G20 forum.

The Indian economy grew at the rate of 7.2% in 2022-23 and economists peg GDP growth to be in the range of 6-6.5% in the current fiscal (April-March).

India set to ban sugar exports for first time in 7 years

India is expected to ban mills from exporting sugar in the next season beginning October, halting shipments for the first time in seven years, as a lack of rain has cut cane yields, three government sources said.

India's absence from the world market would be likely to increase benchmark prices in New York and London that are already trading around multi-year highs, triggering fears of further inflation on global food markets. "Our primary focus is to fulfil local sugar requirements and produce ethanol from surplus sugarcane," said a government source who asked not to be named in line with official rules.

"For the upcoming season, we will not have enough sugar to allocate for export quotas." India allowed mills to export only 6.1 million tonnes of sugar during the current season to Sept. 30, after letting them sell a record 11.1 million tonnes last season. In 2016, India imposed a 20% tax on sugar exports to curb overseas sales. Monsoon rains in the top cane growing districts of the western state of Maharashtra and the southern state of Karnataka - which together account for more than half of India's total sugar output - have been as much as 50% below average so far this year, weather department data showed.

Sandwich chain Subway to be sold to fast-food investor Roark Capital

NEW YORK (TIP)

Subway said it will be sold to Roark Capital, a private equity firm with expertise in restaurant management that could help the sandwich chain expand and improve its stores.

Terms of the deal weren't disclosed. Earlier this week, The Wall Street Journal reported that Atlanta-based Roark was offering around USD 9.6 billion for Subway, which is privately owned.

Subway CEO John Chidsey, who joined the company in 2019, said the deal reflects Subway's long-term growth potential and the value of the brand. Subway plans to continue to modernise restaurants and expand internationally under Roark's ownership. Subway said its leadership team will remain in place.

Roark is a private equity firm with USD37 billion in assets under management. It specialises in franchised businesses and backs two holding companies that own multiple restaurant chains: Inspire Brands, the parent of Arby's, Dunkin', Jimmy John's and Buffalo Wild Wings; and Focus Brands, which owns Auntie Anne's, Carvel, Cinnabon and Jamba.

Subway, which has dual headquarters in Miami and Connecticut, was founded in 1965 and is still owned by its founding families. It's now one of the world's largest restaurant chains, with 37,000 outlets in more than 100 countries.

But in the U.S., it has been losing market share in recent years to fast-growing rivals like Panera and Firehouse Subs, which feature more varied menus and newer stores. Subway currently controls about 23% of the USD 43 billion U.S. sandwich and deli market, according to Technomic, a consulting company. That's down from 34% in 2017.

Subway has been trying to catch up; in 2021 it refreshed its menu and last year it announced a line of chef-developed sandwiches after finding that customers were tiring of Subway's traditional model of letting customers build their own sandwiches.

But in February, Subway announced it was exploring a sale. Subway has some momentum going into the acquisition. In July, the company said its global same-store sales — or sales at locations open at least a year — were up 9.8% from the prior year. The company has remodeled 10,000



of its U.S. restaurants and recently spent \$80 million to provide its 20,000 U.S. restaurants with deli meat slicers, a first for the brand.

Antfin to sell 3.6% stake in Paytm, reducing its stake further

Paytm shareholder Antfin is likely to sell a 3.6% stake in the Indian payments firm through a block deal on Friday as it further reduces its stake in the company, CNBC-TV18 reported. The floor price for the sale is set at 880 rupees per share, the report added, which is a 2.7% discount on Paytm's last closing price of 904.45 rupees.

Citi has been appointed as the broker for the deal, which the broadcaster said is valued at a total of \$234 million.

Paytm and Ant Group did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Earlier this month, Paytm said Chief Executive Vijay Shekhar Sharma would buy a 10.3% stake held by Antfin in the firm he founded — in a deal that made him its single largest shareholder.

Antfin is the Netherlands-based arm of Chinese fintech giant Ant Financial. The company, whose stake in Paytm fell to 13.49% after the earlier deal, could further reduce its stake to under 10%.

Total spending on fuel subsidies topped \$7 trillion in 2022, IMF says

LONDON (TIP)

Global subsidies for fossil fuels rose by \$2 trillion over the past two years to reach a record \$7 trillion in 2022, according to new estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

The soaring costs, driven by post-pandemic consumption growth and by rising energy costs stemming from Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, are straining budgets, adding to pollution and exacerbating global warming, the IMF said in a report.

"Subsidies for oil, coal and natural gas are costing the equivalent of 7.1% of global gross domestic product," the IMF said. "That's more than governments spend annually on education (4.3% of global income) and about two thirds of what they spend on healthcare (10.9%)."



It warned that implicit subsidies - the cost of damage from air pollution and global warming - account for the bulk of the costs and are likely to keep rising.

A variety of nations in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world have cut fuel subsidies in recent years due in part to rising debt and borrowing costs. Wealthier nations, where energy consumption is higher, face less

financial pressure to cut subsidy costs.

Explicit subsidy costs - what governments pay directly to keep electricity or pump prices artificially low - have more than doubled since 2020, to \$1.3 trillion. The IMF said that these costs are likely to fall now that energy prices have eased, which it said was an ideal time to scrap subsidies.

"Falling energy prices provide an opportune time to lock in pricing of carbon and local air pollution emissions without necessarily raising energy prices above recently experienced levels," it said.

But an even bigger concern, the IMF said, are implicit subsidy costs, which are likely to keep rising as damage from a warming planet spreads. Consumers did not pay for over \$5 trillion of environmental costs last year, the IMF said. *Source: PTI*

Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 25, 2023, TO AUGUST 31, 2023

25th August



1581 Jotti Jot, Fourth Patshah, Guru Ram Das Ji. The Fourth Master, ascended the holy gaddi (throne) of Guru Nanak in 1574 and continued to adorn the exalted office till 1581. Though he was the son-in-law of Guru Amar Das, being married to his daughter Bibi Bhani, yet he revered the Third Master as a Guru with an unwavering fervor. Inebriated with the nectar of the divine Nam, he spurned delights, and spent all his time in an ecstatic communion with the Lord through moments of deep meditation.

Originally called Jetha Ji, Guru Ram Das was born in a Sodhi family at Lahore in 1534. His parents died when he was just a child. He was, therefore, brought up by his maternal grandparents. He had an opportunity to visit Goindwal, the seat of the Third Master, at a time when the bavali was being dug through voluntary labor. He immersed himself in this labor of love with such a rare verve and dedication that he won the Guru's appreciation and recognition. The Third Master was so highly pleased with the disciple that he gave his daughter Bibi Bhani to him in marriage. Nevertheless, he served Guru Amar Das with as much love and devotion as ever before. It was in 1574 that he was invested with Guruship and named Guru Ram Das.

Guru Ram Das's contribution to Bani is considerable. His compositions throb on born of love for fellowman and yearning for God. They inculcate in the people the adoration of God and the Guru. Rightly does the Master image an ideal man as one who had drunk deep at the fount of Nam and whose eyes are aglow with the love of the Lord. He sought a consummation of the human personality through God-realization.



