



## The INDIAN PANORAMA



will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition on the occasion of Diwali on November 10, 2023. Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to Salujaindra@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 02, 2023.

### Murphy, other top N.J. Democrats call on Sen. Menendez to resign



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy has said: "the alleged facts are so serious that they compromise the ability of Senator Menendez to effectively represent the people of our state. Therefore, I am calling for his immediate resignation."

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Gov. Phil Murphy and other top New Jersey Democrats late Friday called on Democratic U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, the state's senior senator, to resign hours after prosecutors announced he was indicted on bribery and influence peddling charges, according to NJ.com.

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### No signals from Chandrayaan-3's Vikram, Pragyan: ISRO



An ISRO image of Chandrayaan-3 Vikram Lander.

File Photo / Credit: ANI/ISRO Twitter

September 2, says it has not received any signals from either of the two, despite continuing efforts to establish communications.

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

BENGALURU (TIP): The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which was hoping to awaken the Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover on

September 2, says it has not received any signals from either of the two, despite continuing efforts to establish communications.

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# Canada shared intelligence on Nijjar's murder with India weeks ago, says Trudeau

"WE ARE THERE TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH INDIA", SAID THE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada shared evidence that Indian government agents were potentially involved in the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia with New Delhi weeks ago, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday, September 22, according to a Reuters report.

"Canada has shared the credible allegations that I talked about on Monday with India. We did that many weeks ago," Mr. Trudeau told a news conference in Ottawa. "We are there to work constructively with India. We hope that they engage with us so that we can get to the bottom of this very serious matter."

Mr. Trudeau said on Monday, September 18, that Ottawa had credible intelligence linking Indian government agents to the murder in June of Hardeep

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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that Canada shared the credible allegations with India. Credit / Reuters

### External Affairs Minister Jaishankar kick-starts nine-day visit to U.S.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Australian counterpart Senator Wong on the sidelines of 78th UNGA, in New York on September 22, 2023. Photo - Twitter/DrSJaishankar

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in New York, early on Friday, September 22 morning, kick-starting his nine-day visit to the U.S., to address the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and for bilateral and plurilateral meetings in New York and Washington DC. The Minister's visit comes at the end of a tumultuous week in international relations, with the Indian and Canadian governments engaged in a diplomatic brawl over the killing of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia in June this year, a report in The Hindu says.

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### USCIRF Commissioners, UN Special Rapporteur, experts call on US government to speak out against Modi's minority persecution



Religious freedom conditions in India have notably declined in recent years," said USCIRF Chair Rabbi Abraham Cooper.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Commissioners on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) raised concerns about the "sophisticated, systematic persecution" of religious minorities by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a hearing on India on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. For the past four years, USCIRF has recommended India to be designated a Country of

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**GUEST COMMENT**

# Political red herring: On the move to impeach Joe Biden

## THE ATTEMPT TO IMPEACH BIDEN MIGHT BACKFIRE AGAINST THE REPUBLICANS

The recent announcement by the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, Republican Kevin McCarthy, that the lower chamber of Congress would move to impeach President Joe Biden is likely to be along expected lines as far as Democrats are concerned. With the next presidential election in a little more than 13 months, the Republicans have much to gain by muddying the waters and distracting voters from the fact that the U.S. economy has rebounded from the pandemic-years slowdown. Amidst a dearth of obvious political targets within the Democratic machinery, Mr. McCarthy has chosen to go after the President's son, businessman Hunter Biden, training his guns on his business dealings that allegedly resulted in benefits accruing to the senior Mr. Biden during his term as Vice President in the Obama administration. The House majority case against the Biden clan appears to be tenuous. With regard to the

August memorandum of the House Oversight Committee, which alleged that Mr. Biden and his associates were paid more than \$20m by "foreign sources", the Chair of the very same Committee, Republican James Comer, conceded recently that a scrutiny of bank records did not yield evidence. Similarly, allegations that the Biden "brand" was used to peddle influence in business matters to the favor of Mr. Biden do not appear to be standing up to scrutiny, according to a report from the Congressional Integrity Project, a Democrat-aligned watchdog group. Finally, claims based on an "unverified FBI tip", that Mr. Biden paid off prosecutors to end an inquiry into Burisma, a Ukrainian energy firm on whose Board Hunter Biden had a seat, have also failed to unearth a smoking gun; so too allegations, based on the testimony of two whistle-blowers that the Justice Department "intentionally interfered in a multi-year investigation

into Hunter's tax return".

Even if Mr. McCarthy manages to drag Mr. Biden through a full impeachment, the 46th President will be acquitted in the Senate. The elephant in the House is the double impeachment of former U.S. President Donald Trump. Perhaps in a bid to seek a false equivalence to that dubious record and in the hope of dampening voter support for Democrats next year, Mr. McCarthy is attempting to simultaneously win favor with Mr. Trump and shore up his own wobbly support base in the House. Whatever his motivations, Mr. McCarthy's proposed public spectacle risks a serious voter blowback in next year's election, as Democrats may rally to Mr. Biden's cause in greater numbers, and the all-important independent voters may associate this maneuver with unproductive partisanship and Mr. Trump's long shadow over the Republican Party.

(The Hindu)

# Legislating change: On the passage of the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha

## THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL MUST BE PASSED IN ITS CURRENT FORM WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

The passage of the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha almost three decades after it was first tabled in Parliament is a welcome move that can finally shatter a political glass ceiling. With women Members of Parliament comprising only about 15% of the strength of the Lok Sabha, the gender inequality in political representation is stark and disturbing. The 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam, seeks to amend this by reserving a third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies for women. It has a 15-year sunset clause for the quota, that can be extended. Considering the fraught history of the struggle for women's reservation, and several false starts despite the Rajya Sabha passing it in 2010, it is laudatory that the first Bill to be introduced in the new Sansad Bhavan has been passed in the Lok Sabha. But its implementation will be delayed as it has

been tied to two factors, delimitation and the Census, and therein lies the rub. It is unfortunate that implementation is being linked to delimitation, for the principle of having a third of seats reserved for women has nothing to do with the territorial limits of constituencies or the number of Assembly or Lok Sabha constituencies in each State.

Women will thus not have access to 33% reservation in the 2024 general election. The Bill also mandates that as nearly as one-third of the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be set aside for women. The Opposition is demanding an internal quota for women of Other Backward Classes, but this should not be used as a ruse to delay implementation. In the meantime, proposals should be fine tuned to ensure that when it becomes an Act, it is not mere tokenism for women's political representation. It is a fact that

local bodies are better represented, with the share of women in panchayati raj institutions well above 50% in several States. Lessons must be imbibed on how women at the grassroots level have broken all sorts of barriers, from patriarchal mindsets at home to not being taken seriously in their official duties, and made a difference. Women struggle on so many other counts: they have uneven access to health, nutrition and education, there is a lack of safe places, women are also falling out of the workforce - among the G-20 countries, India's female labor force participation is the lowest at 24%. India, which gave women voting rights at the very outset, should not falter when it comes to ensuring better political representation for women. For growth, and instituting change in key areas, women need to have their say.

(The Hindu)

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# GOPI DAIRY Diwali at Times Square is celebrating 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: United Colors of America'

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The Consulate General of India, New York, on September 15, hosted a press conference at its premises, serving as a precursor to the grand celebration of Diwali at Times Square scheduled to be held on October 27-28.

In the heart of Times Square, A R Helping Hands - Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square is set to illuminate New York City with the spirit of the Festival of Lights on October 27-28, 2023. As the largest South Asian and Indo-Caribbean festival outside of India, this event has been an annual beacon of joy since 2013, spreading the real message of Diwali: "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" dispelling inner darkness through the light of knowledge. It carries forth the messages of love, peace, harmony, and togetherness by showcasing India's rich art and culture.

"This year, we are also celebrating the first ever Diwali NYC School Holiday with the children of NYC Schools at the biggest crossroads of the world - Times Square", Neeta Bhasin announced.



Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal addresses the gathering

(Photo D 1 here)

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal addressed the media and all attendees, followed by Congressman Gregory Meeks, and Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar (the driving force behind making Diwali NYC School Holiday with NYC Mayor Eric Adams).

"Diwali this year is truly special, as we celebrate champions, Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar who made New York City's recognition of Diwali as a public holiday possible, highlighting the strong India-U.S. partnership and our commitment to addressing global challenges," said Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, NY.



Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph, Congressman Gregory Meeks, Harish Bhasin and Neeta Bhasin

"Diwali holds profound significance as it illuminates Times Square and the world, exemplifying the enduring relationship between India and the United States," said

Congressman Gregory Meeks.




Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar addresses the gathering

"To accomplish any great task, you can't do it alone; it's my Hindu values that brought me to this place, and it's those Hindu values that we will celebrate together in the biggest Diwali celebration ever in New York City, starting in Times Square," Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar said during her speech.

Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori, head of Sloan Kettering Cancer Centex, India addressed the media, and dignitaries on behalf of the Executive Board of 'Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square'.

Neeta Bhasin, the founder of 'Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square,' unveiled the plan and the performers of the event. "Diwali at Times Square is not just an event; it's a vision that I hold dear to my heart. It's a vision of unity in diversity, equity and inclusion.

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# Indian American Saptarshi Das-led researchers make AI smarter with artificial neuron



Saptarshi Das's research interests include Nanoelectronics, 2D Materials, Neuromorphic Computing, and Biomimetic Sensing

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

**PENNSYLVANIA (TIP):** Researchers led by an Indian American professor have now harnessed the concept of biological inputs for application in artificial intelligence (AI) to develop the first artificial, multisensory integrated neuron.

"Robots make decisions based on the environment they are in, but their sensors do not generally talk to each other," says Saptarshi Das, associate professor of engineering science and mechanics at Penn State University.

"A collective decision can be made through a sensor processing unit, but is that the most efficient or effective method? In the human brain, one sense can

influence another and allow the person to better judge a situation," added Das, who also has joint appointments in electrical engineering and in materials science and engineering.

For instance, a car might have one sensor scanning for obstacles, while another senses darkness to modulate the intensity of the headlights, researchers led by Das noted in a paper published in Nature Communications on Sep. 15.

Individually, these sensors relay information to a central unit which then instructs the car to brake or adjust the headlights.

According to Das, this process consumes more energy. Allowing sensors to communicate directly with each other can be more efficient in terms of energy and speed - particularly when the inputs from both are faint.

"Biology enables small organisms to thrive in environments with limited resources, minimizing energy consumption in the process," says Das, who is also affiliated with the Materials Research Institute.

"The requirements for different sensors are based on the context - in a dark forest, you'd rely more on listening than seeing, but we don't make decisions based on just one sense," he says.

"We have a complete sense of our surroundings, and our decision-making is based on the integration of what we're seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, etcetera. The senses evolved together in biology, but separately in AI. In this work, we're looking to combine sensors and mimic how our brains actually work."

The team focused on integrating a tactile sensor and a visual sensor so that

the output of one sensor modifies the other, with the help of visual memory.

According to Muhtasim Ul Karim Sadaf, a third-year doctoral student in engineering science and mechanics, even a short-lived flash of light can significantly enhance the chance of successful movement through a dark room.

"This is because visual memory can subsequently influence and aid the tactile responses for navigation," Sadaf said.

"This would not be possible if our visual and tactile cortex were to respond to their respective unimodal cues alone. We have a photo memory effect, where the light shines and we can remember. We incorporated that ability into a device through a transistor that provides the same response."

The researchers fabricated the multisensory neuron by connecting a tactile sensor to a phototransistor based on a monolayer of molybdenum disulfide, a compound that exhibits unique electrical and optical characteristics useful for detecting light and supporting transistors.

The sensor generates electrical spikes in a manner reminiscent of neurons processing information, allowing it to integrate both visual and tactile cues.

It's the equivalent of seeing an "on" light on the stove and feeling heat coming off of a burner - seeing the light on doesn't necessarily mean the burner is hot yet, but a hand only needs to feel a nanosecond of heat before the body reacts and pulls the hand away from the potential danger.

The input of light and heat triggered signals that induced the hand's response. In this case, the researchers measured the artificial neuron's version of this by seeing

signaling outputs resulted from visual and tactile input cues.

To simulate touch input, the tactile sensor used triboelectric effect, in which two layers slide against one another to produce electricity, meaning the touch stimuli were encoded into electrical impulses.

To simulate visual input, the researchers shined a light into the monolayer molybdenum disulfide photo memtransistor - or a transistor that can remember visual input, like how a person can hold onto the general layout of a room after a quick flash illuminates it.

They found that the sensory response of the neuron - simulated as electrical output - increased when both visual and tactile signals were weak.

"Interestingly, this effect resonates remarkably well with its biological counterpart - a visual memory naturally enhances the sensitivity to tactile stimulus," said co-first author Najam U Sakib, a third-year doctoral student in engineering science and mechanics. "When cues are weak, you need to combine them to better understand the information, and that's what we saw in the results."

Das explained that an artificial multisensory neuron system could enhance sensor technology's efficiency, paving the way for more eco-friendly AI uses. As a result, robots, drones and self-driving vehicles could navigate their environment more effectively while using less energy.

Harikrishnan Ravichandran, a fourth-year doctoral student in engineering science and mechanics at Penn State, also co-authored the paper.

## Two Indian-origin persons get 41 months in jail for defrauding elderly victims



Arushobike Mitra, 29, and Garbita Mitra, 25 were each sentenced to 41 months in prison for their roles in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud by accepting illegally obtained \$1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the US.

Photo for representation only

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

**NEWARK, NJ (TIP):** Two Indian - origin were each sentenced to 41 months in prison for their roles in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud by accepting illegally obtained \$1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the US.

Arushobike Mitra, 29, and Garbita Mitra, 25, had pleaded guilty before US District Judge Esther Salas to one

count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, US Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Judge Salas imposed the sentences on Tuesday, September 19, in Newark federal court.

"These defendants and their conspirators preyed upon some of our most vulnerable citizens, using trickery and threats to coerce them into sending money," US Attorney Sellinger said.

"Protecting our elderly population from these kinds of deceitful robocall scams is a priority of our office. Those who engage in this kind of elder fraud scheme can expect to face justice."

According to documents filed in this case and court statements, as part of an international fraud scheme, criminal India-based call centers utilized automated robocalls to victims across the country with the intent of defrauding US residents, particularly the elderly.

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

## Khalistan-linked Punjabi gangster Sukha Duneke killed in inter-gang rivalry in Canada

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

**WINNIPEG (TIP):** Gangster Sukha Duneke has been killed in Canada, according to reports.

He was killed in an inter-gang rivalry. Duneke was part of Khalistan movement in Canada.

Sukhdool Singh alias Sukha Duneke, who escaped to Canada from Punjab in 2017 on forged documents, was shot dead in Winnipeg by assailants.

His name figured in the NIA wanted list which was released on Wednesday.

The killing of the Canada-based gangster, who had at least 18 cases against him including those for murder, attempt to murder and robbery, took place on Wednesday night Canada time, sources said.

Hailing from Duneke Kalan village in Punjab's Moga district, the gangster fled to Canada in December 2017, official sources said.

An active member of the Davinder Bambiha gang, Duneke was closely associated with Canada-based gangster-



Sukhdool Singh alias Sukha Duneke, who escaped to Canada from Punjab in 2017 on forged documents, was shot dead in Winnipeg by assailants.

turned-terrorist Arsh Dalla, gangster Lucky Patial, Malaysia-based gangster Jackpal Singh alias Lali and other criminals.

The dreaded gangster was managing the activities of the gang from foreign soil and was also involved in running an extortion racket, targeted killings of rival gang members in Punjab and neighboring areas through his local contacts and managing the network of his foreign-based associates, sources said.

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

## Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel shortlisted for Booker Prize



"Western Lane", which is shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023, is Chetna Maroo's first novel.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

LONDON (TIP): London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' has been shortlisted for the 2023 Booker Prize.

Sarah Bernstein's 'Study for Obedience', 'If I Survive You' by Jonathan Escoffery, Paul Harding's 'The Other Eden', Paul Lynch's 'Prophet Song' and Paul Murray's 'The Bee Sting' complete the shortlist of six that will compete for the 50,000-pounds prize to be unveiled on November 26 at an award ceremony in London.

Kenya-born Maroo's novel set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bond with her family.

"Chetna Maroo's deeply evocative debut

of a family grappling with grief conveyed through crystalline language which reverberates like the sound of 'a ball hit clean and hard with a close echo'. It is stunning and it stays with you," said Canadian novelist Esi Edugyan, the chair of the Booker Prize 2023 judging panel, as she announced the shortlist here on Thursday.

With reference to her shortlisted work, Maroo said it would be fair to call it a "sports novel".

"It's also been called a coming-of-age novel, a domestic novel, a novel about grief, a novel about the immigrant experience. Recently a friend asked me if the book has something of the detective story about it, with Gopi trying to find her way, piecing together the clues of small gestures, actions and fragments of overheard conversations; she has little to go on and since she's dealing with the mysteries of loss, there are no answers for her," she said.

She was the recipient of the 2022 Plimpton Prize for Fiction, awarded annually since 1993 by the Paris Review to celebrate an outstanding piece of fiction by an emerging writer published in the magazine during the preceding year. Before becoming a full-time writer, she worked as an accountant. Western Lane, which is shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023, is her first novel.

(With inputs from PTI)

## British Sikh MPs call Canada allegations against India "concerning"

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

LONDON (TIP): British Sikh members of Parliament Preet Kaur Gill and Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi have reacted to "concerning" reports emanating from Canada, after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in the country.

The Opposition Labor MPs, who represent heavily Sikh constituencies in England, took to social media on Tuesday to claim they had been contacted by their constituents about allegations by Trudeau in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force.

They said they are raising their concerns directly with the government ministers.

"PM Trudeau's statement on Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder is deeply concerning," tweeted Gill, who is the MP for Birmingham Edgbaston in the West Midlands region of England.