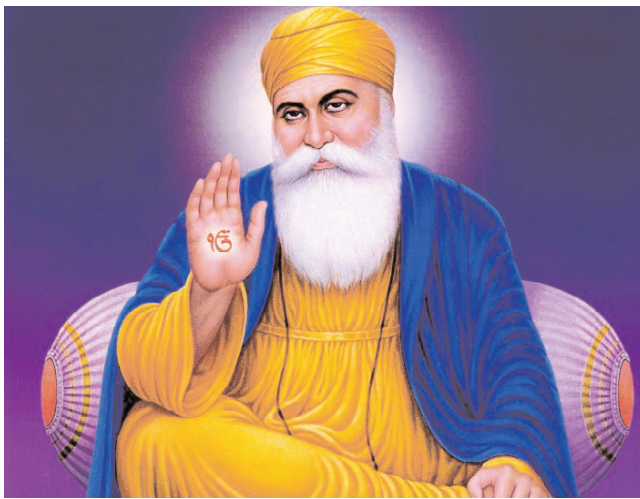
1637 Bhai Gurdas Ji passed away. He was a true GurSikh, who was a close brother of Bibi Bhani Ji. He adopted the Sikh faith from Fourth Patshah, Sri Guru Ram Das Ji, in 1636 and learned the essence of GurSikhism from the Fifth Patshah, Sri Guru Arjun Dev Ji. Bhai Gurdas eventually became a full-fledged GurSikh preacher and effectively propagated the GurSikhism tenants. He preached concentrated in Lahore, Agra, Kanshi and surrounding region.

1977 Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale assumed



responsibility of Chief sewadar of Damdami Taksal.

26th August



1507 Guru Nanak returned from the house of God and issued first commandment at Sultanpur.

Guru Nanak returned from the house of God. Three days earlier he went to river Bein to take a bath but didn't return. As such he was presumed drowned. However, he returned from the same spot that he had disappeared three days earlier and stated the first commandment that God was one, the parent of us all. People need not quarrel over religion, for God is neither Hindu nor Muslim. He is one God of the whole universe and no one should forget Him even for a moment. He said that God was beyond time, beyond births and deaths, that God was without fear and enmity. He was the creator of all the worlds in this Universe.

1679 Janam Din Bhai Daya Singh, one of the first five Sikh initiated members of the Khalsa order.

Bhai Daya Singh Ji was born in Lahore to father Sudo Khatri and mother Dayali. On the 1699 Baisakhi day, Bhai Daya Singh was the very first to answer Guru Gobind Singh Ji's call for Sis Baeta. He was one of the first five selected GurSikhs to be initiated into the Khalsa order established by Guru Gobind Singh on the Vaisakhi of 1699. He was 30 years of age at this time. He passed away in 1708 besides the banks of Godawari in Nanded. Bhai Daya Singh was the recognized leader among the Panj Payaras.

1980 With the protection of Baba Nihal Singh, Krishan Kaur Khalsa was the first woman to perform kirtan, in recent time, within the confines of Sri Harimandir Sahib. Vikram Singh Khalsa was performing kirtan on the Gurupurab for the birthday for Guru Ram Das Ji. This kirtan was for a Bhog on the roof of the Harimandir Sahib — not in the main hall. When he finished, he motioned for Krishna Kaur Khalsa to play. As she began some SGPC sevadars moved to stop her but Baba Nihal Singh and some other Nihungs stood in their way and protected her right to perform kirtan within the confines of the Harimandir Sahib. Still no Sikh woman has performed kirtan in the main darbar.

27th August

1922 Piara Singh Langeri, ex-Ghadrite, participated in the General meeting of the Akali Dal. He influenced the Sikhs to take up arms and became an integral part of the Babbar Akali Jatha, under Jathedar Krishan Singh Gargaj.

28th August

1921 SGPC, headed by S. Kharak Singh endorsed the policy of non-cooperation with the British government.

1923 The Nation newspaper was purchased by the Sikhs to project and protect Sikh interests.

1958 Akali Conference Baba Bakala demands the formation of Punjabi Suba.

1977 General House of the Akali Dal approved the famous 1973 Anandpur Sahib's resolution.

1977 Sikh Dharma International Headquarters was established.

29th August

1923 Sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib at jaito by the British.

1983 Work stoppage movement launched by Shiromani Akli Dal.

30th August

1845 Murder of Kanwar Peshaura Singh.

31st August

1923 Famous encounter at Babeli village between Babbar Akalis and the Police that left 4 Babbars killed.

1930 Baba Kharak Singh was brought on a stretcher to the SGPC meeting. He threatened to resign unless the Shiromani Akali Dal refused to fight under the Congress flag which did not include the Sikh color. He did not want the Sikhs to be taken for granted. The Punjab Provincial Congress Committee (PPCC) recommended the incorporation of the Sikh color in the national flag. But Jawaharlal Nehru, then Congress President, was amused and termed the PPCC decision as hasty and untimely.

1981 Marked the ultimatum date for acceptance of Sikh demands. This ultimatum was issued by Shiromani Akali Dal at the World Sikh Convention.

1995 Beant Singh, then 73-year-old chief minister of Punjab, was killed in a powerful car bomb blast at the high-security State Secretariat in Chandigarh, India. A dozen security personnel were also killed and 30 others injured as the blast blew off the Chief Minister's car to smithereens and damaged other vehicles. Under Beant Singh's chief ministership, Sikh youth were specifically targeted for elimination while the Indian government credited him with putting down terrorism and restoring peace in the State.





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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says that the people of Aries may face some problems at the beginning of the week, but the second half will prove to be very auspicious for you. During that time, you will be successful in improving your work area. At the beginning of the week, due to lack of timely support from close friends and colleagues, the mind may be a little disappointed. During this time, you will need to fulfill your family responsibilities properly. From the point of view of health also, this time can be a bit painful for you. You can be a victim of seasonal diseases, in this case, keep food and routine right. In the second half of the week, employed people will get the full support of both seniors and juniors in the field. People connected abroad can get unexpected benefits. There can be profit from buying and selling land and building. There will be intensity in love relations. Sweetness will remain in married life. Normal happiness and cooperation will remain on the child's side.

TAURUS



Ganesha says that this week, the natives of Taurus can get success in the work done, even if it is late. New sources of income can be created at the beginning of the week. This week can be normal in terms of health and you can get full support of luck. More time for women will be spent in worship or auspicious work. In the second half of the week, there will be a great success in economic matters. The decision can also come in your favor in matters related to the court. However, be careful while signing any paper and sign only after reading and understanding. There will be an increase in material comforts and resources in the family.

GEMINI



Ganesha says that this week is going to bring happiness and good fortune to the people of Gemini. Good news can be received from the child side at the beginning of the week. Those who are preparing for competitive exams will also get some good news. During this, you can get the full results of hard work and effort. However, avoid taking any big step by getting excited or getting carried away by emotions. Especially do not make the mistake of ignoring the feelings of family members. Desired progress will be seen in both career and business. This week will be good from the point of view of income, but the expenditure will also be in the same proportion. At the end of the week, you can buy any expensive item related to comfort. There will be

strength in a love relationship. Sweetness will remain in married life.

CANCER



Ganesha says the first part of the week is going to be better for Cancer people. At the beginning of the week, you may see sudden progress in your career business. There will be relief in matters related to court. The opponents themselves may come to you to initiate the agreement. This week, working women may face some difficulties in coordinating between home and office. In the second half of the week, there will be an excess of work in the workplace. Due to some obstacles in the planned work, the mind will remain a little upset. During this, more hard work and effort will be required for success in work. Take a step forward carefully in a love relationship, otherwise, you may get into unnecessary trouble. To keep married life sweet, do not ignore the feelings of your spouse. There will be mental concerns about the health of an elderly person in the house.

LEO



Ganesha says the people of Leo zodiac may have to take full care of the fact that if caution is removed, an accident happens. This week, you will need to work harder to get the desired success in the field of employment. Beware of hidden enemies in the workplace and do not pay attention to the small things people do. During this time, your opponents may try to distract you from your goal. Drive carefully this week and take full care. There is a possibility of an old disease emerging once again. If you get an opportunity to settle the case going on in the court outside, do not miss it at all. Proceed thoughtfully in the love affair and avoid interfering excessively in the personal life of the love partner. In difficult times, your life partner will be with you like a shadow.

VIRGO



Ganesha says for the people of Virgo, this week can be like the fulfillment of dreams. At the beginning of the week, good news related to career business can be heard. For those who have been waiting for their transfer or promotion for a long time, their wish can be fulfilled this week. At the beginning of the week itself, it is possible to meet a senior and influential person, with the help of which profitable plans will be made in the future. During this period, through your intelligence and hard work, you will be able to make progress in

your field of work, career, business, etc. This week, more money can be spent out of pocket on things related to comfort. Problems related to land-building will go away. You will get the happiness of ancestral property. In the second half of the week, some health-related problems may emerge. Love relations will be strong and there will be an opportunity to spend quality time with the love partner.

LIBRA



Ganesha says that at the beginning of the week, you may have to travel long or short distances in connection with work. During this time new sources of income will be created, but the excess expenditure can be a bit high. The behavior of relatives and best friends couldn't be more positive. The mind will remain troubled due to not getting timely help from relatives. Those who have been wandering for employment for a long time may have to wait a little longer to get the desired success. In the second half of the week, do not take any decision related to home or business in haste. The interference of a third person in love affairs can be the cause of your troubles. Try to solve any problem through dialogue. A spouse's health can become a major cause of worry.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week is a sign of being careful with the people of the Scorpio zodiac. If you are thinking of changing job or investing money somewhere in the business, then before taking such a decision, do consult your relatives once. Think carefully before taking any major decision, otherwise, you may have to repent later. While taking decisions on any matter related to family, take full care of the feelings of your relatives. During this, it would be appropriate to move ahead by meeting friends and family members. Do not disclose your plans in the workplace; otherwise, opponents may put obstacles in it. Take a step forward with caution in your love affair; otherwise, things may get spoiled. At the end of the week, there can be a big concern regarding the child side. Take full care of your health and routine.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says the week has brought good fortune for the people of Sagittarius. At the beginning of the week, with the help of a close friend or influential person, you may feel

CONTD ON PAGE 41

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 28

Ganesha says as the sun shines brightly on your special day, the stars predict a day of personal growth and self-discovery. You'll find that you're drawn to new experiences, and your spirit of adventure will drive you to places that have not been explored before. Accept the uncertainty that lies ahead and have faith that the universe has your back.

AUGUST 29

Ganesha says today, the heavens are aligned to bring you good fortune. This day is going to be characterized by increased intuitive capacity as well as emotional sensitivity. You'll develop deeper ties with the people in your immediate environment, and your

capacity for empathy will become one of your greatest strengths. Do not forget to make time for your own self-care; your well-being is of the utmost importance.

AUGUST 30

Ganesha says the planets align in a way that suggests a day of creativity and innovation. Whether it is in your personal life or in your professional life, you'll find that you're brimming with unique ideas. Do not let fear prevent you from pursuing your goals and aspirations. Your endeavors have the backing of the cosmos.

AUGUST 31

Ganesha says as you celebrate your birthday, the stars promise you a day filled with equilibrium and harmony. You'll find yourself in predicaments

that require you to act as a mediator, bringing about harmony and comprehension between two parties. Your capacity for diplomacy will be recognized, and it will be appreciated. Strive for a state of equilibrium in every facet of your life.

SEPTEMBER 1

Ganesha says it seems that today will be a day filled with leadership and initiative. You'll find yourself in positions where you can guide and motivate people around you. Take advantage of these opportunities and don't forget that genuine leadership is about servicing the needs of others.

SEPTEMBER 2

Ganesha says on this very unique day, the cosmos hushes its voice and reveals

secrets of love and ardor. Whether or not you are currently in a romantic partnership, today will be rife with tender and romantic moments. Keep an open heart to both giving and receiving love in its many guises. Honor the connections you already have while also remaining open to forging new ones.

SEPTEMBER 3

Ganesha says as you cross another day off your calendar, the stars predict that you will have some time for introspection and self-reflection. Now is the time to focus within, reevaluate your objectives, and readjust your course of action. You'll have significant new insights into the things you truly want and strive for in life. Have faith in your intuition and allow it to direct your actions.

CONTD FROM PAGE 40

relieved by completing a long pending work. There will be full cooperation of senior and junior colleagues in the field. The mind will be happy by getting the desired position or work. The power of people associated with politics will increase. There will be an increase in respect etc. in the field of social prestige. In the second half of the week, you may have to run a lot in connection with the purchase and sale of property like land, vehicle, house, etc., but your hard work will give you both success and profit. Long or short-distance travel with family is possible at the end of the week. The journey will prove to be pleasant. You will continue to receive maximum happiness and cooperation from your parents.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says the people of Capricorn who were worried about the progress of careers and business, their wishes can be fulfilled this week.

Seniors in the workplace will appreciate your work. You may get some important responsibility. Earlier investment in any scheme or business will bring profit. Students engaged in the preparation for examination competitions can get good news. In the second half of the week, due to the arrival of a dear person in the house, there will be an atmosphere of happiness. Any auspicious work can be completed in the family or there will be an opportunity to participate in any auspicious occasion. Material comforts will increase. In matters related to love affairs, there will be a need to maintain better coordination with the love partner. Happiness and cooperation will remain with the spouse.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says the people of Aquarius should take full care of their pockets while

spending this week. At the beginning of the week, more money can be spent out of pocket on things related to amenities. If you are thinking of buying new land, building, or vehicle, then take this decision very carefully. The help and advice of a friend will prove to be very effective in taking the business forward. In the first half of the week, long or short-distance travel is possible with the spouse. The journey will prove to be enjoyable and create new relationships. In the second half of the week, the mind will be worried about the health of an elderly person in the house. During this, be alert of the opponents in the

workplace and avoid making any such mistake, due to which there will be a decrease in your social prestige. There is a need to make better coordination with the love partner in a love affair.



Sweetness will remain in married life.

PISCES

Ganesha says that this week is going to be very auspicious for the people of Pisces. At the beginning of the week, there can be chances of profit and progress. During this time, you can be successful in influencing others with your speech and behavior. There will be

harmony with siblings. If you were planning to buy land or building for a long time, then your wish may be fulfilled this week. You can get full support of your parents. With the help of best friends, there will be chances of profit in the workplace or business. Students engaged in the preparation for examination competitions can achieve great success. His interest in studies will increase. You will be successful in a love affair. Mutual trust will increase with the love partner. You will have a pleasant time with your spouse. Health will be normal.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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The full moon of Shravan month is a special day for Hindus. The month of Shravan and Sawan is a very special month in Hindu religion. The month of Sawan is also very dear to Lord Krishna, so the month of Sawan is special and the full moon of the month of Sawan and Shravan is very special. According to the English calendar, it comes in July or August.

In India, the full moon of Shravan month is worshiped and known by different names. Shravan Purnima is celebrated as Narali and Narayali Purnima and Avani Avittam in South India, Kajari Poonam in Central India, Raksha Bandhan in North India and Pavitopana in Gujarat. This diversity of our festivals is the hallmark of the uniqueness of India.