"It is important that Canada's investigation runs its course, and those responsible see justice. I want to reassure my constituents that I and my colleagues are raising our concerns with ministers," she said.

Dhesi, MP for Slough in south-east England, also tweeted to claim many British Sikhs have been in contact with him over the issue.

"Concerning reports coming from



UK Member of Parliament Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi has raised concerns on Trudeau's allegation of Indian involvement in the murder of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. File photo

Canada. Many Sikhs from Slough and beyond have contacted me; anxious, angry or fearful. Given that Canadian PM Trudeau stated they've been working with close allies, we're in touch with the UK government to ensure justice is delivered," he said.

It follows Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in the country's Parliament on Monday that the authorities are "actively pursuing credible allegations" related to Indian government involvement in the murder of Nijjar, a designated terrorist, in British Columbia in June.

In an emergency statement to the House of Commons in Ottawa, Trudeau said that any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen was "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty".

(Read full story at

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

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# AIA-NY honors six at a glittering Benefit Gala

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEEPAVALI FEST ON OCTOBER 1 RELEASED



Dr. Jagdish Gupta, President of AIA New York Chapter, said that the honorees were "the crème de la crème of our community".

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP):** The Association of Indians in America (AIA-NY) held its Benefit Gala under the Presidentship of Dr Jagdish Gupta to raise funds for the iconic Deepavali Fest at South Street Seaport in Manhattan on October 1.

The glittering gala was held on September 17 in the chandeliered ballroom of the newly opened Pearl Banquet Hall in Hicksville, NY. It was attended by over 200 prominent people including past presidents of AIA and advisory board members.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Asmita and Arun Bhatia, Founder and CEO of the Arun Bhatia Development Organization. Excellence in Healthcare Administration Award was given to David Seligman, Deputy Regional Executive Director for Northwell Health Western Region.

Dr V. K. Raju, Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at West Virginia University was honored for Excellence in Ophthalmological Surgery & Prevention of Childhood Blindness. On his behalf, his daughter Dr Leela V. Raju, herself an ophthalmologist, accepted the award.

Dr Subhash Kini, Director, Center for Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai (Morningside), received the Excellence in Bariatric & Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery Award. Businesswoman/Entrepreneur Award went to Sharda Haridas Kotahwala, for their family business in Diamond & Precious Stone Jewelry business. Dr Saurabh Lodha, of the Department of Dermatology, Columbia University, was given the Excellence in



Dr. Jagdish Gupta (left) & Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman of the Board of AIA-NY addressing the gathering



Award to Dr. VK Raju was accepted by Dr. Leela Raju.

L to R: Dr. Narinder Kukar, Dr. Samin Sharma, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Dr. Leela Raju, Neelima Madan, Animesh Goenka

Dermatology - Special Young Physician Award.

New York Life Insurance Company, a major sponsor of AIA's Deepavali Festival, was honored for Community Service Excellence. NY Life's Corporate Vice President, Srinivas Ranga received the plaque.

In his President's address, Dr Gupta said that the honorees tonight are the crème de la crème of our community, including physician leaders, philanthropists, educators, and entrepreneurs.

Dr Gupta, an eminent gastroenterologist who took over as AIA-NY president on June 2, emphasized that "AIA-NY has been organizing the Deepavali Festival in New York for the past 36 years, and it has become an iconic event, attended by thousands of people from the Tri-State area, including both Indians and non-Indians.

Highlights of the free-to-public Deepavali festival at South Street Seaport on October 1 include Children's Program (1.30-3 pm), Nach Inferno (4-5.30 pm), VIP Hour (3.30 - 5 pm), and the finale - Fireworks on East River at 7 pm. Many lawmakers, dignitaries and entertainers are expected to participate. Print and electronic media are invited to cover the mega event.

At the gala, Dr Gupta congratulated the community as Diwali has been declared a school holiday in New York City. "Over the years, it has come to symbolize our culture and heritage in the USA as Diwali is a manifestation of Indian culture."



Award to sponsor New York Life was accepted by Srinivas Ranga. L to R: Dr Shashi Shah, Srinivas Ranga, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Harish Thakkar, Nilima Madan



Honorees with plaques. L to R: Arun and Asmita Bhatia, Sharda Kotahwala, Haridas Kotahwala, Dr Subhash Kini, Dr Saurabh Lodha, AIA-NY President Jagdish Gupta



David Seligman receives his award.

L to R: Harish Thakkar, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, David Seligman, Dr. Shashi Shah, Neelima Madan

Dr Samin Sharma, Advisor and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of AIA-NY, in his address, highlighted the stellar achievements and contributions of Indian Americans, particularly in healthcare.

Citations for AIA-NY from Indian Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Nassau County Chairman Bruce Blakeman, and New York State Senator Kevin Thomas were received by Dr Gupta.

AIA Board members at the gala included Dr Samin Sharma, Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Animesh Goenka, Dr Shashi Shah, Dr Buddhadev Manvar, Sunil Modi and Smiti Khanna. Past Presidents in attendance included Harish Thakkar, and Dr Narinder Kukar.

Nilima Madan was the Gala Chair.

Dr Gupta, former President of IALI, AAPI-QLI and Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, thanked Fareportal-CheapOair/Qatar Airways Alliance, New York Life, Mount Sinai Hospital, and the Northwell Health System for their generous contributions toward Deepavali Fest.

A sumptuous dinner was served.

(Based on a press release issued by AIA-NY)



A view of the guests

# Glowing Tributes offered to 21 Valiant Sikh Martyrs of Saragarhi



Honorees- Mrs. Mandeep Kaur Gill, Mrs. Harpinder Kaur, Subedar Major Sukhdev Singh, CHM Gurcharan Singh, Havildar Jaswinder Singh and Havildar Jaspal Singh. Each of them was honored by Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal. In attendance were Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph and Saragarhi Foundation President Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Solemn Words of Homage were offered to the 21 Sikh Braveheart-Martyrs, on the Sacred 126th Anniversary of the Epochal Battle of Saragarhi, as they were honoured at the Indian Consulate-General of New York, on the 12th of September 2023, by Saragarhi Foundation, in active collaboration with the Consulate-General of India.

The Welcome Address was presented by Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, New York, as he so very graciously offered to Honor and Cherish the Sacred Memory of this unparalleled act of gallantry, on an annual basis.

Mrs. Varinder Kaur Khas was the M.C., who conducted the proceedings with elan, is the General-Secretary of Saragarhi USA Chapter. She was awarded a Citation.

A documentary on the historic battle was screened on the occasion, wherein one scene depicted the actual battle-site, where Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan, Founder of Saragarhi Foundation, hoisted the Khalsa-Sikh insignia Nishaan Sahib, for the 1st time on the 8th of July 2019.

CONTD ON PAGE 12



Winners of the essay competition on Saragarhi - Ms. Gurkirat Kaur, S. Meharjot Singh, Ms. Pahuljot Kaur and Ms. Angelina Kaur Uppal were awarded by Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal. Also seen in the picture are Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph and Saragarhi Foundation President Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan

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# Guiding spirits of the judiciary

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO PUBLICIZE DECISIONS OF JUDGES WHO CANNOT BE SWAYED BY DANGLING CARROTS**



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

**"IF DISTURBED CITIZENS DON'T BEMOAN THIS DISREGARD FOR JUDICIAL INTEGRITY DUE TO A FEAR OF REPRISAL IN THE FORM OF CONTEMPT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS, OUR COUNTRY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME. IT IS THE 'SUICIDE' OF JUSTICE THAT THE CITIZENS OF BHARAT SHOULD DILATE UPON. IT IS OF UTMOST URGENCY THAT CONCERNED CITIZENS SHED THE FEAR THEY NOW HARBOR OF RAISING THEIR VOICES LEST THEY ARE SENT TO JAIL FOR DOING THEIR DUTY TO THEIR MOTHERLAND. CITIZENS ARE CONSTANTLY TOLD TO EXCISE DYNASTIES FROM THE POLITICAL SYSTEM. IT IS MUCH MORE URGENT TO EXCISE QUESTIONABLE MEANS THAT SERVE POLITICAL ENDS AND BREED DISHONESTY AND CORRUPTION. DYNASTIES WILL DIE THEIR NATURAL DEATHS WHEN MORE NON-DYNASTS LIKE MODI ENTER THE POLITICAL ARENA."**



Justices Anand Venkatesh (left) and S Muralidhar have shown the way.

File photos

against Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K Ponnudiyil last month. Justice Venkatesh also ordered the reopening of another case of corruption, involving possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income, against TN Revenue Minister KKSSR Ramachandran and Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu.

All is not lost. The judiciary and the armed forces are our last refuge for justice and security.

The case against Ponnudiyil was to be heard in a court in Villupuram. It was transferred by the administrative side of the Madras High Court to the court of the principal judge of Vellore for reasons not known to the public. Justice Venkatesh felt that the court in Vellore was "too hurried to be natural" and did not give any cogent reason for the minister's acquittal.

The cases against Ramachandran and Thennarasu ended in their discharge by the Special Court at Villiputhur in Virudhunagar district. The cases had been adjourned for months and years, during which the two accused ministers were reinstated in the DMK Cabinet. The investigating police officer who had filed the chargesheets was replaced by another, who whitewashed the original findings, established when the AIADMK was in power.

It was apparent that the truth changed according to who was in power. If this is how the rule of law is going to be enforced in Bharat that was India, we, the citizens, will be forced to "cry for our beloved country". The trend is truly frightening.

Take the case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the Surat district court over a cheap joke he cracked without giving it a thought. The case came up before the Chief Judicial Magistrate. The prosecution obviously found the magistrate uncooperative. It approached the High Court in Ahmedabad and sought a stay on the proceedings, which

was granted. When the Chief Judicial Magistrate was transferred, the prosecution got the High Court's permission to resume the original proceedings.

We all know that for that poor joke, Rahul Gandhi was sentenced to two years in prison. He had to approach the Supreme Court for redress after failing to get it in the Gujarat High Court. The Supreme Court remarked caustically that there was something wrong with the High Court in Gujarat. Rahul, it is hoped, must have learnt a lesson from that episode.

But what are we to conclude about our judicial system from these two cases? A common thread that runs through both cases, one from Tamil Nadu where a government aligned to the Opposition's INDIA bloc rules, and the other from Gujarat, where a 'double-engine' government is in power, is that the ruling party in a state can influence certain decisions. It is disturbing to find that criminal trials can be "derailed by the active design of those at the helm of political power," as Justice Venkatesh observed in his order.

If disturbed citizens don't bemoan this disregard for judicial integrity due to a fear of reprisal in the form of contempt of court proceedings, our country will never be the same. It is the 'suicide' of justice that the citizens of Bharat should dilate upon. It is of utmost urgency that concerned citizens shed the fear they now harbor of raising their voices lest they are sent to jail for doing their duty to their motherland. Citizens are constantly told to excise dynasties from the political system. It is much more urgent to excise questionable means that serve political ends and breed dishonesty and corruption. Dynasties will die their natural deaths when more non-dynasts like Modi enter the political arena.

All is not lost as yet. There are many upright, honest and conscientious judges like Justice Venkatesh in most states of

**THE JUDICIARY AND THE ARMED FORCES OF BHARAT ARE OUR LAST REFUGE FOR JUSTICE AND SECURITY. THEY HAVE NOT SUCCEDED YET, UNLIKE THE POLICE, THE CIVIL SERVICES AND THE MEDIA. BUT THE ONSLAUGHT IS SEVERE AND RELENTLESS. WE MUST SALUTE THOSE JUDGES WHO ARE TRUE TO THEIR CONSCIENCE.**

the Union. We must celebrate them, like we celebrate upright, honest and conscientious civil servants and police officials who are true to their oath of serving the people. It is important that we publicize the decisions of such judges who cannot be swayed by dangling carrots.

When a calculated false propaganda was unleashed on maulvis, many from foreign countries, accusing them of spreading the Covid virus in India after attending a markaz in Delhi, Justices TV Nalawade and MG Sewlikar of the High Court of Bombay, sitting on a Division Bench in Aurangabad, discharged the accused and passed severe strictures against the government agency that brought them to trial unjustly. It required extraordinary courage to go against the ruling party's propaganda machine. The judgment restored the citizens' faith in the administration of justice.

Justice S Muralidhar of the Delhi High Court ordered the Delhi Police to register FIRs against a minister in Modi's government and two other BJP leaders for spewing hate against those who were opposing the CAA and the NRC in Delhi. However, Justice Muralidhar was hurriedly transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He retired as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The government did not agree to give him the more important charge of the Madras High Court, which the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended. In 2018, the same judge had sentenced Congress leader Sajjan Kumar to life imprisonment in a 1984 Delhi riots case.

The judiciary and the armed forces of Bharat are our last refuge for justice and security. They have not succumbed yet, unlike the police, the civil services and the media. But the onslaught is severe and relentless. We must salute those judges who are true to their conscience.

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

The Madras High Court should be proud of Justice Anand Venkatesh, who suo motu ordered the reopening of a corruption case



# Journalism can't leave the climate crisis to Netflix and Billie Eilish

WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, MAINSTREAM MEDIA GROUPS STILL DON'T COVER CLIMATE AS THEY SHOULD. THAT MUST CHANGE.

**In much of what we see, hear, and read the climate crisis has become inescapable.**

**"In 2019, the media's climate silence began to break, and in the past four years, we have seen encouraging successes. In the United States, major outlets, including The Washington Post, now treat climate change as a subject to cover every day, and not solely as a weather story. Telemundo 51, a Spanish-language TV station in Miami, is pursuing an "all of newsroom" approach that encourages reporters on every beat to talk about climate change, including its solutions."**

On Netflix, *Don't Look Up* spent weeks as the most-streamed movie ever. Pop star Billie Eilish sings about hills burning in California. At the bookstore, climate fiction has become a genre of its own, while Jeff Goodell's *The Heat Will Kill You First*, a harrowing nonfiction account of what life on a warming planet will mean, is entering its second month on the New York Times Best Sellers list.

But where is journalism in all of this? Despite our living through the hottest summer in history, as well as wildfires, tropical storms and crazy-hot oceans, the news media continue to be outdone by the rest of popular culture when it comes to covering the most urgent story of our time.

Inexplicably, climate change remains a niche concern for most mainstream news outlets. In the United States, most TV coverage of this summer's hellish weather did not even mention the words "climate change", much less explain that the burning of oil, gas, and coal is what is driving that hellish weather. Too many newsrooms continue to see climate as a siloed beat of specialists.

There are, of course, notable exceptions. The Guardian newspaper, the AFP news agency, and Al Jazeera itself are three news organizations that have long delivered science-based, abundant, comprehensive coverage of the climate crisis as well as its solutions.

But as excellent as they often are, they are among the outliers; much of the rest of media - particularly television, which,



Flooding in Libya Shows Climate Change Risk to Dams Worldwide

even in today's digital era, remains the leading source of news globally for the largest number of people - struggle to find their climate footing.

We wish it were otherwise. As founders of Covering Climate Now, a global journalism collaboration formed to break the "climate silence" that long prevailed in the media, we have been working to help our colleagues throughout the news business amp up their coverage of the climate story.

In 2019, the media's climate silence began to break, and in the past four years, we have seen encouraging successes. In the United States, major outlets, including The Washington Post, now treat climate change as a subject to cover every day, and not solely as a weather story. Telemundo 51, a Spanish-language TV station in Miami, is pursuing an "all of newsroom" approach that encourages reporters on every beat to talk about climate change, including its solutions.

Overseas, France Televisions (France's counterpart to Britain's BBC) has jettisoned traditional weathercasts in favor of a daily "weather-climate bulletin" where viewers can track global warming in real time as an eight-digit electronic counter shows how much today's temperatures exceed the preindustrial average.

Yet while dramatic changes in climate have made increased news coverage of extreme weather unavoidable, explaining the climate connection to extreme weather is a different task. Linking changes in the weather to the decisions being made by industries and governments that have overheated the planet is where news coverage needs to end up.

As journalists, we have to do better. The broad, general public needs to understand what is happening, why it matters, and, above all, that they

can fix it - for example, by voting, by not buying unsustainable products, and by talking to friends and family about doing the same.

Journalism is at its best when it effectively explains and connects the dots between seemingly disparate events. That means, for instance, learning lessons from how the media covered COVID-19, also a sprawling, complicated story dictated by science. Nobody in the media debated the need to dedicate resources to helping audiences understand COVID-19 and then playing the story big.

Most outlets ran multiple stories every day, which helped even casual news consumers understand that something important was happening. Journalists grounded our coverage in science, but we did not silo it on the science desk: We covered the pandemic as a health story, a politics story, a business, education and lifestyle story. And we talked not only about the problem but also about its solutions, whether masking and social distancing or vaccinations.

Climate coverage could take the same approach. In every newsroom in every community, climate change needs to be thought of not as a beat, but as a through line involving everything we do. No corner of the newsroom is exempt - not business or culture, not sports or city hall.

On the national level, journalism has to figure out how to make climate change central to our politics coverage. Next year will bring elections in the US, the United Kingdom, the European Union, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Egypt that will have profound effects on the prospects for global climate action.

Can politics reporters and editors scale back their fixation on horserace coverage and instead provide the kind of coverage that voters need to make informed choices?



BY MARK  
HERTSGAARD

AND



KYLE POPE

Election coverage should help audiences understand what the candidates will do about the climate crisis if elected, not just what they say. It should hold candidates accountable by asking them not - as Fox did at the first US Republican debate last month - whether they believe in climate change but rather, "What is your plan to deal with the climate crisis?"

Overall, we also need much more and better coverage of climate solutions. Our colleagues at the Solutions Journalism Network have rightly criticized news coverage that only talks about what is wrong. Telling the whole story also requires examining how that problem might be fixed. What else does "more and better" climate coverage mean?

We expect some answers to emerge this week at "Climate Changes Everything: Creating a Blueprint for Media Transformation," a conference at the Columbia Journalism School in New York cosponsored by Covering Climate Now; our founders, the Columbia Journalism Review and The Nation; our lead media partner, The Guardian; and the Solutions Journalism Network.