Narali Purnima

It is a ceremonial day celebrated by Hindu fishing communities in the southern Indian state of Maharashtra, especially around Mumbai and the Konkan Coast. It is held on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Shravan. On this day offerings like rice, flowers and coconuts are offered to Lord Varuna, the god of sea and water.

The sea is the only base for the people living on the Western Ghats. This is the time of the return of monsoon, due to which the sea is also calm. Fishermen decorate their boats and bring them to the shore of the sea. Varuna prays by offering coconut to the deity so that his life is well lived.

Coconut is offered because it is considered a symbol of Shiva because of the three eyes of the coconut. Offering coconut to God before starting any work in our country is the most popular way to seek his blessings and thank him.

Avani Avittam

The Brahmins of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa and Maharashtra who study Yajurveda celebrate this day as Avani Avittam. Mahasankalpa is taken by Brahmins on this day to get rid of old sins. The brahmins wear a new Yagyopaveet after taking a bath.

Undertaking means beginning. From this day Yajurvedi Brahmins start reading Yajurveda for the next six months. This day is also important because according to Indian myths, Lord Vishnu incarnated as Hayagriva, the god of knowledge, on this day.

Kajari Purnima

Kajari Purnima is celebrated in Central India especially in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and some parts of Uttar Pradesh. Its preparation starts from the ninth day of Shravan Amavasya i.e. Kajari Navami. This festival is celebrated by daughter-in-law women. On the day of Kajari Navami, women bring earth from the field in pots of tree leaves. Barley is sown in it.

On the day of Kajari Purnima, all the women take out a procession with these barley on their heads and immerse them in a nearby pond or river. Women fast on this day and pray for the long life of their son.

Pavitopana

In Gujarat, worship of Lord Shiva is done with great enthusiasm. Offering water to Lord Shiva on Shravan Purnima is considered very special and Shiva is also worshiped on this day. As part of Pavitopana, cotton wicks are dipped in Panchgavya (cow's ghee, milk, curd etc.) and offered to Shiva.

Kushanbhavpur Day

In Ayodhya and Prayagraj, Kushanbhavpur day is celebrated as Shravan Purnima. In ancient times Sultanpur was known as Kushanbhavpur Day and it is here that Shravan Purnima was celebrated as Kushanbhavpur Day.

Shravana Purnima Significance, Rituals, and Fasting

The full moon day of the month of Shravan is considered a very auspicious and holy day. The importance of penance and charity has been told in the scriptures these days. The holy festival of Raksha Bandhan is celebrated on this day as the beginning of Shravan Shukla Purnima. Shravan Karma has special importance, on this day there is a ritual of worshipping Yagyopaveet and Upnayan Sanskar.

The Brahmin class forms a corporation for the purification of their deeds. In Hinduism, the full moon of the month of Shravan is considered a very holy and auspicious day. The importance of worshipping Lord Shiva is considered in the month of Sawan. There is a law to worship Lord Shiva every day in Shravan.

Lord Shiva is quickly pleased by this type of worship and fulfills all the wishes of his devotees. The full moon date of

Shravan Purnima



Important information

Shravan Purnima 2023, Narali or Narayali Purnima, Avani Avittam, Kajari Poonam, Pavitropana and Kushanbhavpur Day

Wednesday, 30 August 2023

Full Moon Date Start - 30 August 2023 at 10:58 AM

Full Moon Date Ends - 31 August 2023 at 07:05 PM

this month is considered to be the last day of this month: worshipping Shiva and performing Jalabhishek on this day gives the virtue of worshipping Shiva for the whole month.

Shravan Purnima legend

According to legend, a king named Tungdhvaj ruled in a city. Once the king got tired of hunting in the forest and sat under a banyan tree. There he saw some people worshipping God. The king had stolen so much in his Lalkhand that he did not even recite the story of Lord Satyanarayana nor did he worship the Lord. The villagers came to him and offered him offerings out of respect. But the king was so proud that he left the Prasad uneaten. When the king reached his city, he saw that the king of another kingdom attacked his kingdom and destroyed everything. After this, he understood that all this is the reason for Lord Satyanarayan's anger. He reached the same place and asked the villagers for God's offerings. He was also getting a lot of goods, so he accepted the prasad after apologizing for his mistake. Satyanarayana forgave the king and restored everything as before. The king enjoyed the pleasure of kingship for a long time and after his death he attained heaven.

According to the scriptures, whoever fasts and listens to the story of Lord Satyanarayana in a personal way, all the pleasures of the world are attained and all his mantras are fulfilled. Goddess Lakshmi's blessings always remain on him. That person never remains poor nor does he face any kind of problem. The person who listens to the story of Lord Satyanarayan also gets Vaikunth Dham after birth. That's why every human being must recite the story of God so that the grace of Lord Satyanarayana is always received.



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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

India becomes the first country in the...

The south pole region is considered an area of key scientific and strategic interest for spacefaring nations, as scientists believe the region to be home to water ice deposits.

The water, frozen in shadowy craters, could be converted into rocket fuel or even drinking water for future crewed missions.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi watched the landing virtually and shared broadcasted remarks on the livestream.

"On this joyous occasion...I would like to address all the people of the world," he said. "India's successful moon mission is not just India's alone. This is a year in which the world is witnessing India's G20 presidency. Our approach of one Earth, one family, one future is resonating across the globe.

"This human-centric approach that we present and we represent has been welcome universally. Our moon mission is also based on the same human-centric approach," Modi added. "Therefore, this success belongs to all of humanity, and it will help moon missions by other countries in the future."

As Chandrayaan-3 approached the moon, its cameras captured photographs, including one taken on August 20 that India's space agency shared Tuesday. The image offers a close-up of the moon's dusty gray terrain.

India's lunar lander consists of three parts: a lander, rover and propulsion module, which provided the spacecraft all the thrust required to traverse the 384,400-kilometer (238,855-mile) void between the moon and Earth.

The lander, called Vikram, completed the precision maneuvers required to make a soft touchdown on the lunar surface after it was ejected from the propulsion module. Tucked inside is Pragyan, a small, six-wheeled rover that will deploy from the lander by rolling down a ramp.

Vikram used its on board thrusters to carefully orient itself as it approached the lunar surface, and it slowly throttled down its engines for a touchdown just after 6 p.m. IST (8:30 a.m. ET) as applause erupted from the mission control room.

The Indian Space Research Organization, or ISRO, later confirmed it had established two-way communication with the spacecraft and shared the first images of the surface captured during the lander's final descent.

The lander, which weighs about 1,700 kilograms (3,748 pounds), and 26-kilogram (57.3-pound) rover are packed with scientific instruments, prepared to capture data to help researchers analyze the lunar surface and deliver fresh insights into its composition.

Dr. Angela Marusiak, an assistant research professor at the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, said she's particularly excited that the lunar lander includes a seismometer that will attempt to detect quakes within the moon's interior.

Studying how the moon's inner layers move could be key information for future endeavors on the lunar surface, Marusiak said.

"You want to make sure that any potential seismic activity wouldn't endanger any astronauts," Marusiak said. "Or, if we were to build structures on the moon, that they would be safe from any seismic activity."

The lander and rover are expected to function for about two weeks on the moon's surface. The propulsion module will remain in orbit, serving as a relay point for beaming data back to Earth.