Reporters and editors from news outlets around the world - large and small, commercial and non-profit - will chart a course for how journalists everywhere can tackle the climate story in ways that drive attention and impact and highlight solutions and justice.

The assembled journalists will draw lessons and inspiration from some of the best climate coverage of the past year, as exemplified by winners of the 2023 Covering Climate Now Journalism Awards, which were just announced. (The conference will be livestreamed and recordings will remain available.)

With the planet on fire, more and better news coverage is itself an essential climate solution. Only when the general public understands what is happening, why, and what needs to be done can large enough numbers of people compel governments and corporations to change course.

Many news outlets have made significant progress in recent years. But the news industry as a whole is still not matching the scale of the crisis with the kind of coverage that is required.

Until that happens, journalism is letting down our readers, viewers, and listeners - and letting Netflix and Billie Eilish handle a job that is ours.

(Mark Hertsgaard is Co-founder of Covering Climate Now and environment correspondent of The Nation. Kyle Pope is Co-founder of Covering Climate Now, editor and publisher of Columbia Journalism Review)  
(Source: Al Jazeera)

# Democrats need to shove Menendez off the stage



BY JENNIFER RUBIN

**"DEMOCRATS, THE ONLY PARTY STILL ADHERING TO MINIMAL STANDARDS EXPECTED IN A DEMOCRACY, SHOULD NOT STAND BY MENENDEZ SILENTLY. SURE, REPUBLICANS HAVE REFUSED TO FORCE OUT REP. GEORGE SANTOS (R-N.Y.), THE EPIC FABULIST WHO IS FACING A 13-COUNT INDICTMENT, INCLUDING FOR FRAUD AND MONEY LAUNDERING, TO WHICH HE HAS PLEADED NOT GUILTY. YES, REPUBLICANS ARE RALLYING AROUND TRUMP (DESPITE THE 91 CHARGES HE FACES IN FOUR INDICTMENTS, ALL OF WHICH HE IS CONTESTING). BUT THAT IS PRECISELY WHY DEMOCRATS NEED TO SHOVE MENENDEZ OFF THE POLITICAL STAGE. IF THEY WANT TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW AND TRUTH-TELLING, THEY CANNOT MIMIC REPUBLICANS' PARTISAN HACKERY."**

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) is only two indictments short of four-time indicted former president Donald Trump. Previously indicted in 2015 on federal corruption charges, Menendez was spared by a hung jury in 2017. His new indictment, even in 2023, still manages to shock.

The Post reports, "Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) and his wife Nadine have been indicted on bribery charges, Justice Department officials announced Friday, detailing what officials said was a corrupt scheme involving gold bars, stacks of cash and using the senator's powerful position to secretly benefit the Egyptian government."

Some choice details from the indictment: "Over \$480,000 in cash - much of it stuffed into envelopes and hidden in clothing, closets, and a safe - was found in the home," in addition to more than \$70,000 in the safe-deposit box of Menendez's wife. And in the sort of tidbit one usually gets only on TV shows, prosecutors say some of the envelopes had the fingerprints or DNA of co-defendant and real estate developer Fred Daibes "or his driver."



Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.)

Although Menendez's indictment compelled him under Senate rules to step down as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he remains on the committee despite the indictment's alleging he "provided sensitive U.S. Government information and took other steps that secretly aided the Government of Egypt." Staying on the committee is untenable.

In a statement that, frankly, sounded Trumpian in its grievance and grandiosity, Menendez lashed out at prosecutors and shamefully played the discrimination card. ("Those behind this campaign simply cannot accept that a first-generation Latino American from humble beginnings could rise to be a U.S. Senator and serve with honor and distinction.") His outrageous accusation ignores five other Latino Americans in the Senate.

The Democratic senator's indictment refutes the GOP's enraged allegations - on full display Wednesday in House Republicans' interrogation of Attorney General Merrick Garland over the indictment of Hunter Biden - that the Justice Department has been "weaponized" against Republicans.

Yet this is a moment of choosing for Democrats. Unlike their GOP counterparts, they should not feel compelled to cover their eyes and ears when one of their own appears to be caught red-handed.

Democrats, the only party still adhering to minimal standards expected in a democracy, should not stand by Menendez silently. Sure, Republicans have refused to force out Rep. George Santos (R-N.Y.), the epic fabulist who is facing a 13-count indictment, including for fraud and money laundering, to which he has pleaded not guilty. Yes, Republicans are rallying around Trump (despite the 91 charges he faces in four indictments, all of which he is contesting). But that is precisely why Democrats need to shove Menendez off the political stage. If they want to be the guardians of democracy, the rule of law and truth-telling, they cannot mimic Republicans' partisan hackery.

Let him fight the charges, as he clearly intends to, but not from a perch on Capitol Hill.

Democrats have risen above partisanship before. During the early stages of the #MeToo movement, Senate Democrats pushed out Sen. Al Franken (Minn.), who resigned in 2017 over conduct that was much less egregious and certainly noncriminal, than that alleged against Menendez. They felt obliged to uphold a standard that Republicans would not. One could argue that they acted too hastily with regard to Franken, but at least they understood that partisanship can be too high a price to pay. If Franken was considered unfit for the Senate, surely they cannot countenance keeping Menendez in their midst.

Even if Menendez does not follow Franken's example and resign under pressure, Democrats should publicly urge him to get out. Fortunately, New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy wasted little time calling for Menendez to step down since the allegations are "so serious they compromise the ability of Senator Menendez to effectively represent the people of our state."

And to be politically crass, there is zero downside for Democrats to insist Menendez go. Murphy would appoint a successor, and the deep blue state would surely elect a Democrat to fill the seat in 2024, when Menendez's term is up anyway. Why not do the right thing now, and gain some credibility with voters?

By late Friday afternoon, a batch of Democrats had called on Menendez to resign. In addition to Murphy, at least two House Democrats, Andy Kim (N.J.) and Dean Phillips (Minn.), have called on Menendez to resign. Phillips told CNN: "I'm appalled. Anybody who pays attention, I don't care your politics, Democrat or Republican, you should be appalled. A member of Congress who appears to have broken the law is someone who I believe should resign." A group of New Jersey Democratic congressmen and state politicians soon followed.

This is one of those times when doing the right thing is good politics. Other Democrats should follow the lead of Murphy, Kim and Phillips.

Jennifer Rubin is an American political commentator who writes opinion columns for The Washington Post.



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**CONTD FROM PAGE 3**

**GOPI DAIRY Diwali at Times Square is celebrating....**

It is a celebration that welcomes people of all backgrounds to come together and share in the joy of Diwali."

Queensborough Supreme Court Judge Karen Gopee, President & Founder Diwali at Times Square Neeta Bhasin with guests

Title Sponsor of Diwali at Times Square, the CEO of Gopi Dairy, Rostom Baghdassarian released the statement, "Gopi Dairy is proud to sponsor 'Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square 2023', a festival rooted in peace, new beginnings, and the human values of gratitude and humility. At Gopi, we're honored to have been part of your daily lives for over a decade, delivering pure dairy products from our family to yours. This is an historic moment for us all to celebrate the universal festival of light and joy!"

This year the festival will feature a diverse array of performances, including local dance schools representing South Asian, Indo-Caribbean, Asian, African, and Hispanic communities. The theme of "United Colors of America" embodies the inclusion of diversity.

Get ready to groove to the rhythm of top-charting Bollywood singer Mika Singh, Indo American Singer, and influencer Shuba, Devotional Singer from the UK Shivali, and local performers.

(Photo D 4 here)

The press brief was attended by Queensborough Supreme Court Judge Karen Gopee, sponsors and supporters, State Bank of India, Northwell Health, House of Spices, Laxmi, Broom Street Temple, Bhatt Foundation, Dada Vaswani Canter and many more.

We would like to thank our media partners: Aap Ka Colors, TV Asia, Awesome TV, The Indian Panorama, The South Asian Times, Hi India (CH) Radio Zindagi and 101.5 FM New Jersey Radio and to all our collaborators in the media, who have made significant contributions to our mission.

Join us for 'Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square,' where we celebrate unity in diversity, equity and inclusion and the 'United Colors of America.' It's an event that transcends borders and brings together communities to create a tapestry of colors and cultures.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at 516-343-0181 / 212-216-9305 or email us at sponsorship@diwalitimesquare.com. Visit our



Queensborough Supreme Court Judge Karen Gopee and President & Founder Diwali at Times Square Neeta Bhasin with guests

website at [www.diwalitimesquare.com](http://www.diwalitimesquare.com).

Follow us on social media for the latest updates:

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- YouTube: Diwali at Times Square

**CONTD FROM PAGE 7**

**Glowing Tributes offered to 21 Valiant Sikh Martyrs...**

Up to the time of the battle, the British Union Jack was fluttering there. At the battle-site, Dr. Josan offered an 'Ardaas of Shukraana' (Prayer of Gratitude) to 'Akaal-Purakh' (The Almighty Majesty) and to Guru Sahibji, for the Blessed Gift of unfathomable fortitude bestowed upon the 21 Sikh Warriors, who outright refused to surrender, preferring to die fighting, despite receiving such an option/offer of safe-passage, from the Afghan enemy rank & file.

Last year, Saragarhi Foundation and about 25 Sikh families of the region inaugurated the 1st Gurdwara Saragarhi Singh Sabha, at Hangu.

The M. C., then, requested the attendees to rise, for offering a thirty second homage to the Brave Martyrs. Similarly, a two-minute standing ovation to the Sacred Memory of the Martyrs was offered in the British Parliament, soon after the battle in 1897. She said this is the only Indian Embassy or Consulate in the world, which has taken up the initiative of hosting such a paramount event and so she expressed the Sikh community's utmost gratitude towards Shri Randhir Jaiswal ji, for his immense support and enthusiastic fervor. Earlier, this year, the Consulate also hosted a British Army Delegation invited by Saragarhi Foundation.

Ambassador Jaiswal honoured Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan with a shawl and a signed coffee-table book from the Prime Minister of India. Dr. Josan addressed the invitees and gave a brief description of his endeavors, pertaining to the revival of the Spirit of Selfless Service & Supreme Sacrifice, epitomized by 21 Sikh Martyrs in the Line of Duty.

Prof. I. S. Saluja, the Chief-Editor of Indian Panorama Weekly, made an emotional speech recalling the Spirit of Sacrifice inculcated by Guru Gobind Singh Sahibji, in the Sikhs, by setting a uniquely Divine precedent of sacrificing all four of his illustrious sons, all of whom were aged under 17. The Golden-Chain of 10 Gurus, spanning 239 years : Guru Nanak Rai Sahibji (circa 1469-1539) through Guru Gobind Singh Sahibji (1666-1708) practiced and preached humility along with fearlessness, thereby presenting the model of an egalitarian and empowered society. The 5th Guru Arjan Sahibji and the 9th Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahibji embraced Martyrdom, bearing the brunt of intense tortures but refused to be cowed down by tyrannical rulers. Prof. Saluja said Guru Gobind Singh Sahibji epitomized the Saint-Soldier image, leading from the front, to face the mighty oppressive Mughal-Dynastic regime of India.

Mrs. Mandeep Kaur Gill, the 5th generation of Havildar Ishar Singhji and the President of Canada Chapter of Saragarhi Foundation made an address.

Mrs. Harpinder Kaur, the 4th generation of Shaheed Sahib Singhji addressed the audience.

3 Veteran Soldiers from 4 Sikh Battalion of the Indian Army (erstwhile 36 Sikh Regiment of the British Army) were honoured

Subedar Major Sukhdev Singh, CHM Gurcharan Singh, Havildar Jaswinder Singh and Havildar Jaspal Singh were honoured and Sukhdev Singh ji addressed the invitees.

S. Harbans Singhji special representative from Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar Hicksville NY was also present.

Media personnel from Jus Punjabi of Penny Sandhu, TV Asia and official media team of Consulate deserve special appreciation for the event-coverage.

Manjit Kaur NYPD volunteer for 5k NY marathon; Harjinder Kaur Jammu is Punjab State level marathoner; Punjit Singh is a marathoner and a sky-diver. S. Onkar Singh Community Activist was also honoured. All of them received Citations.

Ms. Gurkirat Kaur, S. Meharjot Singh, Ms. Pahuljot Kaur and Ms. Angelina Kaur Uppal the four winners of the essay competition on Saragarhi were presented trophies, by Ambassador Jaiswal and Dr. Varun Jeph, the Deputy Consul General.

Vote of thanks was presented by S. Akashjot Singh from Canada, who is the 6th generation of Shaheed Sahib Singhji. He profusely thanked the Consul-General for the great hospitality and the special food service for the guests and audience.

(Report prepared by Amarjit Singh Anand, New York)



ਜੇਹਾ ਚੀਰੀ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਤੇਹਾ ਹੁਕਮੁ ਕਮਾਹਿ ॥  
As His Decree is issued, so is His Command obeyed.

ਘਲੇ ਆਵਹਿ ਜਾਨਕਾ ਸਦੇ ਉਠੀ ਜਾਹਿ ॥੧॥  
Those who are sent, come, O Nanak; when they are called back, they depart and go. ॥1॥



**DALJINDER SINGH BAKSHI**  
(ZINDA SINGH)  
August 8th, 1958 - September 20th, 2023

With deep sorrow, we regret to inform you of the demise of Sardar Daljinder Singh Bakshi ( Zinda Singh) who left for heavenly abode on September 20th 2023 in New York

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24th 2023**

FUNERAL AND CREMATION  
MOLONEY FUNERAL HOME 11 AM - 1 PM  
132 Ronkonkoma Avenue Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

KIRTAN ARDASS, LANGAR | 2 Pm - 3:30 Pm  
GURU GOBIND SINGH SIKH CENTER  
1065 Old Country RD Plainview NY 11803

ARAMBTA SRI AKHAND PAATH SAHIB | 4 Pm  
GURU GOBIND SINGH SIKH CENTER

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26th 2023**

SMAPTI SRI AKHAND PAATH SAHIB | 5 Pm  
Followed by  
KIRTAN ANTIM ARDASS | 6 Pm - 7:30 Pm  
GURU KA LANGAR | 7:30 Pm

**FAMILY IN GRIEF**

TINA SHAH ( Wife )  
214-968-0114

RENITA KAUB BAKSHI ( Daughter )  
214-977-4482

NAROTAM SINGH & AJEET KAUR  
BAKSHI  
( Brother & Sister In-Law )

TARVINDER KAUR & NAMINDER SINGH  
DHIR  
( Sister & Brother In-Law )

LATE KANWALJEET KAUR & DEVINDER  
DEEP SINGH  
( Sister & Brother In-Law )

KAMLESH & SNEHA SHAH  
( Brother In-Law & Sister In-Law ) 945-445-1528

PRITAM & KAVITA SHAH  
( Brother In-Law & Sister In-Law ) 947-535-4437

## INDIAN AMERICAN LAWMAKER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY RECEIVES 2023 ROOSEVELT LEADERSHIP AWARD



Raja Krishnamoorthi was honored with the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award on Saturday, September 16.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Illinois Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi was honored with the 2023 Roosevelt Leadership Award on Saturday, September 16. The event, which took place near Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, was organized by the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange and the Ripon Society. The Roosevelt Leadership Award, inspired by the legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt, is bestowed upon leaders who exemplify qualities and characteristics reminiscent of America's 26th president.

"I'm grateful to the Franklin Center and the Ripon Society for this honor as well as their continuing commitment toward working to bring members of

both parties together to overcome the challenges facing our nation," Krishnamoorthi said in a press release issued by his office. "Our country has always had its divisions, but we are all united by our shared values as Americans, and it remains as true today as it has been throughout our history, that the only way to achieve enduring progress is to work together."

Along with the Indian American congressman, three of his congressional colleagues - U.S. Reps Joyce Beatty (D-OH), Adrian Smith (R-NE), and Kelly Armstrong (R-ND) - were also honored with the Roosevelt Award for their exceptional dedication to public service.

The award recognizes individuals who exhibit a strong sense of duty and service, driven by their love for the country and emphasizes a commitment to acting in the best interests of the American people, transcending party lines and personal credit.

The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange serves as a platform for collaboration among U.S. Congressional members, international parliamentary counterparts, diplomatic corps, foreign officials, private sector representatives, scholars, and other public policy experts.

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

## Indian American Presidential candidate Nikki Haley says she's running against Kamala Harris

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): Indian American Republican presidential aspirant Nikki Haley is picking on fellow Indian American Vice President Kamala Harris to project the 2024 White House race as an all desi affair.

Haley is warning voters that the 2024 election is about making sure Democratic President Joe Biden's running mate Harris does not slip through a back door to the presidency, according to media reports.

Haley has been sounding the alarm on the stump, social media and television, saying Biden, 80, will not last a second four-year term and is poised to hand over the Oval Office keys to Ms. Harris, the Washington Times noted.

"I am not running against Joe Biden; I am running against Kamala Harris," Haley said recently on Fox News. "The idea we are going to have a president Kamala Harris is unthinkable."

Haley, the Times suggested is rolling into a broader argument that she is the more electable Republican in a general election matchup than former President Donald Trump, whom she called "the most disliked politician in America."



"I am not running against Joe Biden; I am running against Kamala Harris," Haley said recently on Fox News. "The idea we are going to have a president Kamala Harris is unthinkable." Photo credit / Gage Skidmore

According to her reasoning, a vote for Biden or Trump is a vote for Harris, who has scored the lowest approval rating of any vice president in recent history, it said.

A recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs poll found a whopping 77% of all voters, including 69% of Democrats, said Biden, will be 82 on Inauguration Day, is too old to be effective for four more years.

That fact has generated a storm of speculation over whether Biden should pull the rip cord on his campaign, whether Harris is ready to replace him and whether

Democrats are comfortable with her as the Plan B, the Times said.

Everything from her laugh to her policy chops has faced intense scrutiny since she moved into the vice president's office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, it suggested.

"There is nothing new about that," Harris said about the criticism in a recent CBS interview. "They feel the need to attack because they are scared that we will win based on the merit of the work that Joe Biden and I and our administration has done."

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

## Indian American student's murder suspect Ji Min Sha deemed fit for trial



Sha is charged with murder in the Oct 5 stabbing death of his roommate, Varun Manish Chheda, 20.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A Purdue University student accused of fatally stabbing his Indian American roommate Varun Manish Chheda in their dorm room last October has been deemed fit to stand trial, according to media reports.

Suspect Ji Min Sha had been ruled incompetent to stand trial in April.

In an order filed Tuesday, September 12, Tippecanoe Circuit Court Judge Sean M. Persin said the superintendent of the Logansport State Hospital has determined Sha "has attained the ability to understand the proceedings and assist in the preparation of his defense."

Persin ordered the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office to transport Sha and his belongings back to the Tippecanoe County Jail "at the earliest

convenience."

A competency report on Sha was filed Monday, court records show. The Tippecanoe County Clerk's Office said that report is confidential, according to WRTV.

Sha is scheduled to appear in Persin's court for a status conference on Sep 29.

In April, two physicians found Sha fit the criteria for a schizophrenia diagnosis and recommended he receive 90 days of treatment in the Logansport facility.

Sha is charged with murder in the Oct 5 stabbing death of his roommate, Varun Manish Chheda, 20.

Prosecutors alleged that Sha stabbed Chheda several times in the head and neck with a folding knife that officers found on the floor near the chair where the victim's body was discovered.

Sha told police he used the knife to kill Chheda, according to according to a probable cause affidavit.

Records show while Sha was in jail, he exhibited "bizarre and withdrawn" behavior and expressed delusional thoughts.

According to court records, Sha had told police after his arrest that "he is extensively involved in international espionage and is a former CIA operative". Sha could face between 45 and 65 years in prison if found guilty of murder.

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## Fresh clashes in Imphal after one of five released people were re-arrested

Fresh clashes broke out between security forces and protesters in certain pockets of Imphal West on Friday, Sept 22, night after one of the five defence volunteers released on bail by a special court in Imphal earlier in the day was re-arrested by a central security agency, officials said.

There was, however, no official confirmation about the status of the re-arrested youth, officials added.

While four arrested men were handed over to their family members after being granted bail, Moirangthem Anand, a former cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army, has been re-arrested, they said.

Anand's wife, who broke down in front of Imphal police station, said, "I have been told by police that my husband has been arrested in connection with a previous case which is more than 10 years old."

One of the released village defence force volunteers identified as L Michael told reporters, "Though four of us were released from the lock-up, Anand was whisked away by few officials. That's the last time we saw him."

Meanwhile, security forces including RAF personnel fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse protesters at Kwakeithel stretch, Singjamei and Uripok in Imphal West district. Protesters burnt tyres on the middle of the road in protest against the government and police.

Earlier in the day, a special court in Imphal had released the five people on bail upon the furnishing of a PR bond of Rs 50,000.

Police had recovered one INSAS rifle with 78 rounds of ammunition from Anand when they arrested him along with four others on September 16 at Kongba in Imphal East district.

On Thursday, Manipur witnessed widespread clashes between security forces and protesters after demonstrators attempted to storm police stations as part of "court arrest agitation" demanding the unconditional release of the five village defence volunteers. *Source: PTI*

# Facing stiff fight, BJP manages to win over JD(S)

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a boost to the BJP ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the JD(S) in Karnataka joined the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Friday, September 22, cementing the decision to fight with the saffron party in a pre-election pact.

The BJP, which hit its peak in Karnataka in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections winning 25 of the state's 28 parliamentary seats, was looking to seal the alliance with the JD(S), which has long held a sway among the Vokkaligas, the state's second-most dominant caste after Lingayats and the minorities. "I am happy that the JD(S) has decided to be a part of the NDA. We wholeheartedly welcome it to the NDA. This will further strengthen the NDA and vision of PM Narendra Modi ji for a 'new India, strong India'," BJP president JP Nadda said after a meeting with HD Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) at his residence.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was also present at the meeting. Shah negotiated with the JD(S) supremo and former PM HD Deve Gowda on the pre-poll arrangements which the parties are yet to disclose formally. In the recently concluded Karnataka elections, the Congress won big bagging 135 of the 224 Assembly seats, followed by the BJP at 66 and the JD(S) at its lowest-ever 19 as the Vokkaligas and even minorities shifted away from it.

Interestingly, in the 2019 LS polls, the JD(S) had contested in a pre-poll pact with the Congress against the BJP. The alliance failed to impress as the BJP won 25 seats and the 26th — Mandya — was won by an Independent the BJP backed. Only two MPs of the Congress-JD(S) alliance won in 2019 — Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's brother D Suresh (Congress) and HD Kumaraswamy's nephew Prajwal Revanna.

BJP sources said in 2024, they could do with allies in Karnataka where their performance had peaked in 2019.

Karnataka and Telangana are the only southern states that returned BJP MPs (25 and four, respectively) to the Lok Sabha in 2019. The saffron party drew a blank in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra



BJP president JP Nadda, JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy and home minister Amit Shah on Friday. (PTI)

Pradesh.

The pact comes as a breather for the BJP days after the AIADMK recently announced it would not ally with the BJP in Tamil Nadu.

### How does it change the caste-calculus?

The BJP and JD (S) are parties with a historic core-support base among Lingayats and Vokkaligas respectively. Lingayats and Vokkaligas are the two numerically dominant social groups in the state. If one looks at social-group wise vote share projections by Axis My India Exit poll for Karnataka — they got the vote shares and seat shares right — even in the 2023 assembly elections, the BJP and JD (S) had a big lead vis-a-vis the Congress among these two social groups and their coming together will further consolidate this advantage. However, the Congress had a massive advantage among Kurubas, Muslims and Dalits and was almost neck and neck with even the combined vote share of BJP and JD (S) among Scheduled Tribe (ST) voters.

### How does it impact sub-regional politics?

The JD (S) has mainly been a party in the southern part of Karnataka which is exactly the area where it has a long-standing rivalry with the Congress. There was not much of a BJP presence in the

region until the 2018 Karnataka assembly elections. However, this changed in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when the Congress and the JD (S) fought in an alliance and the BJP won 25 out of the 28 Lok Sabha constituencies. The 2023 assembly elections only added to the JD(S)'s problems as their vote share even in the regional stronghold saw a two-way erosion -- to both the BJP and the Congress. Seen in this backdrop, the JD(S)'s decision to align with the BJP seems like a survival strategy.

### Will it bring electoral gains for the BJP-JD(S) alliance?

Simple arithmetic suggests that it will. If one were to add the vote shares of BJP and JD (S) across all 224 assembly constituencies (ACs) in the 2023 Karnataka elections, the Congress's tally of 135 would fall to 90. However, it is important to underline the fact that political alliances seldom result in a simple addition of votes of alliance partners. The Congress and the JD(S) learnt this the hard way in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections when they could win only 47 out of the 224 AC segments whereas a simple addition of 2018 vote shares would have given them 152 ACs.

*Source: TNS and HT*

## 'Vacate POK, stop terrorism': India talks tough with Pakistan at UN

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India on Friday, Sept 22, took on Pakistan at the United Nations (UN) and urged it to stop cross-border terrorism, dismantle terror infrastructure on its soil and vacate Indian territories under its illegal occupation.

The response came after Pakistan's interim prime minister Anwar Ul Haq Kakar raked up the Kashmir issue during his address to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

India exercised its right to reply to Pakistan's speech at the UNGA and hit out at Islamabad for repeatedly misusing international forums to peddle anti-propaganda against New Delhi. It

stressed that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and Pakistan had no locus standi to comment on the issue.

"Pakistan has become a habitual offender when it comes to misusing this forum to peddle baseless and malicious propaganda against India. Member states of the UN and other multilateral organisations are well aware that Pakistan does so to deflect the international community's attention away from its own abysmal record on human rights," First Secretary at UN for the second committee of UNGA, Petal Gahlot, said.

"We reiterate that the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir are an integral part of India. Matters pertaining to the UTs of Jammu



First Secretary at the UN for the second committee of UNGA, Petal Gahlot.

and Kashmir and Ladakh are purely internal to India. Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on our domestic matters," she said.

"In order for there to be peace in South

Asia, the actions that Pakistan needs to take are threefold. First, stop cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism immediately. Second, vacate Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation. And third, stop the grave and persistent human rights violations against the minorities in Pakistan," Gahlot stated.

The diplomat said Pakistan should take credible and verifiable action against the perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, instead of "engaging in technical sophistry".

Taking on Pakistan for its abysmal human rights records, Gahlot highlighted instances of attacks on minority communities in that country.

*Source: India Today*

## Women's Reservation Bill tactic to divert attention from caste census: Rahul

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, September 22, welcomed the Women's Reservation Bill but called it a "distraction and diversionary tactic from the demand for a caste census".

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Rahul also demanded that 33 per cent reservation for women in the legislature come into effect immediately and not after census followed by delimitation.

Raising questions on the timeline for the implementation of the Bill, he said it was unclear if the reservation for women would ever be implemented. This was a distraction and a diversionary tactic from an OBC census, he said.

The Congress MP said when he was researching for his Parliament speech, he was shocked to discover that only three out of 90 union government secretaries were from OBCs. He said this showed the hugely disproportionate representation of OBCs in bureaucracy. People belonging to OBC categories perhaps formed 50 per cent of the population, he said.

Rahul said to be able to distribute power fairly among people, data is required. Asked if he regrets that OBC quota was not provided under the Bill related to women reservation brought by the Congress-led UPA in 2010, he replied in the affirmative.

## Sanatan Dharma remark: SC issues notice to Udhayanidhi Stalin

The Supreme Court on Friday, Sept 22, issued notices to the Tamil Nadu Government and its minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on a petition seeking registration of an FIR against him for his "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark.

Acting on a petition filed by B Jagannath, a Bench of Justice Aniruddha Bose and Justice Bela M Trivedi asked the Tamil Nadu Government and Udhayanidhi to respond to the petition.

Alleging that the remarks amounted to hate speech, Jagannath pointed out that the top court had in similar cases ordered registration of FIR.

"This court has taken note of similar matters where individuals make such a statement against another's faith but in this case it is a minister making the statement. Here it is a state, which is telling the school students that so and so religion is wrong," senior advocate D Seshadri Naidu submitted on behalf of the petitioner.

# Quota for women a reality as historic bill clears Parliament

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Parliament on Thursday, September 21, approved the 106th amendment to the Constitution to reserve a third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures for women, a landmark endorsement of a decades-long crusade that was unsuccessful on at least six occasions over nearly three decades.

A day after the 128th Constitutional (Amendment) Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha with a 454-2 voting tally, all of the Rajya Sabha's 214 voting members supported the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, with no one opposing or abstaining after the House spent 11 hours debating the matter.

However, just like in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, members voiced support but added caveats and raised questions around the timing and the manner in which the measure will be implemented.

"All members and political parties have played a significant role in empowering women and enhancing nari shakti. Let us give the country a strong message," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the moments before voting, making an unexpected appearance in the House.

The bill will now require President Droupadi Murmu's signature and at least 50% of the states to approve the amendment to the Constitution. Both appear to be just a formality. Following the vote, both Houses were adjourned sine die, or until a next parliament sitting is called, ending the special session a day early. It was also a historic occasion as the women's reservation bill became the first piece of



legislation to be cleared in the new Parliament building, which was opened for legislative business for the first time during the ongoing special session.

The bill, which will apply to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and the Delhi legislative assembly, inserted quotas for women within the existing quantum of seats set aside for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It will come into effect after delimitation — an exercise comprising revision of seat numbers and redrawing of constituency boundaries — which can only happen after 2026 (according to a 2001 Constitution amendment), and after the relevant census figures are published. The decennial census was scheduled to be conducted in 2021 but was delayed by the government due to the pandemic. There is no clarity on when the exercise is likely to be held. After the vote, Modi said in a post on X that the Rajya Sabha vote reflected a

"defining moment in our nation's democratic journey".

"I thank all the Rajya Sabha MPs who voted for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Such unanimous support is indeed gladdening. With the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in Parliament, we usher in an era of stronger representation and empowerment for the women of India. This is not merely a legislation; it is a tribute to the countless women who have made our nation," he said.

Union home minister Amit Shah said: "Where there is a will there is a way."

"A historic milestone was achieved today on the path of equitable governance as the Rajya Sabha has passed the women's reservation bill. By fulfilling a long-pending demand, PM @narendramodi Ji has sent a powerful message of gender equality and inclusive governance across the world," he said in a post on X.

## In balancing act, India to hold separate military drills with partners US, Russia

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In an act of balancing military ties between diverse partners, Indian troops will simultaneously kick off two separate military exercises — one in Alaska, US, and the other in Vladivostok, Russia. Both exercises begin on September 25.

The one in Alaska is a bilateral exercise with the US, while the Vladivostok drill is being watched keenly — it is a multi-nation construct involving India, Russia and China, besides the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). The "Counter-terrorism field training exercise" in Russia comes under the aegis of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and will take place from September 25 to 30. The Indian contingent leaves for Russia tomorrow. Sources say China, being part of ADMM-Plus, is also taking part in the exercise. Myanmar and



Russia jointly head the experts working group (EWG) on counter-terrorism created by ADMM-plus. In August, a 'tabletop exercise' — euphemism for discussing tactics — was conducted in Myanmar.

Notably, the United States and its NATO allies are at loggerheads with Russia since the war with Ukraine. India

and China are locked in a standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The ADMM-Plus was initially convened in Vietnam in 2010. It focuses on seven areas of practical cooperation — maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster management, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cybersecurity.

The 19th edition of the 'Yudh Abhyas 2023' India-US bilateral exercise (September 25-October 10) in Alaska will see some 350 Indian troops participating. This will include all-ground operations.

The Indian Army posted on X: "Indian Army contingent will be participating in 19th edition of joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, United States. The exercise will entail exchanging best practices and enhancing interoperability to mutually learn from each other..."

Source: TNS

# India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, TO SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

## 22 SEPTEMBER



1965 In the battle between India and Pakistan, there was a ceasefire on the initiative of the United Nations on this day.

1539 Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru of the Sikh sect, died in Kartapur. It was he who started the practice of 'langar'.

1914 The German warship Imden bombed the port of Madras.

1869 Social reformer of India VS Srinivasa Shastri was born in 1869.

2008 Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh left for a ten-day visit to America and France.

2011 The Planning Commission of India, in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, refused to consider a person spending Rs 965 in cities and Rs 781 per month in villages as poor.

1988 Publication of the National Geographic magazine started today.

## 23 SEPTEMBER



1908 Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was born on this day.

1803 The British East India Company defeated the Maratha army in the Battle of Asa.

1862 Birth of great patriot and politician Srinivas Shastri.

1863 The death of 1857 freedom fighter Rao Rao Ram.

1929 Child marriage abolition bill (Saradha Law) passed.

1965 Order of ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

2009 The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) placed seven satellites in orbit, including the Indian satellite Ocean Sat-2.

## 24 SEPTEMBER

1861 Bhikaji Cama was born the lofty voice of women's rights.

1932 Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi in Pune's Yerwada Central Jail for the rights of untouchables.

2014 ISRO's satellite Mangalyaan successfully entered the orbit of Mars.

2008 The Madras High Court dismissed the petition regarding premature release of Nalini and two other convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.



2008 Kapil Dev, the Indian cricketer was conferred the honorary title of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army by Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor at a function.

1932 Bengal's revolutionary nationalist Pritilata Wadedar became the first woman to lay down her life for the country's independence.

2009 India's first Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the lunar surface.

1726 The East India Company was authorized to form municipal and mayor courts in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.



1940 India's famous female swimmer Aarti Saha was born.

## 25 SEPTEMBER

1524 Vasco da Gama came to India for the last time as Viceroy.



1916 Indian economist, sociologist, journalist and great thinker Deendayal Upadhyaya was born.

1914 Former Deputy Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Devi Lal was born.

2009 The Enforcement Directorate of India revealed the hawala network of about five thousand crore rupees.

1920 Birth of India's famous rocket scientist Satish Dhawan.

1955 India's first female physician Rukmabai passed away.

2007 The Nepali Congress (Democratic) party led by former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba merged with the Congress.

2006 Demand for Indian citizenship to Dalai Lama.

## 26 SEPTEMBER

1820 Indian social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born.



1923 Bollywood actor Devanand was born in Punjab (Pakistan).

1932 Manmohan Singh, the 13th Prime Minister of the country, was born in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India.

1998 Sachin Tendulkar broke Desmond Haynes' world record by scoring an 18th century in a one-day cricket match against Zimbabwe.

## 27 SEPTEMBER

1883 The great social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy died.

1907 The great revolutionary Bhagat Singh was born.

1998 Google, the world's largest search engine, was launched.

1871 Vitthalbhai Patel, elder brother of Sardar Patel and famous freedom fighter was born.

## 28 SEPTEMBER



1929 Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar was born.

1767 Sajjan 17 forbids private slave transport to the Cape of Good Hope, India.

1838 The last Mughal emperor in India Bahadur Shah Zafar ascended the throne after his father's death.

1977 India's famous poet Sumitranandan Pant died. He is one of the four major pillars of the Chhayawadi era in Hindi literature.

2004 The World Bank named India as the fourth largest economy in the world.

2011 Chief Minister Mayawati announced the creation of three more districts in Uttar Pradesh, comprising 72 districts, namely Panchsheel Nagar, Prabuddhanagar and Sambhal.