A GLOBAL MOON RUSH

Working alongside allies such as the United States and France, India is part of a second wave of emerging space powers. The country's space program has become one of the world's busiest in its development of exploratory space technology.

Chandrayaan-3 has been a point of national pride and widespread interest across India. Crowds gathered at the launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in



Applause erupted in the control room Wednesday, August 23 when India's lunar lander touched down on the moon's surface.
Image from ISRO

India has a busy decade of space exploration ahead.

Chairman of ISRO S. Somanath speaking with the media after the successful landing of Chandrayaan on the Moon August 23, 2023
Photo / ISRO

S. Somanath, the director of Indian Space Research Organization, has described the current moment as an inflection point, as the country opens its space programs to private investors after half a century of state monopoly that made advances but at "a shoestring budget mode of working."

A large share of India's space efforts in the coming years will focus on the moon.

In addition to the scientific results of Chandrayaan-3, India is preparing a joint lunar exploration with Japan, in which India will provide the lander and Japan the launch vehicle and the rover. The robotic mission, known as LUPEX, is also intended for exploring the South Pole of the moon.

Although an Indian astronaut flew to orbit in 1984, the country has never sent humans to space on its own. It is therefore preparing its first astronaut mission to space, called Gaganyaan. But the project, which aims to send three Indian astronauts to space on the country's own spacecraft, has faced delays, and ISRO has not announced a date for it.

ISRO will first have to conduct a test flight of the Gaganyaan spacecraft with no astronauts aboard. Officials have said they are at the stage of perfecting the crew escape system, and they said this month that they had tested the drogue parachutes, which help stabilize the capsule that the astronauts will ride as they return to Earth.

Additionally, India is preparing for the Aditya-L1 mission, which plans to study the sun, in early September. ISRO officials have said that it will carry seven payloads to study the photosphere chromosphere and the outermost layers of the sun using electromagnetic and particle detectors.

Another mission is the collaborative NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar, or NISAR, which will monitor changes in our planet's land and ice surfaces from orbit. It is slated to launch from India next year.

The country will also launch a second Mars orbiter mission. The first Mars mission, Mangalyaan, successfully entered the planet's orbit in 2014 and remained in communication with ISRO until the mission concluded in 2022 when the spacecraft lost power.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh state to watch the mission take flight in July. On Wednesday, August 23, more than 8 million people tuned in to view a livestream of the landing.

At least 500 people gathered at India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi Wednesday where the livestream was broadcast in an auditorium as well as outdoors at a temporary pavilion. After a successful touchdown was confirmed, Indian sweets were distributed to the audience, firecrackers were lit and spectators applauded for more than a minute. Chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" - or "victory to India" - could be heard, and children joyously waved the Indian flag. India's mission has taken on even greater significance since Russia's failed Luna 25 landing attempt. With the success of Chandrayaan-3, India became the second country to land a spacecraft on the moon in the 21st century after China, which has put three landers on the lunar surface since 2013 - including the first to touch down on the moon's far side. (The last US lunar lander, the crewed Apollo 17 mission, touched down in 1972.)

More than a dozen countries have plans for missions to the moon in the coming years, including a mission launched by Japan's space agency - the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency - that is expected to lift off later this month. The United States also has plans to send three commercial lunar landers to the moon starting as early as this year, while NASA continues to work toward its Artemis III mission, which could put astronauts back on the moon as soon as 2025.

Landing on the moon, however, remains a challenging endeavor. India's last attempt to land a spacecraft on the moon, during the 2019 Chandrayaan-2 mission, failed. And two commercial spacecraft have crash-landed on the lunar surface in recent times - one from Israel in 2019 and the other from Japan in April.

"There is no doubt that landing on the Moon is a real challenge," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a statement on Sunday. "But the Moon offers great scientific reward, which is why we've seen so many recent attempts to visit the surface again. We're looking forward to all that we will learn in the future, including from India's Chandrayaan-3 mission."

On Wednesday, Nelson also shared a congratulatory note on social media, saying, "congratulations to #India on being the 4th country to successfully soft-land a spacecraft on the Moon. We're glad to be your partner on this mission!" India is also a signatory of the United States' Artemis Accords, a document that outlines proposed rules of the road for future lunar exploration. Russia and China have not signed the accords.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

President Trump booked, released from Fulton County Jail, Mugshot released

Trump was released pending trial after paying a \$2,00,000 bond his lawyers negotiated earlier this week with Fulton County prosecutor Fani Willis. His surrender in Georgia marks the fourth time this year the former president has turned himself in after criminal charges were brought against him by federal and state officials. But it's the first time he was subjected to a mugshot.

Did nothing wrong

"What has taken place here is a travesty of justice. I did nothing wrong, and everybody knows that. What they're doing is election interference", said Donald Trump.

No previous president of the United States has been charged with criminal offences. But Trump is now facing 91 charges across the four indictments for his alleged actions before, during and after his single-term presidency ended in January 2021.

Trump, a Republican, also posted the mugshot to his X account, formerly known as Twitter, as well as to Truth Social, both posts with the words "election interference" and "never surrender." It marked Trump's first tweet since January 8, 2021, two days after the Capitol riots.

Trump, the leading Republican contender for the Republican Party's 2024 presidential nomination, told reporters that he has done nothing wrong. (Source: PTI)

Sikkim: the land of paradise

Sikkim is the second smallest state in India, and is wedged between Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and West Bengal, but encompasses an astounding range of pristine natural beauty of the Himalayas. A traveller's guide to Sikkim explores the stunning beauty of this Himalayas hill town. The Sikkimese call their land 'Ney Mayal Lyang' that translates to 'heaven.'

Sikkim is located in the north eastern part of India, but is not a part of the Seven Sister states. The state is famous for dazzling waterfalls, virgin forests, Tibetan style Buddhist Gompas, alpine meadows, rhododendron flowers and more. Kanchenjunga (also Kanchendzonga) at 8598 m is the third highest peak in the world, and lies in Sikkim.

More than 60 percent of the former Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim is mountainous, and there are sizeable numbers of 6000 m peaks on the eastern and western borders of the state. Sikkim has an impressive literacy rate of more than 70 percent. It was merged with India in 1975, and is a prosperous state today.

Weather in most parts of Sikkim is pleasant throughout the year (except in higher altitudes), and that makes it a favourite of holidaymakers from the Indian plains in the summer months. Bengalis throng the tourist towns of Sikkim during their holiday season of Durga Puja in October-November. The state abounds in a variety of flora and fauna, and lucky ones may also sight the endangered red panda.

PELLING

Pelling lies in West Sikkim, perched at an altitude of 2100 m and is approximately 120 km away from Gangtok. At first glance Pelling looks like a cluster of concrete hotels, but there are unparalleled views of the snowy peaks. Sunrise over the Kanchenjunga is Pelling's biggest charm. With plenty of budget accommodation options, it also makes for a great base to explore other parts of West Sikkim. Chief sights in and around Pelling are Pemangyatse Monastery, built more than 300 years ago, which is beautifully located amid green gardens; a huge Buddha statue and statues of reincarnations of Padmasambhava; and Pemangyatse Monastery, famous for the Chaam dances (masked dances) held in February/March.

Interestingly, the ruins of Sikkim's ancient capital at Rabdentse, is located at a short distance from Pelling. Rabdentse is a lovely spot accessed by a short walk through a dense forest. The views are spectacular after the walk that arrives at the ruins which are located on top of a ridge with clouds on the other side. The ruins are maintained by ASI these days.