1836 Birth of spiritual master Shirdi Sai Baba.



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# ART FEST WELCOMES YOU TO CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES & 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP

BY MABEL PAIS

## Feast your Eyes on Creations of ANINDITA DUTTA And many, many more

Artist  
Anindita  
DuttaCredit /  
Anindita  
Dutta'Surrender,'  
Digital Photo  
by Anindita  
DuttaCredit /  
Anindita  
Dutta

The Newark Museum of Art (NMOA) and Newark Arts (NA) present 'Cross Cultural Perspectives,' the signature exhibition of the 2023 Newark Arts Festival (NAF), a free, four-day celebration happening September 27th through October 1st. The exhibition opens on September 27th and features works by a roster of 90+ NJ artists and will be on-view through October 29th. The 22nd annual arts festival will partner with The Newark Museum of Art to host its signature group exhibition for the third year.

Registered guests of the Newark Arts Festival will receive free entry to 'Cross Cultural Perspectives' and the entire Museum during the four-day run of the Festival.

Particularly known for must-see exhibitions that generate fervent conversation around timely social issues, NAF will partner with The Newark Museum of Art to host the "Cross Cultural Perspectives" group exhibition, expanding on the success of previous years. The poignant visual arts exhibition will enhance each attendee's cultural experience by providing a rich bounty of diverse viewpoints, artistic mediums and voices to be valued.

Each Fall, Newark Arts Festival ("NAF") showcases Newark's dynamic and diverse arts and culture sector over four days of events, programs and nightlife. Produced by Newark Arts and powered by Prudential Foundation, NAF amplifies the voices of

established and emerging artists, gallerists and creative entrepreneurs in New Jersey's largest city. Twice named New Jersey's Favorite Visual Arts Festival, this free community event promotes and highlights the offerings of creatives throughout the entire city, including film, dance, theatre, poetry, and arts education.

The Festival will attract thousands of artists, collectors, aficionados and creatives to New Jersey's largest city this Fall. Happening September 27 through October 1, 2023, this free four-day celebration of arts and culture will span across all five wards of Newark, kicking off with a not-to-be-missed Opening Event on Wednesday, September 27th at The Newark Museum of Art.

### HIP HOP 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPOTLIGHT

Voted New Jersey's Favorite Visual Arts Festival, NAF 2023 will proudly feature the "Cross Cultural Perspectives" of Newark's diverse and vibrant arts community, as well as national and international voices in the arts. Unique to this year's festival will be a spotlight on the contributions of Newark-area hip hop pioneers, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop.

### HOW DOES CULTURE INFLUENCE THE ARTISTIC PROCESS?

How does culture impact a community? Each of us has our own thoughts, perceptions, behaviors, and expressions based on our lived experience. Adopting a cross-cultural perspective starts with listening and learning from others who are different from us, and appreciating the beauty of how they experience and show up in the world.

Led by local and national curators, each day of the Festival will feature dynamic artistic offerings from Newark's creative community including pop-up art installations, performance and poetry experiences, the 'Open Doors Kids Festival,' film and media events, nightlife, panels and more.

### OPENING NIGHT

Newark Arts Festival, 2022 Opening Night  
Credit / [newarkartsfestival.com](http://newarkartsfestival.com)

This not-to-be-missed opening night will connect all sectors of Newark's vibrant arts and culture community and dazzle you with unforgettable performances by Janetza Miranda, Hezekiah "Hez" Crockett, Trezure Empire, Snazzy Jazzy and DJ Fade, celebrating both Cross Cultural Perspectives and the 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop. At the same time, attendees can enjoy the Newark Public Schools Teen Exhibition, 'Bridging Borders: Embracing Cross-Cultural Perspectives,' on the 2nd floor Program Hall.

And there's more! Be sure to arrive on time for a dazzling unveiling beginning at 6 pm on the Museum's front steps. The Museum will officially unveil a recently acquired pair of marble sculptures by renowned artist Sanford Biggers, which will grace the NMOA entrance.

*"This is the Festival of the people and Newark Arts' love letter to Newark. We are looking forward to once again partnering with The Newark Museum of Art and our entire community of artists of all disciplines, our dedicated funders, partners and lovers of art and entertainment. We hope to make the Newark Arts Festival a Fall destination for patrons globally. Incorporating a celebration of Hip-Hop will be the icing on the cake," said Felicia Swoope, Newark Arts, Executive Director.*

*"We are excited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop at the 2023 Newark Arts Festival and to pay homage to the artists from Newark who made massive contributions to this uniquely American art form that has defied the odds and stood the test of time," said Councilman Dupre "Doitall" Kelly of Newark's West Ward and founding member of the rap group, 'Lords of the Underground.'*

*"We look forward to partnering with Newark Arts, now for the third year, to host the Newark Arts Festival exhibition. Following last year's stunning showcase, we are thrilled to celebrate and support the immense artistic talent right here in Newark. Our team welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the dynamic staff at NAF to foster community at The Newark Museum of Art," said Catherine Evans, Deputy Director, Collections & Curatorial Strategies at NMOA.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NAF 2023, VISIT [NEWARKARTSFESTIVAL.COM](http://NEWARKARTSFESTIVAL.COM).**

### REGISTRATION

To register for the Festival, visit [newarkartsfestival.com/cross-cultural-perspectives](http://newarkartsfestival.com/cross-cultural-perspectives)

### ACCESSIBILITY

ADA Accessibility: Newark Arts strives to ensure accessibility of its events and programs to all persons with disabilities. If an individual requires special accommodations or assistance, please contact Newark Arts in writing by mail or email with two-week notice. Large-print text is available upon request. Its offices are wheelchair accessible. The mailing address is 17 Academy Street, Suite 702, Newark NJ 07102.

### NEWARK ARTS

Newark Arts' mission is to power the arts to transform lives. Established in 1981 as the Newark Arts Council, the organization's vision is to become a nationally recognized catalyst for the collaborative power of the arts in the City of Newark and urban America. Newark Arts is the producer of the Newark Arts Festival and Newark Creates, a community-led citywide cultural plan, created in partnership with the City of Newark. Key initiatives include Arts Education Newark (AEN) and the ArtStart community grantmaking program.

Newark Arts was created to advance and expand the artistic and cultural resources of New Jersey's largest city. Its mission is to bring the transformative power of the arts into the lives of those who live in, work in, and visit Newark through programs, advocacy, promotion, education, and coordination.

### CONNECT WITH NEWARK ARTS

To keep up-to-date on all the latest news from Newark Arts, sign up for the newsletter at [newarkarts.org](http://newarkarts.org) and follow @Newark\_Arts on Twitter and @NewarkArts on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

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

# STARS OF 'HAMILTON' & 'IN THE HEIGHTS' OPEN MPAC'S NEW SEASON

BY MABEL PAIS

"Hitting New Heights,' is the 2023-2024 (29th) season's opening show at The Mayo Performing Arts Center (MPAC) on Friday, September 29 at 8 pm. It is a celebration of Broadway, starring Mandy Gonzalez and Javier Muñoz, two of Broadway's leading Hispanic performers in 'Hamilton' and 'In The Heights.'

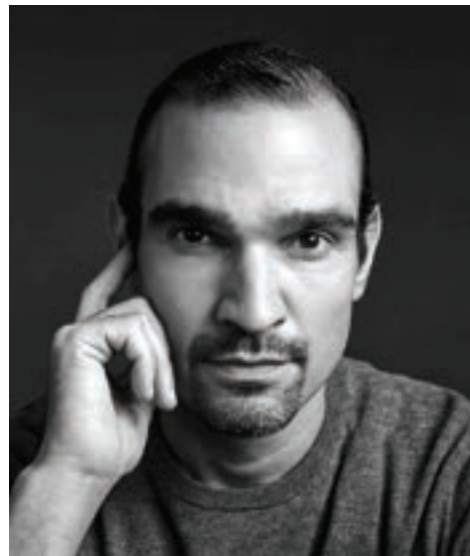
The original stars of Hamilton and In the Heights celebrate the music of today's greatest composers, including their friends Lin-Manuel Miranda, Stephen Schwartz and other extraordinary songwriters.

Mandy Gonzalez, who most recently starred as Angelica Schuyler in the musical sensation 'Hamilton,' had her breakout role as Nina in Miranda's debut hit, 'In the Heights.' She later went on to star in 'Wicked' and 'Aida' on Broadway, appearing in 'Across the Universe' on the big screen, 'Quantico' and 'Madam



Mandy Gonzalez Credit / mayoarts.org

Secretary' on the small screen, and performing for symphonies around the



Javier Muñoz Credit / mayoarts.org

world.

She is joined by her friend and former castmate Javier Muñoz, who stepped into Miranda's shoes when he took over

the lead role of Usnavi in 'In the Heights' and helped develop and eventually star as the titular character of Alexander Hamilton alongside its creator in the blockbuster hit 'Hamilton.' Muñoz most recently appeared on the final season of the Netflix hit series, 'Shadowhunters,' and starred in the Broadway bound musical 'The Devil Wears Prada' written by Elton John.

Together Gonzalez and Muñoz share intimate retellings of stories and songs from their vast careers on stage and their unique up close experiences with some of the industry's greatest contributors.

Be in the room where it happens for the infectious hits from 'Hamilton' and 'In the Heights,' defy gravity with anthems from 'Wicked,' and other songs from the best of Broadway!

## TICKETS

For Tickets to see the show, contact MPAC (see below for more info).

## MPAC 2023-2024 SEASON EVENTS CONTINUE

BY MABEL PAIS

**Gipsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes**  
Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 8 pm

Nicolas Reyes has been the leader and co-founder of the Gipsy Kings for well over 30 years. In the past three decades, Gipsy Kings have dominated the World Music charts and sold more than 14 million albums worldwide. From France with flamenco roots, the band is known for its fluid guitar work and powerful vocals. Globetrotters in the truest sense, the Gipsy Kings create music that crosses borders.

**Buddy Guy: Damn Right Farewell**  
Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 8 pm

Eight-time Grammy-winner Buddy Guy is a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a major influence on rock titans like Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan, a pioneer of Chicago's fabled West Side sound, and a living link to the city's halcyon days of electric blues. This is your last chance to see this blues legend as he embarks on his farewell tour. With special guest Bobby Rush.

**The Concert: A Tribute To ABBA**  
Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Dust off your bell bottoms and platform shoes! The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA recreates the music and magic of ABBA's greatest hits, including "Mamma Mia," "Waterloo" and "Dancing Queen."

**Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons**  
Friday, October 13, 2023 at 8 pm

Frankie Valli, who came to fame in 1962 as the lead singer of the 'Four Seasons,' is hotter than ever in the 21st century. Frankie performs from among such classic songs as "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Rag Doll" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" that have made him an iconic figure in pop music for six decades.

**Coco Live-to-Film Concert**

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 3 pm

Disney Pixar's Coco in Concert on Tour features a screening of the movie Coco, with Oscar® and Grammy®-winning composer Michael Giacchino's musical score performed live by the 20-member Orquesta Folclorica Nacional de Mexico. Coco also features the Oscar®-winning song "Remember Me" by songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez (Frozen), and additional songs co-written by Germaine Franco and co-director and screenwriter Adrian Molina.

**Jim Messina and Pablo Cruise: Oasis in the Sun Tour**

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 7:30 pm

A double bill of 70s pop music featuring Pablo Cruise ("Love will Find a Way," "Watcha Gonna Do," "A Place in the Sun") and singer-songwriter Jim Messina, one half of Loggins and Messina ("Your Momma Don't Dance," "Angry Eyes"), as well as a member of Buffalo Springfield and Poco.

**The Bacon Brothers**

Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 8 pm

Bound by blood and a mutual love of American roots music, The Bacon Brothers have spent the past quarter-century in a creative whirl, funneling their shared DNA into a genre-bending sound. They call that sound "Forosoco" - a blend of folk, rock, soul, and country influences, delivered by two songwriters who were born to collaborate.

**+ Live + Unplugged**

Friday, October 20, 2023 at 8 pm

+Live+ has sold over 22 million albums worldwide and earned two number one albums: Throwing Copper and Secret Samadhi. Their catalog is filled with such gems as "Lightning Crashes," "I Alone," "All Over You" and "Lakini's Juice," which remain as classics on rock radio. Here your favorite +Live+ songs in a whole new

way -- unplugged!

**American Girl LIVE! In Concert**

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 1 pm and 5 pm

American Girl LIVE! In Concert brings your favorite characters to life in a brand-new pop concert experience! Featuring American Girl fan favorites performed by a live cast, this show is filled with music, high energy dancing and lots of surprises as our American Girls learn about the power of friendship. Join the fun with your favorite American Girl characters in this immersive concert experience!

**An Evening with the Late John**



John Cleese

Credit / mayoarts.org

**Cleese**

Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Come and pay your respects to one of the most iconic and beloved comedians of our time in a night of unparalleled laughter and wit. (Barely) living comedy legend John Cleese is heading in your general direction for a live and truly memorable evening of comedy and conversation. With all-new routines shaped by his impeccable timing, trademark eccentricity and clever wordplay, John Cleese demonstrates through observational humor and gifted storytelling how he has achieved nothing short of comedy royalty. Don't miss your chance to see this hilarious and insightful look at the life and work of one of the

world's funniest entertainers in this thrill-of-a-lifetime evening.

**Indigo Girls**

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Over a thirty-five-year career, the multi-Grammy-winning folk duo of Emily Saliers and Amy Ray have seamlessly blended folk, rock and pop with emotional intimacy and honesty that have defined their music on songs such as "Closer to Fine" and "Galileo." The duo has recorded sixteen studio albums, sold over 15 million records, and built a dedicated following across the globe, making them one of the most successful folk duos in music history.

**Celebrating Meat Loaf**

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 8 pm

Celebrate the legendary Meat Loaf and experience his hit songs performed by Meat Loaf's own band 'The Neverland Express,' featuring American Idol Season 13 champ Caleb Johnson on vocals. Celebrating Meat Loaf honors 45 years of Bat Out of Hell plus Meat Loaf's greatest hits. As a special Halloween season bonus, the band adds hit songs from The Rocky Horror Picture Show, which co-starred Meat Loaf.

**Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood presents "King for a Day"**

Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 2 pm and 5:30 pm (confirm times)

This grr-ific musical for little tigers and grown-ups alike finds your favorite characters on a brand-new adventure in Neighborhood of Make-Believe where Daniel learns just what it takes to be King. The beloved characters captivate you with new songs, magical moments and surprise guests along the way! It's an event filled with tigertastic fun, teaching the valuable lessons of kindness, helping others and being a friend.

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



### Huma Qureshi turns author with her book 'Zeba'

Actor Huma Qureshi is now an author. She recently announced her debut novel titled 'Zeba - An Accidental Superhero'. Taking to Instagram, Huma wrote, "Finally the cat is out of the bag !! Super excited to share the announcement of my debut novel : 'Zeba - An Accidental Superhero' with @harpercollinsin .. and a massive shoutout to my agency @asuitableagency ... Been working on this for the past 2 years and everyone around me knows how much this means to me ?? Book out in Dec 2023 . Comments below will be seen as a vote of interest to buy the book."

Huma said that her novel is "deeply personal." "I've learned that accepting who you are, with all your quirks and uniqueness, is the most empowering journey one can embark on. We live in a world that needs diversity, and every individual's story is a piece of that beautiful mosaic. Stories of fierce women are not just the need of the hour; they are the timeless tales that inspire generations, reminding us that strength and resilience know no boundaries. We need these stories to remind ourselves that we, too, can be the heroes of our own lives. This novel is deeply personal and it puts out there the rawest, most unfiltered version of me," she added.

## Atlee on directing SRK in 'Jawan': To get it right, you have to become a fan first

If you want to get it right, you have to become a fan first, says filmmaker Atlee, crediting superstar Shah Rukh Khan for trusting his vision for "Jawan", a mass entertainer that is on its way to becoming one of the highest earning movies in Hindi cinema.

Atlee is known for delivering back-to-back hits in the South with superstar Vijay. "Jawan", which has crossed over Rs 800 crore at the box office since its release on September 7, marks his Hindi debut.

Asked how he managed to direct the superstar without getting overwhelmed by his persona, the 36-year-old director said he simply stayed true to his creative vision.

"I'm a fan of cinema and I'm a fan of Shah Rukh sir, Vijay sir. Whoever I've worked with, I first become their fan because if you want to get it right, you have to become a fan. Even with their beloved actors, a fan can always say about a film that, 'No, it's not right.' "As a fan, you will know which film is working and which is not working purely by heart... At the same time, if the actors are fans of a director's work or a cameraman's work and an editor's work, they also come up and say, 'Boss, I think you are not on the right track'," Atlee told PTI in a virtual interview.

The filmmaker said he developed "a give and take" relationship with SRK who protected and guided him throughout the filming of the big-budget movie. "Jawan" was made with a budget of over Rs 300 crore, the filmmaker had revealed earlier.

"I didn't guide him — he knows much more than what everyone knows in the system — but I said what works for me and what doesn't.

"And he trusted me. He was like, 'Yes, sir. It's not working for you. Let's do one more. Should I do it like this? Should I do it like that?' It was a good give and take. That's why I could give a (film like) 'Jawan' with everyone's 100 per cent,"



he added.

It was Shah Rukh who reached out to Atlee expressing a desire to work with the filmmaker, who has been praised for showing the actor in a new light with the blockbuster. The film, interestingly, was greenlit over a Zoom call during the pandemic.

Atlee has already established a name in the Tamil film industry courtesy his movies with Vijay — "Theri", "Mersal" and "Bigil".

SRK's idea was to do a quintessential "Atlee film", he recalled.

"I was really surprised and blessed to get a call from Shah Rukh sir's side. When I met him, he said, 'Sir, let's do a film together. I've seen all your films. I love your films. And, I want to do an Atlee film'.

## Nana Patekar says OTT has opened doors for actors with average looks

Nana Patekar is gearing up for the release of his next, The Vaccine War. The veteran actor talked about the emergence of OTT in a new interview with DNA. He talked about the recent rise of OTT that has given more opportunities for average-looking actors to showcase their talent.