Also, the second oldest monastery in Sikkim, SangaCholing Monastery, is a bit farther away than Pemangyatse. The steep trail will take no more than one hour from Pelling and is a great delight. Views from top of the monastery are astounding and great for photography enthusiasts.

YUKSOM

The historic little town of Yuksom was the first capital of Sikkim when three Lamas converged from different directions and crowned the first Chogyal (King) in 1641. There is still a stone throne that marks the coronation spot, and is known as Norbugang Chorten, the site is called Norbugang Park. Yuksom has the charming feel of a hamlet; it is lower in



altitude than Pelling and is situated in a valley.

If you are coming to Yuksom (Also Yuksam) from Pelling, then a short detour will bring you to Rimbi Waterfalls which is quite a sight in the monsoon. Just 9 km before Yuksom, you will cross the Kanchenjunga Waterfall, which is a majestic waterfall falling from a great height. There is a small pond known by the name of Kathok Lake in Yuksom, a short walk will bring you to a ridge where once stood a palace of the King of Sikkim. There are also two new colourful Gompas above Yuksom, but the most beautiful monastery is the 1701 built Dubdi Monastery. The path to Dubdi Monastery is lined with prayer flags and is located amid lush greenery.

There are no views of the mountains as such from Yuksom, yet it is this place you may remember long after your Sikkim holiday is over. There are quite a number of hotels and homestays in Yuksom. Yuksom's chief claim to fame is that it is the starting point for the treks to Dzongri and Gocha La (4940 m), for splendid views of the Kanchenjunga.

RUMTEK MONASTERY

Undoubtedly, this is Sikkim's most

famous monastery, and every visitor to Sikkim is likely to visit the Rumtek Monastery, even in a 3-4 day trip to Sikkim. Rumtek Village is 24 km away from Gangtok (Sikkim's capital), and the monastery is the headquarters of the Black Hat Sect (one of the oldest sects of Tibetan Buddhism).

There are two buildings of Rumtek Monastery, one is relatively newer (built in 1966), and the older Rumtek Monastery was founded in 1740 by the fourth Chogyal of Sikkim. A path leads to a shrine called Golden Stupa, it is a chorten made of silver and gold, and studded with precious stones such as turquoise, amber and coral. It is recommended to attend the morning prayers at Rumtek Monastery.

The Old Rumtek Monastery is around 2 kms away from the newer one, and the path is surrounded by white prayer flags. The exterior of the monastery is in a light shade of blue, and is built in traditional Sikkimese alpine style, with latticed wooden windows.

Presence of armed personnel comes as a rude shock in the heavily guarded complex; there have been disputes over the future Rinpoche of this monastery resulting in a tense situation. There is a

wide range of accommodation available in Rumtek; from home-stays, hotels, guesthouses to boutique stays.

NATHU LA

The road climbs around 18 km higher from the spectacular road that continues from Tsomgo Lake to the nearly 4200 m Nathu La (La is pass in Tibetan). It is always windy and cold at this altitude. There is a sizeable army presence due to the Chinese border on the other side of the pass. It is advised to not spend more than 30 minutes - 1 hour at the top of the pass to avoid the risk of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). A visit to the Nathu La pass is out of bounds for foreigners.

You could then heads towards North Sikkim, which is perhaps the prettiest region in all of Sikkim. North Sikkim is higher in altitude than other regions, and is an area of unspoiled natural beauty, framed by snow-capped Himalayan peaks. A permit is required to visit North Sikkim. Although it is widely believed that a package tour is necessary to explore North Sikkim, in reality it is not so. A unique social system called Dzumsa prevails in North Sikkim, and Pipon (a village headman) is an influential person. *Source: Happytrips*

Raksha Bandhan

Raksha bandhan is the main festival of Hindus which is celebrated on the full moon day of Shraavan and every year the festival comes in August. This festival is celebrated throughout India and Nepal. Raksha bandhan means 'bondage of security' and 'Raksha Bandhan' in Sanskrit literally means "the knot of security". Rakhi can be made from cotton such as kalva, silk thread, and gold or silver item. The festival of Raksha Bandhan is the festival of brother and sister. This festival symbolizes the love of brother and sister. On the Raksha bandan, sister prays for her brother's long life with her prosperity and happiness and binds Rakhi on her brother's wrist. The brother gives the gift to his sister and promises to protect his sister and take care of him in all circumstances. This festival is celebrated by the Hindu communities including Jain and Sikh religion and other parts of the world. Raksha bandhan has also been an important tradition in the history of Sikhism, which is sometimes called Rakhdi or Rakhri.

Legends and tales of Raksha Bandhan

Draupadi tied Rakhi on Lord Krishna's wrist

According to ancient scriptures, Lord Krishna was once fighting with the evil King Shishupal, to protect the people. The Lord bore an injury and was left with a bleeding finger. Draupadi tore her saree and tied a piece of cloth around Krishna's wrist. He was very impressed by her gesture and promised to protect her if ever she needed help. When the Kauravas tried to strip her robes, Krishna appeared and saved her from honour.

The legend of Yama and Yamuna

It is believed that Yama, the deity of death, gained immortality when his sister, Yamuna tied rakhi on his wrist. Yama also affirmed that anyone, who stood by his promise to protect his sister, after the sister ties rakhi on his wrist, would be blessed with a healthy and everlasting life.

Goddess Lakshmi and King Bali

The Hindu mythology believes that King Mahabali was a devout worshiper of Lord Vishnu. The Lord, impressed by his deep devotion, took to caring for his kingdom. To look after his kingdom, Lord Vishnu had to leave his abode in Vaikuntam, leaving Goddess Lakshmi, behind. The Goddess was distraught by Lord's Vishnu's decision and she knew that she could not talk him out of his commitment. So, she decided to visit the kingdom, on Shraavan Purnima, by concealing her identity. After tying rakhi on Mahabali's wrist, she revealed her identity and shared her reservation with the king. The king was touched by her plea and in return, begged Lord Vishnu to go back to Vaikuntam. Raksha Bandhan is also referred to as the Baleva festival in some cultures.

Mughal Emperor Humayun and Rani Karnavati

Once when Mewar was attacked by the king of Gujarat, Bahadur Shah, Rani Karnavati, a widow herself, was very concerned about the honour of thousands of her women subjects. She sent a bejeweled Rakhi to Mughal emperor Humayun, who had already captured Delhi Throne, by then, seeking his assistance. Humayun felt honoured and obliged with her request, and moved his forces towards Chittorgarh. However, by the time the forces reached the fort, the womenfolk along with the queen, committed jauhar (self immolation) and chose death over dishonour.

King Porus and Alexander's wife

Alexander the Great, invaded the Indian sub-continent by 300 B.C. Although he was never defeated in his conquests, this time he faced a formidable opponent, King Porus. Alexander's wife, Roxana feared for his defeat and death. She came to know about the Raksha Bandhan festival of the region from her close aides. She sent a Rakhi to Porus, and asked him to 'pull punches' on Alexander and not to kill him, if they came face-to-face in the war. According to



various folklores, this is one of the reasons Porus lost the war, as he was bound by the promise he made in return of the Rakhi.

The legend in the Bhavishya Puran

The legend refers to a war between the Gods and the Demons. The demon King Brutra was advancing and the Gods lead by lord Indra, were on verge of defeat. The king of Gods, Indra approached Guru Brihaspati to find a solution to the situation. Brihaspati asked Indra to tie a sacred thread on his wrist, powered by the sacred mantras on the Shraavan Purnima. Lord Indra's Queen Sachi also called Indrani, empowered the thread and tied it on to his hand on the decided day. The power of the sacred thread called Raksha helped the Gods to victory. The tradition of thread tying still continues. It is a gesture of goodwill.

The legend of King Bali and Goddess Laxmi According to another legend Demon King Bali was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu had taken up the task to guard his kingdom leaving his own abode in Vaikunth. Goddess Laxmi wished to be with her lord back in her abode. She went to Bali disguised as a Brahmin woman to seek refuge till her husband came back. During the Shraavan

Important information

Raksha Bandhan 2023

Wednesday, 30 August 2023

Full Moon Date Start - 30 August 2023 at 10:58 AM

Full Moon Date Ends - 31 August 2023 at 07:05 PM

Observances: Celebration of any brother-sister like relationship

Day: Purnima (full moon) of Shraavan

Purnima celebrations, Laxmiji tied the sacred thread to the King. Upon being asked she revealed who she was and why she was there. The king was touched by her goodwill for his family and her purpose and requested the Lord to accompany her. He sacrificed all he had for the Lord and his devoted wife.

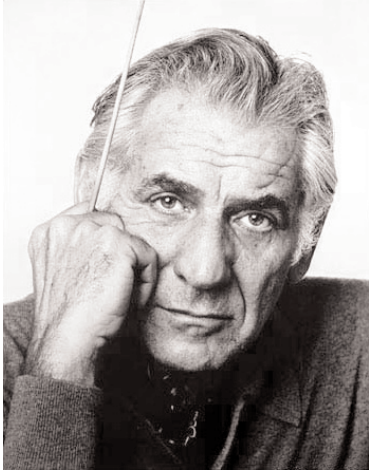
Thus the festival is also called Baleva that is Bali Raja's devotion to the Lord. It is said that since then it has been a tradition to invite sisters in Shraavan Purnima for the thread tying ceremony or the Raksha Bandhan.

History This Week **AUG 25 - AUG 31**

AUGUST 25



August 25, 1985 - Samantha Smith died in an airplane crash in Maine. In 1982, the 11-year-old American schoolgirl had written a letter to Soviet Russia's leader Yuri Andropov asking, "Why do you want to conquer the whole world, or at least our country?" To her surprise, Andropov replied personally to her and offered an all-expense paid trip to the U.S.S.R. She toured Russia for two weeks amid worldwide publicity and came to symbolize American and Russian hopes for peaceful co-existence.



Birthday - American conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Considered one of the finest conductors in American music history, his works included West Side Story, On the Town, and the opera Candide.

AUGUST 26

August 26, 1883 - One of the most catastrophic volcanic eruptions in recorded history occurred on the Indonesian island of Krakatoa. Explosions were heard 2,000 miles away. Tidal waves 120 ft. high killed 36,000 persons on nearby islands, while five cubic miles of earth were blasted into the air up to a height of 50 miles.



Birthday - American inventor Lee De

Forest (1873-1961) was born at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He held hundreds of patents for inventions and was also a pioneer in the creation of wireless radio broadcasting and television.

AUGUST 27



Birthday - Charles Dawes (1865-1951) was born in Marietta, Ohio. He served as U.S. Vice President from 1925-29, and is best remembered for his "Dawes Plan" for German reparations following World War I. He received the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize.

Birthday - Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973) the 36th U.S. President was born near Stonewall, Texas. He ascended to the presidency upon the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. Johnson served until January 20, 1969.

Birthday - Mother Teresa (1910-1997) was born (as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu) in Skopje, Yugoslavia. She founded a religious order of nuns in Calcutta, India, called the Missionaries of Charity and spent her life working to help the poor and sick of India.

AUGUST 28

August 28, 1963 - The March on Washington occurred as over 250,000 persons attended a Civil Rights rally in Washington, D.C., at which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now-famous I Have a Dream speech.



Birthday - German author-philosopher Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is best known for the dramatic poem Faust, completed in 1831.

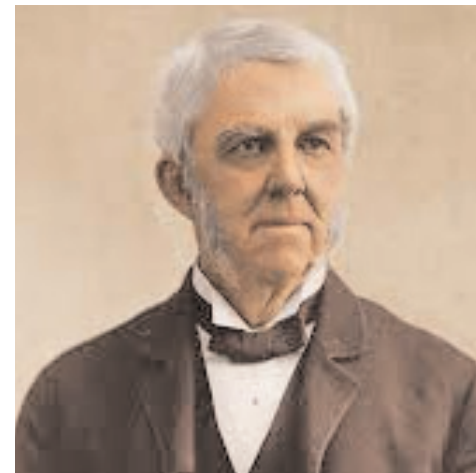
Birthday - The first American-born Roman Catholic saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was born (as Elizabeth Ann Bayley) in New York. She founded

the first American Catholic religious order, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. In 1809, she opened an elementary school in Baltimore, marking the beginning of the parochial school system in the U.S.

AUGUST 29

August 29, 1792 - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship Royal George. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.

August 29, 1991 - Following the unsuccessful coup of August 19-21, the Soviet Communist Party was suspended, thus ending the institution that ruled Soviet Russia for nearly 75 years.



Birthday - Physician and author Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He once wrote, "A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience." His poem Old Ironsides aroused popular sentiment in the 1830's which helped to save the historic frigate USS Constitution from destruction.

Birthday - British philosopher and pioneer in modern political thinking, John Locke (1632-1704) was born in Wrington, England. His ideas greatly influenced American colonists, namely that rulers derive their power only from the consent of the governed - and the doctrine that men naturally possess certain rights, the chief being life, liberty, and property.

AUGUST 30



Birthday - Frankenstein author Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was born in London.

Birthday - Civil rights leader Roy Wilkins (1901-1981) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. The grandson of a Mississippi

slave, he was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

AUGUST 31



August 31, 1786 - Shays' Rebellion began in Massachusetts as ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays led an armed mob. The rebellion prevented the Northampton Court from holding a session in which debtors, mostly poor ex-soldier farmers, were to be tried and likely put in prison. Following this, in September, Shays' troops prevented Supreme Court sessions at Springfield, Massachusetts. Early in 1787, they attacked the Federal arsenal at Springfield, but were soon routed and fled. Shays was sentenced to death but was pardoned in 1788.

August 31, 1980 - Solidarity, the Polish trade union, was formed at Gdansk, Poland. Led by Lech Walesa, Solidarity opposed Communist rule and was outlawed in 1981. Seven years later, the re-legalization of Solidarity occurred and the government agreed to hold partially free parliamentary elections. Solidarity candidates scored stunning victories in the elections that followed, gaining power in Poland and paving the way for the downfall of Communism there.



August 31, 1997 - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River at the Pont de l'Alma bridge, less than a half mile north of the Eiffel Tower. Also killed in the crash were Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul. A fourth person in the car, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, was seriously injured.



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Antim to lead India's charge at Worlds

A week after defending her under-20 world championships crown, wrestler Antim Panghal, on Friday, August 25, won the trials in Patiala for next month's senior World Championships, earning herself the right to vie for a quota place for next year's Paris Olympics.

Panghal won the Asian Games trials last month but was named as a stand-by after the ad-hoc committee running the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) announced an automatic selection for double World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat in the 53kg division.