Speaking to DNA, Nana said, "Uss waqt hum ko chance milta nahi tha. Humare jaise chehre le ke aaye hue log ko. Jaise Om (Puri) ko chehra nahi tha, Irrfan ka koi chehra nahi tha. Mera koi chehra nahi tha, Manoj (Bajpayee) ko koi chehra nahi tha. Raghubir (Yadav) ko chehra nahi tha. Ab hum sabko ek stage mil gaya hai apna hunar dikhane ka. Logo ne unko pehchaan liya, aur unhe achha kehne lage (We didn't get our chance that time. Actors with average looks like me, Om Puri, Irrfan, Manoj Bajpayee, and Raghubir Yadav didn't get their chance. But now will OTT, we have a stage, where we showcase our talents and people accept us). After the emergence of OTT, the artistes have another medium after theatre and cinema to showcase their talents."

In the same interview, Nana also talked about the end of superstardom in the film industry and how nowadays stars change in the matter of few weeks as per box office results. Nana gave the example of stars like Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, and Dev Anand, and how audience still remember their films.

Nana Patekar has been acting in the Indian film industry for over three decades. Some of his most notable work include Parinda (1989), Krantiveer (1994), Khamoshi: The Musical (1996), and Welcome (2007).

Nana will mark his return to the big screen after



quite some time with Vivek Agnihotri's The Vaccine War. He will essay the part of the head of the Indian scientist team that developed India's first vaccine against the covid-19 during pandemic. The film also stars Anupam Kher, Raima Sen, Sapthami Gowda and Pallavi Joshi in the lead roles. It will be released on September 28.

Source: HT

## Manoj Bajpayee starts shooting for 'Bhaiyyaji'

Actor Manoj Bajpayee on Tuesday began filming "Bhaiyyaji", a film on which he also serves as a producer.

The project marks the second collaboration for the actor, director Apoorv Singh Karki and producer Vinod Bhanushali after "Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai", which had a digital release in May.

According to the makers, "Bhaiyyaji" will explore emotions like "standing for your family and vengeance for the wrongs done towards your own".

Bajpayee took to microblogging site X to make the announcement on the festive occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi.

"Today marks the first day of my film "BHAIYYAJI" as both an actor and producer at Aurega Studios (@AuregaStudios). I'm working alongside, @apoorvkarki88, @VikramKhakhar, #ShabanaRazaBajpayee, and the super strong support from @vinodbhanu & #KamleshBhanushali at @BSL\_Films, as well as @iamsameksha and @OswalShael at #SSOProductions," the National Award winner wrote alongside a series of pictures from the film's set.





## Sound of Freedom hero Tim Ballard accused of sexual harassment

**T**im Ballard, the founder of the renowned anti-child slavery organization, Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), and the inspirational figure behind the film Sound of Freedom has been accused of sexually harassing seven women during overseas missions and taking advantage of a Mormon elder.

According to a report by Vice News, Ballard, who was portrayed by Jim Cavaziel in Sound of Freedom, shockingly resigned from his position in June after O.U.R. initiated an investigation into the troubling claims of sexual misconduct. Report suggests, Ballard allegedly pressured women to act as his "wife" on undercover missions designed to rescue victims of sex trafficking. He is accused of insisting that they share a bed or shower with him during these missions, purportedly to deceive traffickers.

What's even more distressing is that Ballard, a former Department of Homeland Security official, stands accused of sending an explicit photo of himself in underwear to one woman and inquiring about her willingness to go to extreme lengths to save trafficked children.

# Emma Roberts feels no shame about her body hair

**T**he 'American Horror Story' star has periods where she embraces body hair, particularly when she is not required to look her best for acting projects.

Emma Roberts told InStyle: "I personally don't think that body hair is anything to be ashamed of. For me, it's all phases. I like the feeling of not having some, and then I like the feeling of having some sometimes, so it just goes back and forth.

"Like I said, when it comes to face and brows, it's really about how my products are going to be on my face and how my makeup's going to be on my face. And when you're in front of the camera, you have to, unfortunately, be more aware of it. Definitely, when I'm not working, I am not necessarily as hard on myself as when I'm working, just because everybody has an opinion."

Emma added: "I like that I've been seeing [body hair] on social media more because I love seeing what everyone's using and doing beauty-wise online. I like seeing different faces and different trends and not everybody just doing the same thing, which I think is cool."

Emma Roberts is known for her striking brows and finds it hard to keep up with the trends surrounding body hair.

Emma explained: "Well, it's so funny. It's a two-part answer about my brows. One being that if you look at my first license photo, the arch in my brow is so intense and they're so skinny and dark that it doesn't even look like me, and I just remember that was so the



look back then. And now, I definitely go way longer without removing hair from my brows. I try to let them grow in and then just maintain them.

"It's just so funny, because when you're in the moment of a trend with brows or hair, you never know you're in the trend until you're out of it — and then you can't believe it. But the first thing I remember about my brows, because we all get made fun of

for something growing up that sticks with us, was that I was in school, and this kid told me I had a unibrow. I didn't know what that was, and I went home, and my mom felt so bad for me. And that was when I started to become aware that, 'Wait, you're supposed to get your eyebrows done? What do you mean?' I couldn't have been more than 6 or 7. So yeah, my brows have really gone on a journey with me."

## Kim Kardashian and Odell Beckham Jr spotted together



**K**im Kardashian and Odell Beckham Jr. have been seen together lately, but sources say they are just friends.

The reality star, 42, and the NFL player, 30, who plays for the Baltimore Ravens, have been "hanging out casually" after he broke up with his girlfriend Lauren "Lolo" Wood, an insider told Page Six on Tuesday.

However, sources close to both of them told us that they are not dating seriously and that they mostly hang out in groups because they have many friends in common.

They said that Kardashian is not looking for a serious relationship right now, but she is open to finding love again if she meets the right person. Her main priority is her kids and her businesses.

Beckham and Wood, who have a son together, split earlier this year. They went public with their relationship in 2019.

Kardashian has four children with her ex-husband Kanye West. They divorced in February 2021.

It is not clear how Kardashian and Beckham became friends, but they have

some things in common. They both work with the teeth whitening brand Moon, and they were both at the same restaurant in Miami owned by Dave Grutman along with Tristan Thompson.

Kardashian also took her son Saint to some Los Angeles Rams games last season when Beckham was still on the team.

Around that time, Kardashian hinted at a new mystery man she was seeing on Season 3 of her Hulu show, which was filmed in October 2022.

She told Scott Disick that her friends set her up with a new guy and that they had a secret date in New York City.

"Does he meet the standards?" Disick asked.

"Oh, so meets the standards," she answered.

She also smiled and texted the mystery man later in the episode.

This is not the first time that Kardashian has been linked to a famous football player.

In the summer, she was seen talking to Tom Brady at a Fourth of July party hosted by Michael Rubin — where Beckham was also present.

## SOUTH AFRICAN CHICKENS HIT BY 'WORST' BIRD FLU OUTBREAK

**"THE BIRD FLU OUTBREAK IS THE WORST THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS WITNESSED," FELLOW PRODUCER ASTRAL SAID IN A TRADING UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 21.**

**JOHANNESBURG (TIP):** South African poultry farmers have warned of possible chicken and egg shortages as they battle what the industry says is the worst bird flu outbreak ever to hit the country.

Producer Quantum Foods said on September 22 that this year it had lost almost two million chickens -- worth a total of more than 100 million rand (\$5.3 million) -- because of the disease.

"The bird flu outbreak is the worst that South Africa has witnessed," fellow producer Astral said in a trading update on Thursday.

**"(IT) HAS ALREADY CAUSED SHORT SUPPLIES OF TABLE EGGS INTO THE MARKET, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SUPPLY OF POULTRY MEAT INTO THE VALUE CHAIN COULD BE AFFECTED NEGATIVELY IN THE COMING MONTHS."**

The outbreak has cost it 220 million rand so far, the company said.

One of the continent's major poultry producers, South Africa reported the first bird flu cases in commercial farms in April, according to an industry group.

Earlier this month, the South African Poultry Association (SAPA) said the country was contending with two different strains of the virus, the infamous H5N1 and a new strain identified as H7N6.

The latter was spreading through the northeastern provinces of Mpumalanga and Gauteng "at an alarming rate", according to Astral.

Bird flu does not typically infect humans. But H5N1 is increasingly infecting mammals worldwide, from sea lions in Argentina to foxes in Finland, raising fears it could pass on more easily to humans.

The virus has typically been confined to seasonal outbreaks, but since 2021 cases have emerged year-round, and across the globe, leading to what experts say is the largest outbreak ever seen.

SAPA said the number of avian flu cases in South Africa this year was higher than in any year since the first outbreaks were reported in commercial farms in 2017 (AFP)

# China announces 'strategic partnership' with Syria

**HANGZHOU (TIP):** Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a "strategic partnership" with Syria on September 22 during talks with President Bashar al-Assad, who is seeking financial support to help rebuild his devastated country.

The leaders met on the eve of the Asian Games opening ceremony, which Assad will attend as part of his first visit to China since 2004.

China is one of only a handful of countries outside the Middle East that Assad has visited since the 2011 start of a civil war that killed more than half a million people, displaced millions and battered Syria's infrastructure and industry.

Assad is the latest in a string of leaders ostracised by the West to be feted by Beijing, with Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi visiting this year, as well as top Russian officials.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad on Friday jointly announced the establishment of the China-Syria strategic partnership," according to Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

The leaders were each flanked by nine aides at a large rectangular wooden table, a CCTV video showed, as two flags from each country were set in front of a Chinese painting in the meeting room.

Relations between the two countries "have withstood the test of international changes", Xi said.

"China supports Syria in opposing foreign interference, opposing



unilateral bullying, safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," the Chinese leader added.

Assad, in turn, said he "thanked the Chinese government for everything you have done to stand alongside the Syrian people in their cause and their trials", according to a readout from Syrian state news agency SANA.

"This visit is extremely important due to its timing and circumstances because a multipolar world is being formed today which will restore balance and stability to the world," he said.

"I hope that our meeting today will lay the foundations for broad-based and long-term strategic cooperation in all areas," he added.

'New level'

Beijing's foreign ministry has said Assad's visit will serve to take ties to a "new level".

Beijing has long provided Damascus

with diplomatic support, particularly at the UN Security Council where China is a permanent member.

Analysts say that Assad's visit represents an important step towards returning to the international fold after years of US-led isolation of his regime.

Syria's war began after Assad's repression of peaceful pro-democracy protests escalated into a deadly conflict that pulled in foreign powers and jihadists.

Assad's trip also comes as China expands its engagement in the Middle East.

This year, Beijing brokered a deal that saw longtime regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Damascus-backer Iran agree to restore ties and reopen their respective embassies.

The detente was followed by Syria's return to the Arab fold at a summit in Saudi Arabia in May, ending more than a decade of regional isolation. (AFP)

## UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defends climate policy shift

**LONDON (TIP):** Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on September 21 insisted he was "not slowing down efforts" to tackle climate change, a day after softening green policies aimed at achieving net zero carbon emissions by mid-century.

Sunak told a news conference on Wednesday that the UK was adopting a more "pragmatic" approach to meeting the net zero target.

The new strategy will include the pushing back of a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030 to 2035.

The prime minister also announced an easing of energy efficiency targets for rental properties and backtracked on plans to make homeowners replace gas boilers with heat pumps.

The rethink in green policy was met with a backlash from opposition lawmakers, environmental campaigners, the car industry and some MPs of Sunak's Conservative Party.

But Sunak on Wednesday defended the changes as chief executive of the independent Climate Change Committee, Chris Stark, called his policy



shift "wishful thinking" and said the UK now didn't have the policy package to hit its targets.

"We are absolutely not slowing down efforts to combat climate change. I am very proud of our country's leadership," Sunak said in an interview with the BBC.

The premier said he agreed that "you can't just wish or will your way to net zero", but added that "people have asserted these targets without having an honest conversation with the country about what's required to deliver them".

He said the government had an "ongoing responsibility" to put policies and proposals in place that would allow the UK to meet its international and domestic obligations.

**The government remained "committed" to those targets, he said, adding that he had "absolute confidence and belief that we will hit them".**

The policy shift comes as British voters are facing a cost-of-living crisis that has seen food and housing costs spiral with concerns multiplying over the potential financial cost of the government's net zero pledge.

With a general election expected next year, the Conservatives are trailing in the polls behind the main opposition Labour Party. (AFP)

# Indigenous people in Brazil shed tears of joy as the Supreme Court enshrines their land rights

**RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP):** Indigenous people celebrated September 21 after Brazil's Supreme Court ruled to enshrine their land rights, removing the imminent threat those protections could be rolled back.

The justices had been evaluating a lawsuit brought by Santa Catarina state, backed by farmers, seeking to block an Indigenous group from expanding the size of its territorial claim. Nearly all of the high court's justices voted to support the Indigenous group, which has far-reaching implications for territories nationwide.

Dozens of Indigenous people in traditional yellow feather headdresses and body paint danced, sang and jumped around in front of a multitude of flashing cameras in the capital of Brasilia after the decisive vote was cast. Some wiped away tears of joy.

"I'm shaking. It took a while, but we did it. It's a very beautiful and strong feeling. Our ancestors are present — no doubt about it," said Jéssica Nghe Mum Priprá, who is from the Xokleng-Laklano Indigenous group.

In the case before the court, Santa Catarina state argued a legal theory being pushed by opponents of further land allocations for Indigenous groups. It said that the date Brazil's Constitution was promulgated — Oct. 5, 1988 — should be the deadline for when Indigenous peoples to have already either physically occupied land or be legally fighting to reoccupy territory. They also claimed it would provide legal certainty for landholders.

Nine of the court's 11 justices rejected that argument.

"Areas occupied by Indigenous people and areas that are linked to the ancestry



and tradition of Indigenous peoples have constitutional protection, even if they are not demarcated," said Justice Luiz Fux, who cast the vote that established the majority.

The two justices who voted to support Santa Catarina's position were appointed by President Jair Bolsonaro, who was a vocal opponent of expanding Indigenous territories and supported their assimilation.

Indigenous rights groups argued the concept of the deadline was unfair, saying it does not account for expulsions and forced displacements of Indigenous populations, particularly during Brazil's two-decade military dictatorship.

The lawsuit put at risk the status of Brazil's hundreds of Indigenous territories, said rights group Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, known by the Portuguese acronym Apib.

Large groups of Indigenous men and women from different states and ethnicities had gathered in and around Brasilia in recent months during the

high court's deliberations.

Francisco Cali Tzay, the U.N. special investigator on the rights of Indigenous peoples, had urged Brazil's Supreme Court to protect Indigenous lands.

"Under the constitution, Indigenous peoples are entitled to the permanent possession of the lands they traditionally occupy," Tzay said in a 2021 statement.

He said a ruling in favour of business interests "could legitimize violence against Indigenous peoples and inflame conflicts in the Amazon rainforest and other areas."

Though the case involved only one Indigenous group, the Supreme Court gave it "general repercussion" status, meaning the ruling will serve as a precedent for all instances of justice involving Indigenous groups.

It thus applies to hundreds of administrative procedures and legislative initiatives that are in progress and is likely to torpedo a proposal in Congress to enact the same 1988 deadline. (AP)

## FIRST UKRAINE GRAIN SHIP SINCE RUSSIAN BLOCKADE REACHES ISTANBUL

**UKRAINE IS TESTING A NEW SEA ROUTE THAT AVOIDS INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND FOLLOWS THOSE CONTROLLED BY NATO MEMBERS BULGARIA AND ROMANIA.**

**ISTANBUL (TIP):** The first grain ship to sail from Ukraine since Russia reimposed its Black Sea blockade in July reached Istanbul on September 21, marine traffic monitors said.

Ukrainian officials said the Palau-flagged Resilient Africa vessel was carrying 3,000 tonnes of wheat when it left Ukraine's Chornomorsk port on Tuesday.

It was destined for Israel, according to marine traffic websites, representing the first successful Black Sea voyage since Russia pulled out of a UN-backed deal to export Ukrainian grain.

**UKRAINE IS TESTING A NEW SEA ROUTE THAT AVOIDS INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND FOLLOWS THOSE CONTROLLED BY NATO MEMBERS BULGARIA AND ROMANIA.**

It had earlier successfully sent several cargo ships along that route that were not carrying Ukrainian grain.

These voyages became safer after Russia was forced to pull back its warships following a series of successful Ukrainian missile strikes on the Kremlin-controlled peninsula of Crimea, where Moscow's Black Sea fleet is based.

Russia also stepped up attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea port infrastructure after abandoning the grain deal. (AFP)

## South Korean National Assembly strips immunity of opposition leader following corruption allegations

**SEOUL (TIP):** In a surprise move, South Korea's opposition-controlled National Assembly voted on September 21 to strip the leader of the opposition of his parliamentary immunity, potentially allowing his arrest over corruption allegations.

Lee Jae-myung, leader of the Democratic Party, has been accused by prosecutors of bribery in connection with a firm that is suspected of illicitly transferring \$8 million to North Korea.

He is also accused of breaching his duties, which allegedly resulted in a loss of 20 billion won (\$15 million) for a company owned by Seongnam city during his term as its mayor.

Despite his party's majority in the 300-member parliament, the motion to lift

Lee's immunity passed by a 149-136 vote.

At least 29 members of Lee's party voted to strip his immunity, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

Lee has denied all the allegations against him, and on Wednesday asked his party members to reject the motion, which he called "clearly illegal and unjust".

This triggered escalating criticism from within the Democratic Party, local reports said, as Lee's stance contradicted his earlier promises to relinquish immunity if needed.

Han Dong-hoon, South Korea's justice minister, described Lee as "a serious criminal suspect" and accused him of colluding with people with "gangster backgrounds".

The opposition leader also committed "a serious crime akin to disrupting the foundation of the nation" by "attempting to undermine UN sanctions against North Korea", Han told parliament.

Lee, 58, launched a hunger strike on August 31 over what he calls the government's "incompetent and violent" policies, especially its failure to oppose Japan's release of treated wastewater from the Fukushima reactor.

He was transferred to a hospital on Monday, but this did not prevent prosecutors from issuing a request for an arrest warrant the same day.

A former child factory worker who suffered an industrial accident as a teenage school drop-out, Lee rose to political stardom partly by playing up



his rags-to-riches tale.

But his bid for the top office has been overshadowed by a string of scandals. He faced scrutiny over a questionable land development deal and persistent rumours linking him to organised crime.

At least five individuals connected to Lee's various scandals in the past have been found dead, many in what appeared to be suicides. (AFP)

## NEPAL'S PM TO MEET XI DURING 8-DAY CHINA VISIT

**KATHMANDU (TIP)** : Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" will be on an eight-day visit to China from September 23 for talks with the top Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, on ways to further bolster bilateral ties between the two neighbours.

Prachanda will also attend the opening ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou on September 23, Nepal's Foreign Ministry said.

Prachanda, who along with the country's Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud is currently in the US to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, will directly fly to China on September 23. The two sides will have an in-depth exchange of views on deepening traditional friendship, expanding cooperation, etc., Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. (PTI)

## INDIA ON MOON, PAKISTAN STILL BEGGING, SAYS NAWAZ SHARIF



**LAHORE (TIP)**: Pakistan's self-exiled former PM Nawaz Sharif has said that his country was begging money from the world while India had reached the moon and hosted the G20 summit, blaming the country's former generals and judges for its economic woes.

Pakistan's economy has been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked double-digit inflation. "Why Pakistan couldn't achieve the feats India did?" Sharif asked at a party meeting in Lahore from London via video link.

The 73-year-old supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party further said that India had followed the economic reforms initiated by his government in 1990. "When Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the PM of India, it had only a billion dollars in kitty but now India's foreign exchange reserves have risen up to \$600 billion," he added. (PTI)

# Pakistan's general elections to be held in last week of January 2024: Election Commission

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED ON AUGUST 9 AND CONSTITUTIONALLY, THE ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS BUT THE PROCESS WAS DELAYED BY THE ECP DUE TO THE DELIMITATION EXERCISE.**

**ISLAMABAD (TIP)**: Pakistan's election commission on September 21 announced that the general elections in the country will take place in the last week of January 2024, amid mounting pressure from political parties that pressed for timely elections in the cash-strapped country.

In a statement, the electoral body said that it reviewed work on delimiting constituencies and the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27.

It said parties would be able to file objections after that the ECP would address all objections and suggestions.

After hearing objections and suggestions regarding the list, the final list would be issued on November 30, which would be followed by the election schedule, it said.

It said that by the end of delimitation, it would announce a 54-day election program and "polls will be held in the last week of January 2024."

The National Assembly was dissolved on August 9 and constitutionally, the



elections should be held within 90 days but the process was delayed by the ECP due to the delimitation exercise which became mandatory in the wake of the new census held this year.

The previous government just days before the end of its term endorsed the results of the census which obligated the ECP to set up a new electoral district on the basis of the latest population.

The move led to fears that the polls meant to be held within 90 days may be delayed till next year as the delimitation process would take about four months to

complete.

The decision to shorten the timeframe of the delimitation comes amid mounting pressure on the ECP from several political parties that pressed for timely elections.

The Constitution also provides that the ECP should complete the delimitation process within 120 days.

Currently, a caretaker government is running the country and it will continue until the new prime minister is elected through the elections.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the interim government is committed to upholding the democratic process in Pakistan by holding general elections and it will not make any excuse to delay it.

In a letter to the ECP chief earlier this month, President Arif Alvi, who was a founding member of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, unilaterally proposed November 6 as the day for the polls, but the top election body avoided comment on his suggestion. (PTI)

## Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry clears docking of Chinese 'research' ship

**COLOMBO (TIP)**: After over a year, another Chinese ocean research vessel has been cleared by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence to dock in the country. The ship, which will likely dock at Colombo, will operate for nearly three months in the east Indian Ocean region.

Chinese "research ships" usually have dual purposes – the primary aim is to scientific exploration but what raises the hackles of other countries is the geopolitical purposes for which they are also deployed. In case of Shi Yan 6, a Chinese statement said the ship will help "strengthen scientific research cooperation and exchanges with countries along the Maritime Silk Road and further realise the integration of science and education for the Belt and Road Initiative."

The ship, "Shi Yan 6" will arrive at Sri Lanka a year after another research ship "Yuan Wang 5" had docked at Hambantota port in August last year. Following the security concerns raised by India and the US, Sri Lanka allowed it to dock but asked it to keep the Automatic Identification System (AIS) switched on within its Exclusive



Economic Zone (EEZ) and not conduct any scientific research. The docking had led to a war of words between Indian and Chinese diplomats.

Subsequently, Sri Lanka said it was finalising a "standard operating procedure" for future port calls by foreign research vessels and military craft but it is not known whether the SOP has been finalised or if restrictions, like last time, will be

imposed on the Chinese vessel.

Chinese "research ships" have been at the centre of recent maritime confrontations with Vietnam and Taiwan. In May, it was a Chinese research ship Xiang Yang Hong 10 that led the flotilla of five other vessels which entered Vietnam's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). A similar strategy is at play in the waters around Taiwan. (PTI)





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# Ways to create 'Zen Mode' at home

In the midst of our fast-paced and hectic lives, finding a tranquil escape within the confines of our own homes has become more important than ever. That's where a zen space—a carefully curated sanctuary that allows you to unwind, find inner peace and reconnect with your true self—comes in handy. Whether you seek solace from the demands of work or crave a quiet corner to recharge, curating a personalised zen space in your home becomes an invaluable refuge.

“What is the good of your stars and trees, your sunrise and the wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives?”

With these wise words by renowned novelist, EM Forster in mind, here are five powerful ways to curate your zen space and create an oasis of mindfulness and relaxation that resonates deeply with you.

## Follow Minimalist Design

Start by embracing the beauty of simplicity and adopting a minimalist design for your zen space. Remove all unnecessary items and opt for clean lines and uncluttered surfaces. Choose furniture and decor pieces that have a simple and understated elegance. A clutter-free environment helps organise your mind and encourages a sense of calmness and focus.

## Use Eco-friendly Decor Accessories

Infuse your zen space with a touch of nature by adding eco-friendly decor accessories. Choose sustainable materials such as bamboo, jute, or reclaimed wood for furniture and flooring. Opt for organic textiles like cotton or linen for cushions and curtains. You can create an environment that is in harmony with nature when you choose eco-friendly decor items, promoting a sense of peace and mindfulness.

## Use A Lighter Color Palette

Colors play a significant role in setting the mood of a space. For your zen corner, opt for a lighter colour palette that creates an airy and serene ambience. Soft pastel shades like light blues, pale greens, and gentle yellows promote relaxation and calmness. Avoid bold and vibrant colours that can be visually stimulating and instead opt for soft, soothing hues that contribute to a peaceful atmosphere.

## Spruce Up Your Space With Plants And Flowers

Plants can remarkably lift our moods. You can bring the beauty of nature indoors by having plants and flowers in your space. Indoor plants add a touch of greenery, purify the air, and create a sense of vitality. At first, choose low-maintenance plants such as peace



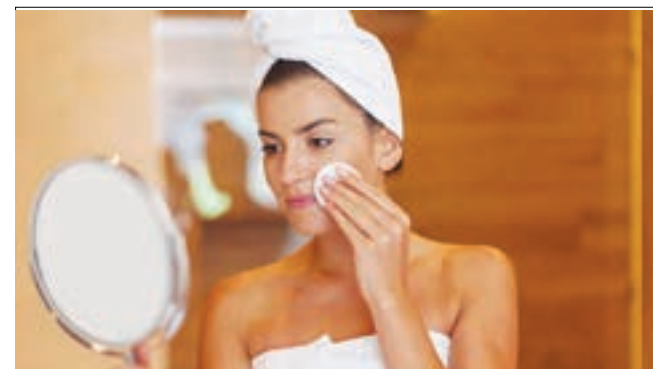
lilies, snake plants, or succulents requiring minimal care. Gradually, add fresh flowers that infuse your space with their natural fragrance, invigorating your mind and fostering creativity and rejuvenation.

## Usher In Plenty Of Natural Light In Your Space

Natural light has a profound impact on our well-being. When curating your space, prioritise access to natural light. Position your furniture and decor in a way that allows sunlight to flow into the room. Avoid heavy curtains or blinds that block natural light and instead opt for sheer or light-coloured window treatments. Natural light not only brightens your space but also boosts mood and enhances a sense of oneness with nature.

Your space is your sanctuary, a refuge from the chaos and noise that often permeate our lives. It's not about the size or grandeur of the space but rather the intention and care you put into curating it. Whether it's a dedicated room, a cozy corner, a balcony, or a serene spot by the window in your home, what truly matters is creating a space that aligns with your deepest aspirations and provides you with a sense of calm and peace.

Source: Zee News



## Minimise ugly pores on face

While acne breakouts and greasy skin top the list of most common beauty problems, we end up neglecting the primary reason behind these issues. Enlarged pores. They cause majority of our skin problems. But first you gotta understand the formation of large pores. Sometimes when our oil glands produce more oil, the pores get clogged with dirt and grime. Now when these dirty pores come in contact with air, they get oxidized and turn into ugly-looking blackheads.

### Apple Cider Vinegar

This is a great way to reduce the production of excessive oils, and the breakout of acnes and pimples. In this process, it also tightens large pores and restores the pH balance of the skin. Is there anything that this wonder ingredient can't do?

### Ice Cubes

Perhaps, the easiest way to minimise enlarged pores at home is to rub ice cubes for 10 minutes every day. Not only does it soothe irritated skin, it is also a great way to curb the heat during summer months. And obviously, it's the most economical option J

### Baking Soda

Try this DIY face pack to treat enlarged pores at home. Mix a spoon of baking soda with water and apply it as a face mask. Once it has dried, rinse it off with cold water, and see its magic on your pores.

### Egg White

One of the best ways to tighten skin is to apply an egg-white mask over your face. Allow it to dry before rinsing it off with cold water.

Apart from treating enlarged pores, you can also avoid it right from the start by:

- Keeping the exfoliation routine to a minimal. Plus, avoid using a scrub that has too large granules.
- Not using makeup brushes with bristles that are too stiff
- Removing every trace of makeup before you hit the bed at night, no matter how tired you are

## FOOD CORNER

### Baingan bharta

Baingan bharta or Baigan Chokha is an Indian dish prepared by mincing grilled eggplant and mixing it with tomato, onion, herbs and spices. Grilling the eggplant over charcoal or direct fire infuses the dish with a smoky flavour.

#### INGREDIENTS

- Eggplant, halved lengthwise -- 1 to 1 1/2 pounds, or about 2 large, Onion, chopped: 1, Garlic, crushed: 2 to 3 cloves, Ginger, minced: 1 tablespoon, Chili peppers, minced: 1 to 2, Oil or ghee: 3 tablespoons, Cumin seed: 2 teaspoons, Turmeric: 1 teaspoon, Tomatoes, chopped: 2, Water: 1/2 cup, Salt and pepper to taste, Garam masala: 2 teaspoons, Cilantro, chopped: 1/2 bunch

#### METHOD

- Preheat oven to 400°F. Place the eggplant, cut side down, on an oiled baking sheet and roast in the oven until softened,

about 20 to 30 minutes. Allow to cool somewhat, then peel, cut into chunks and set aside.

- Puree the onion, garlic, ginger and chilies in a food processor or blender until smooth, adding a little water if necessary.
- Heat the oil or ghee over medium heat in a large pot, karahi or wok. Add the cumin seed and turmeric and stir until it is lightly browned and fragrant. Immediately stir in the onion puree and saute until any excess liquid has evaporated and the raw onion taste is cooked out, about 5 to 8 minutes. Take care not to burn the mixture.
- Stir in the chopped tomatoes and simmer until the tomatoes are cooked down and the liquid is reduced somewhat, around 5 to 8 minutes. Stir in the roasted eggplant and the water and salt. Bring to a simmer, and then reduce heat to low, cover and cook slowly for another 15 to 20 minutes. The eggplant will break down into a puree.
- Remove from heat, stir in the garam masala and adjust seasoning to taste. Sprinkle with the chopped cilantro and serve.



# Cancer tests are crucial for gynaecological health

According to the World Health Organization, breast and cervical cancers are in the top 4 cancers found in women, which lead to death. Marked every year in September, Gynaecologic Cancer Awareness Month aims to raise awareness and provide an opportunity to detect and prevent potential cancers before they become serious.

The most important cancer tests related to gynaecological health, according to the experts include:

## Pap Smear

The Pap smear is primarily aimed at detecting cervical cancer, which is one of the most common gynaecological cancers. The procedure involves collecting cells from the cervix, which are then examined under a microscope to determine if there are any abnormalities or early signs of cancerous growth.

Women should start screening at age 21 and continue every three years until age 65, with potential modifications depending on individual risk factors.

## HPV Test

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is known to be one of the leading causes of cervical cancer. While both men and women can contract HPV, it poses a higher risk for women as it often leads to serious health complications such as abnormal cell changes in the cervix. An HPV DNA test can detect high-risk strains of HPV that could develop into cancer if left untreated. It can be done after 25. HPV testing is often performed in conjunction with a Pap smear for women aged 30 and older, or earlier if there are specific risk factors. It helps detect high-risk HPV strains associated with cervical cancer.

## Colposcopy

If abnormalities are detected during a Pap smear, a colposcopy may be recommended. It involves examining the cervix using a magnifying device to identify potentially pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions. The timing of a colposcopy depends on the specific



findings of the Pap smear and individual risk factors.

## Transvaginal Ultrasound

Unlike other gynaecological cancer tests, transvaginal ultrasound helps detect cancers in various organs within the pelvic region, including the ovaries and uterus. By using sound waves to generate images, doctors can visualise potential tumours or abnormal growths that may be indicative of ovarian or uterine cancer. It can be done as suggested by the doctor.

## BRCA Genetic Testing

This identifies mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, which can increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

## CA-125 Blood Test

The CA-125 blood test measures the level of a protein called CA-125 in the bloodstream, which tends to increase with some types of ovarian cancers. This test can be done after 30. *Source: The Indian Express*



## Vaping may increase asthma risk in adolescents, says study

Vaping or the use of e-cigarettes increases the risk of asthma in adolescents who have never smoked conventional tobacco products, finds a new study.

E-cigarettes have fewer toxins than regular cigarettes but still contain a mixture of harmful chemicals and raise the risk of respiratory diseases.

The study, published in the journal 'Preventive Medicine', identified an association between e-cigarette use and asthma in adolescents who had never smoked conventional tobacco products.

This demonstrates that vaping increases the risk of asthma independently from conventional tobacco product use in adolescents.

Researchers analysed the data of 3,000 adolescents aged 13 to 17 in the state of Texas, and more than 32,000 adolescents in the US for comparison.

Researchers asked the respondents whether they had ever used an e-cigarette and how many days during the previous 30-day period they had used one, whether they had ever been told they had asthma by a healthcare professional?

The study included information on respondent gender, age, race and ethnicity, body mass index and presence of depression symptoms.

The analysis also included data on the use of other substances, such as conventional cigarettes, alcohol and illicit drugs.

"Increasing knowledge about the harmful effects of e-cigarette use, implementing stricter regulations, and promoting alternative coping mechanisms for mental health are potential interventions to mitigate e-cigarette use," said Dr Taehyun Roh, lead author of the study.

The study highlights a need for strategies to tackle the increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use and its adverse health effects. *Source: IANS*

## Almonds with energy-restricted diets aid in weight loss: Study

Researchers discovered that incorporating almonds into a low-energy diet not only helped participants lose weight but also improved their cardiometabolic health. The study was published in the journal Obesity.

When it comes to weight reduction, nuts often get a poor rap: while they're high in protein, they're also heavy in fat, which often puts people off. However, recent research from the University of South Australia indicates that you can eat almonds and lose weight at the same time.

Researchers showed that when energy-restricted diets were supplemented with Californian almonds or carbohydrate-rich snacks, both diets successfully lowered body weight by roughly 7kg.

More than 1.9 billion persons worldwide are overweight (650 million are obese). In Australia, two out of every three persons (about 12.5 million adults) are overweight or obese.

According to UniSA researcher Dr Sharayah Carter, the study shows how nuts can help with weight control and cardiometabolic health.

"Nuts, like almonds, are a great snack. They're high in protein, and fibre, and packed with vitamins and minerals, but they also have a high fat content which



people can associate with increased body weight," Dr Carter said. "Nuts contain unsaturated fats – or healthy fats – which can improve blood cholesterol levels, ease inflammation, and contribute to a healthy heart.

"In this study, we examined the effects of an almond-supplemented diet with a nut-free diet to identify any influence on weight and cardiometabolic outcomes. *Source: ANI*

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## Long-form posts on X now at 3 billion views per day: Elon Musk

Elon Musk, the owner of X (formerly Twitter), on Thursday, Sept 21, said that the long-form posts on the microblogging platform are receiving three billion views daily and growing.

"Long-form posts on this platform are now at 3 billion views per day and rising," Musk posted on X.

He further compared the growth with all the newspaper article views available on Earth, saying, "This is roughly on par with all newspaper article views on Earth". Several users expressed their thoughts on this new development.

"Impressive growth! It's evident that users are seeking more in-depth content and meaningful insights on this platform," a user wrote.

"Been posting long forms since it became a thing. Absolutely love being able to express myself with more words and being able to share value packed and informative content," another user said.

One more user mentioned, "Looking forward for long form videos statistics".

Meanwhile, when a user asked Musk to ban inactive users or accounts on X, he assured the user that this would soon happen.

"@elonmusk can we please ban inactive users or at least give inactive users usernames some type of availability, a lot of usernames go to waste because of inactive accounts. I saw I think it was Ubisoft doing something similar to that soo," the user asked.

"Coming soon," replied Musk.