A vocal critic of the decision, Panghal proved her mettle once again in Patiala and remained undefeated across six bouts. Phogat skipped the trials following surgery on her left knee last week.

Over 70 wrestlers appeared across ten weight classes which meant the bouts were conducted in Nordic style. No wrestlers in Greco Roman category who made it to the Asian Games participated in the trials while only four women who are part of the Asian Games squad — Antim, Sonam Malik (62kg), Radhika (68kg), Kiran (76kg) — appeared in the World Championships trials.

Of these, only Panghal won the trial, making her the lone wrestler across Greco and Women divisions to compete at the Worlds as well as the Asian Games. The 62kg division was won by Manisha while Priyanka won in the 68kg category. Asian Games bronze medallist Divya Kakaran won in the 76kg class.

The World Championships will be held in Belgrade, Serbia from September 16-24 and is the first qualifying event for the Olympics. Asian Games begin in Hangzhou, China on September 23 with wrestling events scheduled to begin on October 4. *Source: HT*

Neeraj Chopra qualifies for 2024 Olympics

Enters World Championships final with 88.77m throw, DP Manu and Kishore Jena also make the cut

BUDAPEST (TIP)

Neeraj Chopra needed just one big throw to qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics and the World Championships javelin throw final, pulling off a commendable first-attempt of 88.77m here on Friday, August 25.

Not only Chopra but DP Manu (81.31m) and Kishore Jena (80.55m) also made the cut as three Indians qualified the final of an event in the World Championships for the first time ever.

The 2024 Paris Olympics qualifying mark is 85.50m. The qualifying window had opened on July 1.

The 25-year-old Chopra's qualifying round lasted just a few minutes as he sent the spear to his season's best distance in his very first attempt in the Group A qualification round. He topped the qualification round.

Chopra had won a silver in the 2022 World Championships in USA.

With the automatic final qualification mark set for 83m, Chopra, who has a personal best of 89.94m, packed up and left the competition arena without taking any further throw. The final will be held on Sunday.

Those who throw 83m or the top-12 best performers from both Group A and B qualify for the final.

Competing in the same group with Chopra in his debut World Championships, Manu finished third and sixth overall with a best throw of 81.31m which he produced in his second attempt. Manu had won a silver in the Asian Championships in July.

Jena, whose visa was rejected first by the Hungarian embassy in New Delhi before being cleared the next day, ended fifth in Group B and ninth overall with 80.55m. It is also his debut World Championships.

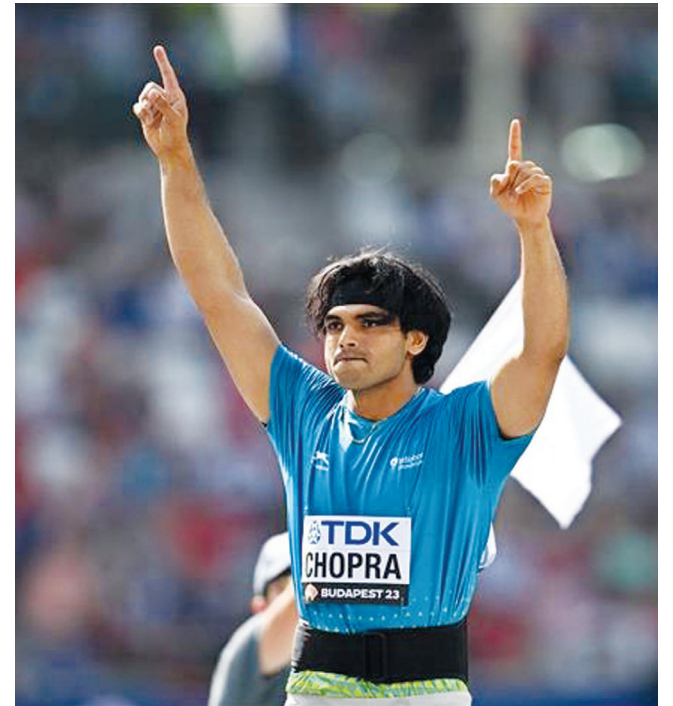
"For the first time three Indians have qualified for the final round of an event in World Championships. It has never happened earlier. It's a historic day for Indian javelin," a team coach in the Indian contingent told PTI.

India first participated in the World Championships in 1983.

A competitor gets three attempts in the qualifying round.

Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan also qualified for the 2024 Paris Games with his season best throw of 86.79m.

Nadeem, a bronze medallist in the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia where Chopra had won gold, topped Group



Neeraj Chopra reacts during the men's javelin throw qualification at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, on August 25, 2023. Reuters

B and finished second overall.

Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, who won silver medal behind Chopra in Tokyo Olympics, was second in Group B and third overall with a best throw of 83.50m.

Germany's Julian Weber was fourth overall with a best throw of 82.39m.

Defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who has been struggling for form this season, failed to qualify for the final round after finishing seventh in Group A and 16th overall with a best throw of 78.49m.

A World Championships gold is the only medal missing in Chopra's decorated cabinet and going by the performances of other competitors in the qualification round, the superstar Indian looked primed to achieve the feat and add another milestone in his illustrious career. *Source: PTI*

Chess World Cup Final: Praggnanandhaa checks out with pride

BAKU (TIP)

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa's dream run in the FIDE World Cup ended at the hands of world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, who beat him 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break here on Thursday after the classical games ended in a stalemate.

The second 25+10 tie-break game ended in a draw in 22 moves as the Norwegian legend played it safe after he had won the first, displaying his end-game skills.

It was Carlsen's first World Cup triumph, having won the World Championship five times.

Carlsen overcame a stiff challenge from his 18-year-old Indian opponent in the first tie-break game, winning it in 45 moves. He overcame the problems he encountered due to Praggnanandhaa's enterprising play to turn the tables and seize the advantage.

The two classical games on Tuesday, Aug 22 and Wednesday, Aug 23, had ended in draws forcing the final to a tie-break. Praggnanandhaa enjoyed an incredible run in the tournament, having beaten world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura and world No.3 Fabiano Caruana to set up a final date against Carlsen.

The results in the ongoing tournament also helped Praggnanandhaa qualify for Candidates 2024 tournament, which will be held in Canada.



Praggnanandhaa, thus, became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

For someone, who took to chess just because his parents wanted him and his sister to wean away from watching television, R Praggnanandhaa has charted his own path to glory and is closer to greatness than ever.

The 18-year old wonderboy has long been seen as a possible successor to the five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand and is certainly on the path to be a

chess great. A stunning performance in the FIDE World Cup in Baku has catapulted him to the Candidates tournament to determine the challenger to current world champion Ding Liren.

By becoming the only Indian player after Anand to book a spot in the Candidates, the Chennai teenager has proved that he will be the name to reckon with when it comes to big-ticket chess events.

A wonderkid, who took up the sport at the age of four-and-a-half, Praggnanandhaa has achieved several firsts in his distinguished career thus far.

After coming under the wings of Anand, who has taken to mentorship like a duck to water, the rise has been steady for Praggnanandhaa.

By beating Magnus Carlsen, the world No.1 and former classical champion in an online tournament last year, Praggnanandhaa showed that he could soak in the pressure and defeat the best in the business at their own game.

Hailing from Chennai, the hotspot of Indian chess, Praggnanandhaa has been in the spotlight since he made waves at a young age.

He won the national under-7 title to lay down the marker and has been on the rise ever since. At 10, he was an International Master and two years later, he became a GM. *Source: PTI*

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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"

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