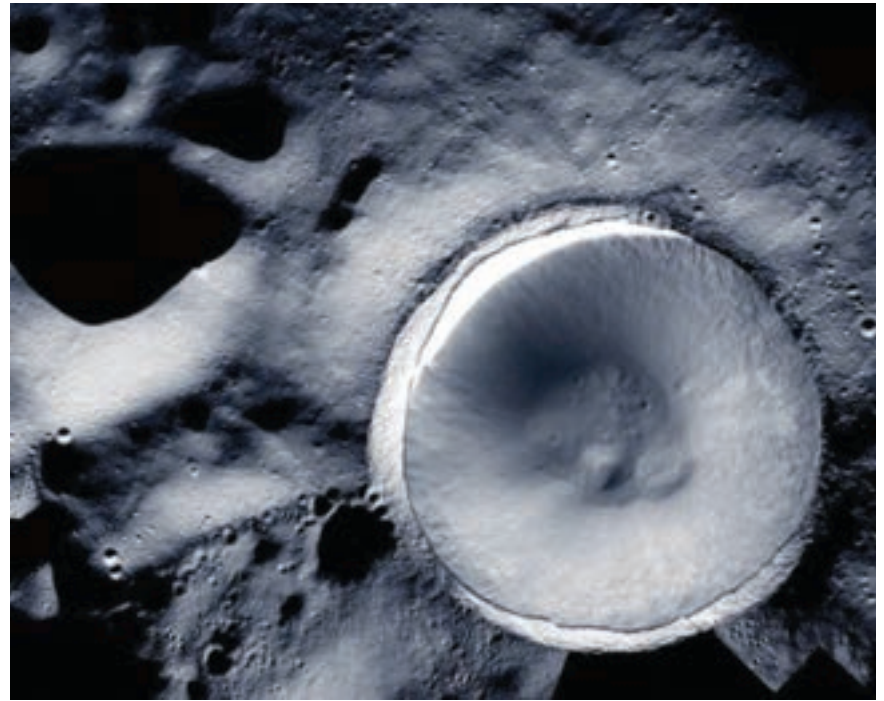
# NASA's stunning new moon mosaic reveals lunar south pole in unprecedented detail

Space agency NASA routinely captures stunning images of our universe, leaving space lovers mesmerized. On Tuesday, NASA shared a never-before-seen mosaic of the Moon, captured by two different cameras. As per NASA, the image reveals unprecedented detail of the lunar South Pole region and highlights a scenic crater called the Shackleton Crater. According to a CNET report, the crater portrayed in this mosaic might also be one of the Artemis III mission's landing locations in 2025.

Notably, this area has never been explored by humans and is of great interest to science and exploration because it is thought to contain ice deposits or other frozen volatiles.

NASA shared the image and captioned it as, "Moonlight Sonata?". This new mosaic reveals the power of two Moon orbiting cameras, working together. It was created with imagery acquired by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) and ShadowCam, a NASA instrument aboard a Korea Aerospace Research Institute spacecraft called Danuri.

The LROC can capture detailed images of the lunar surface but has limited ability to photograph shadowed parts of the Moon that never receive direct sunlight. Meanwhile, ShadowCam is 200 times more light-sensitive than LROC and can operate successfully in these extremely low-light conditions, revealing



The mosaic was created with imagery acquired by Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) and ShadowCam.

features that are not visible to LROC.?

ShadowCam's light sensitivity, however, renders it unable to capture images of parts of the Moon that are directly illuminated, delivering saturated results.

"With each camera optimized for specific lighting conditions near the lunar poles, analysts can combine images from both instruments to create a comprehensive visual map of the terrain and geologic features of both the brightest and darkest

parts of the Moon," NASA added.

The permanently shadowed areas in the mosaic, such as the interior floor and walls of Shackleton Crater, are visible in such detail because of the imagery from ShadowCam. In contrast, the sunlit areas in this mosaic, like the rim and flanks of the crater, are a product of imagery collected by LROC. Last month, India's moon mission Chandrayaan-3 made a successful soft landing near the moon's South Pole, propelling India to the elite space club.

## Amazon introduces next-gen of Echo smart devices with new-age AI

Amazon has introduced a new line-up of Echo smart speakers with more intuitive Alexa experiences which can understand conversational phrases and respond appropriately with the help of AI.

The company showcased next-generation Echo Show 8, all-new Echo Hub and new Echo Frames at its fall hardware event late on September 21.

Amazon also collaborated with Safilo, one of the world's leading eyewear manufacturers, to blend the power of Alexa with iconic Carrera designs.

"These new Echo devices give customers more ways to experience the world's best personal AI—and the growing generative AI capabilities that will be coming to Alexa soon—at home and on the go," said Daniel Rausch, vice president of Alexa and Fire TV.

The new Echo Show 8 has been upgraded inside and out. It also runs a new model enabling Alexa to process common smart home requests locally for 40 per cent faster responses to common requests, such as turning on a smart light, switch, or plug. Video calls are better with a centred 13-megapixel camera, plus an enhanced audio pipeline which minimises background noise from around the home. Echo Show 8 also features Adaptive Content — a new home screen experience that uses on-device computer vision technology to adjust on-screen content based on a customer's proximity to the device, said the company. Echo Show 8 is available in Glacier White and Charcoal for \$149.99 and will begin shipping on October 25. Also coming this fall is Echo Show 8 Photos Edition, which unlocks a photo-forward mode on Echo Show 8's high-resolution screen.

The Photos Edition experience makes customer-selected personal photos the primary rotating content on the ambient screen.

Photos rotate every 30-seconds and customers receive 25 GB of storage from Amazon Photos. The Echo Show 8 Photos Edition is available for \$159.99 and includes a six-month PhotosPlus subscription which will renew after six months for \$1.99 per month, and can be cancelled at any time. Echo Hub is Amazon's first smart home control panel that makes connecting and managing smart devices intuitive, that costs \$179.99 and will be available later this year. It features a thin, eight-inch, touch-enabled display with a customizable smart home dashboard. With Adaptive Content, Echo Hub uses infrared technology to detect when someone is nearby, and naturally transitions from a home

screen with a beautiful clock, to the smart home control screen, the company said. The Echo Frames and Carrera Smart Glasses introduce seven new frame styles, reimagined audio design, long-lasting battery, and hands-free access to Alexa, and start at \$269.99. Amazon also introduced enhanced conversational voice search with generative AI, upgrades to the Fire TV Ambient Experience, and the most powerful Fire TV Sticks yet—the all-new Fire TV Stick 4K Max, now with the Fire TV Ambient Experience, and Fire TV Stick 4K.

All-new Fire TV Stick 4K delivers Fire TV Stick's best performance for under \$50, with nearly 30 per cent more power than the previous generation, plus support for Wi-Fi 6. In addition, Amazon announced the all-new Fire TV Soundbar, enabling customers to enjoy their favourite TV shows, movies, and games with room-filling sound.

Source: IANS





## RBI to tighten norms for wilful defaulters

The RBI on Thursday, September 21, issued a new draft on action against wilful defaulters that includes publishing their photographs and broadening the definition of wilful defaulters as someone who has an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh and above and has refused to repay despite having the capacity to pay.

The new draft was aired following criticism from bank unions, the opposition and other stakeholders of its June 8 circular. It was alleged that the RBI had diluted penal measures for wilful defaulters. Even the borrowers had asked for clarity and a proper procedure for declaring them as wilful borrowers.

The RBI said it has sought comments on the new draft master direction that proposes to expand the scope for lenders which can classify borrowers as wilful defaulters, and refine the identification process. The draft also proposes to bar wilful defaulters from the restructuring of credit facility and the Board of any other company.

## No economic distress among common households: Centre

The central government on Thursday, September 21, said there is no distress among common households after a RBI report said the net financial savings of households have crashed to a nearly five-decade low of 5.1 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2022-23.

"Lately, critical voices have been raised with respect to household savings and its overall effect on the economy. However, data indicates that changing consumer preference for different financial products is the real reason for household savings and there is no distress as is being circulated in some circles," said the Union Finance Ministry. The RBI had also said financial liabilities of households had shot up by 5.8 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 as compared with 3.8 per cent in 2021-22 which indicated that part of the consumption was being financed by loans. Putting forward the "correct position with true facts and right inferences with respect to household savings", the Ministry said there was no big difference in financial assets and liabilities of households.

"Between June 2020 and March 2023, the stock of Household Gross Financial Assets went up by 37.6 per cent, and the Stock of Household Gross Financial Liabilities went up by 42.6%—no big difference between the two," it said.

# US Federal Reserve pauses rate hikes as inflation slows down

NEW YORK (TIP)

The Federal Reserve left the main U.S. interest rate unchanged Wednesday, September 20, waiting to see if its historic series of rate hikes over the last 18 months gets inflation under control.

The central bank kept its main policy rate in the range of 5.25% to 5.50%, citing an easing of economic conditions while also acknowledging that inflation is still higher than its 2% target.

In a statement, the Fed said the economy is in solid shape, with job gains slowing and tighter credit conditions likely to slow economic activity and stem inflation.

The Fed had raised interest rates at a historically fast pace in the last 18 months, as it increased its main rate at 11 consecutive meetings from March last year until its meeting in July.

It did that to try to get inflation under control, as U.S. consumer prices began to spike in late 2021 and hit 40-year highs last summer.

In August, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said prices for consumers were up 3.7% from the same period last year. That's above the 2% annual level the Fed says it wants to see, but is a big change from last year's peak of 9.1%.

The Fed concluded Wednesday that the situation had improved enough for it to take a wait-and-see approach, at least for another month.

The central bank had cut interest rates to a range of zero percent to 0.25% after the start of the Covid pandemic. Rates were also at that rock-bottom level for years after the global financial crisis of 2007-08.

The string of large rate hikes took interest rates from a historic low of almost zero to their highest level in more than 20 years. That meant interest rates on credit cards and mortgages also rose to long-time highs, while payments from Treasury bonds and interest rates on checking accounts are the strongest they've been in years.



It's a double-edged sword of economic intervention.

The rate increases were designed to reduce inflation by slowing the economy, which is a direct result of making it more expensive for businesses and individuals to borrow money. There are signs that the rate hikes have had their intended effect, and even some optimism the Fed could achieve its goal without tipping the economy into a recession.

The job market, for instance, remains strong, with wages rising and the unemployment rate near historic lows.

A recession, by contrast, might get inflation to a lower level, but with widespread job losses.

Investors had long feared that possibility, which meant that some of the Fed's more hawkish moves led to stock market sell-offs.

The Federal Open Market Committee is scheduled to meet again on Oct. 31 and announce its next interest rate decision on Nov. 1. That means consumer price data for the month of September, expected to be released on Oct. 12, is going to be extra important in determining what the central bank does next.

## Indian Bonds May See \$25-50 Billion Inflows On JPMorgan EM Index Inclusion

NEW DELHI (TIP)

JPMorgan is to include Indian government bonds in its widely tracked emerging market debt index which may cause billions of dollars of inflows into India. As per reports, quoting JPMorgan, India's local bonds will be included in the Government Bond Index-emerging markets (GBI-EM) index and the index suite, benchmarked by about \$236 billion in global funds.

The inclusion of Indian bonds will start on June 28, 2024, and extend over 10 months with one per cent increments on its index weighting, as India is expected to reach the maximum weighting of 10 per cent, according to JPMorgan.

JPMorgan said 23 Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) with a combined notional value of \$330 billion are eligible. All fall under the category of "fully accessible" for non-residents.

Experts hailed this decision of the inclusion of Indian bonds into the GBI-EM index as they pointed out that bond investors will have more options now for investments. It will also pave the way for the bond market to grow its roots in India. Moreover, it is also positive news



for the domestic currency as it will lower India's cost of funding and help India finance its fiscal and CAD (current account deficit).

Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services believes this will lower India's risk premia and cost of funding, enhance the

liquidity and ownership base of government securities (G-Secs) and help India finance its fiscal and CAD.

However, Arora added that this does not immediately pave the way for inclusion in the FTSE and Bloomberg indexes, which have more stringent conditions (FPI taxation/Euroclear). However, it could have a demonstration effect in the medium term as the lower-risk premia could trigger positive externalities.

"In the near term, we expect bond yields and the Indian rupee to reverse gains after the initial euphoria, tracking global markets. However, the trend will again reverse in favour of bonds by March 2024, with the 10-year yield coming off well below 7 per cent. For the second half of the current financial year (H2FY24), we see the USD-INR range at 82.25-84.25, with tactical RBI intervention keeping it in the middle of the EM (emerging market) Asia pack," said Arora.

It may have a positive impact on the domestic stock market sentiment and boost FPI (foreign portfolio investor) inflows into India.

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 2023

### ARIES



Ganesha says you're fortunate this week, so you'll do well in the appointments you'll be having. Your agility will be useful in handling a monetary deficiency if you work in commerce. This week, you'll ruin your relationship out of jealousy. Don't toss behind what you currently possess but be honest with your hour companion about how you're experiencing and what you're not accomplishing in existence. This week, getting outside and spending some time in the fresh air will assist you unwind and discover solace.

### TAURUS



Ganesha says this week, individuals in your career will give you some good challenges. You need to focus on your regions of expertise this week. Don't question the decisions you've already made. This week, you'll feel tricked out of your partner's commitment. Even though you can feel abandoned and left out, try to have an open mind and respect your partner's situation. Feel encouraged to interact sans restraints. This week, you need to be really careful about what you eat. You could have an issue with gastritis. take good care.

### GEMINI



Ganesha says you're going to squander a lot of income this week as a consequence of your hasty decisions. The seventh sector predicts gains from unanticipated resources that will contribute to a feeling of balance. Most likely, you'll seize the chance presented by the universe working to your advantage. A tiny delight in the afternoon will make your heart feel better if you're married. It's possible that you're concerned about the surroundings. Try to step back from the circumstance and unwind.

### CANCER



Ganesha says this week, you'll have to do a bunch of preparation before you throw your trumps. You'll most likely get the cooperation you want; just watch out that you don't forfeit it on a little issue. Taking chances is fortunate this week. You and your partner will travel with one another this week. If you and your partner have similar goals, you'll succeed. This week, you'll evaluate the challenges in your way together, but communicating your ideas to your partner will be difficult. Migraine will make pondering more difficult this week. To prevent getting tired and annoyed, take a brief day off in between.

### LEO



Ganesha says profits will fill your optimism this week. This week, you will profit from every transaction you enter into. Rather than setting protracted implementation depends on this week, live in the present and enjoy it. Although they may crave your company this week, your partner's responsibilities to their career and home will keep them busy. Make an effort to inspire them with enthusiasm around what they are really eager to perform. This week, you'll feel inclined to change your usual dietary behaviors. If you intend to keep a balanced desire, eat nutritious foods.

### VIRGO



Ganesha says establishing any commercial or economic obligations this week is highly advised. Your seventh quarter demonstrates a deficiency of power on Wednesday and Thursday. Be happy with what occurs easily this week. Your partner will do one more chore just to make you feel wonderful. Your partner will wow you by showing their affection in novel ways. At a certain moment, you'll stop shoving folks away from you. Your fitness will make you feel a little bit lighter this week. You'll be able to forever put a stop to your migraines.

### LIBRA



Ganesha says, you need to concentrate on the investment you acquired a long period before this week. Additionally, a completely alternative income arrangement will be available to you. Your partner will ask you to devote long-term later on this week. Invest more quality with your partner talking about how you think about the relationship. Avoiding speedy decisions about your romantic life might have tragic consequences. Your knowledge of your own condition has been beginning to decline. Do not repeat the identical error because you will lament it in the future.

### SCORPIO



Ganesha says your profits will increase this week, according to the tenth sector. Regardless of if they regret their choices, those who have recently made investments have moved in the correct direction. This week, your amorous dreams will spring fulfilled in every way. Your companion will be interested in hearing your account of events. Your meeting will make the week better. You'll need to focus extra concentration this week on the young children living in your home.

### SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says your luck will come your way this week if you donate to charity. You'll be requested to offer assistance this week on a lengthy job. Addressing constitutional problems in corporations will benefit people. All of your collaborators', business associates' and your own misconceptions will be dispelled this week. Be appreciative to the person. Your health will need some care this week. Your ingestion of sodium and carbohydrates will be out of proportion, which will cause your pulse rate to be out of equilibrium. Make sure you take care of yourself.

### CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week is a great one to organize a business event. In the big scheme of things, capital organization will produce gains. This week, you'll approach out to people using your new market campaigns, and you'll nearly surely get a favorable response. Be free to reveal yourself right now. Husbands and wives are travelling this week to break up the routine of their daily life. The senior and older adults in your household will require more care this week. Your fitness, however, will be alright. Be sure to safeguard yourself.

### AQUARIUS



Ganesha says you will definitely carve out availability for the right opportunity this week. You could think of completely switching careers, but this is a dangerous course of action. It will prove too challenging for you to comprehend if you don't go gently and undertake significant modifications. You must stop waiting for your unrequited love to approach you. You must be straightforward in articulating what is on your mind, allowing the phrase to argue on its own. You'll have a typical workweek this week. This week won't have any highs and lows, and neither will it have any boring periods.

### PISCES



Ganesha says think about your company right now and what changes you may make to strengthen your stance and set yourself apart from the competitors. Your employees will appreciate you for providing a decent company. This week, circumstances involving you and your companion will still get a bit more challenging. Keep a modest character and attend to their issues first. This week, you'll begin a new routine. You'll also ask a friend or someone from your household for guidance on your routine.

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 1 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

### SEPTEMBER 24

Ganesha says you'll find that you're standing at a crossroads today, between the things that have happened in the past and the opportunities that lie ahead. Be confident in following your intuition as you make your way through this intersection. You are being prodded to venture into the unknown by the secrets that the universe is trying to impart to you. Despite the fact that the way forward might not be entirely clear, keep in mind that each step you take is a demonstration of your tenacity and bravery. Embrace the experience of the voyage and let your intuition direct you along the way.

### SEPTEMBER 25

Ganesha says today is going to usher in an explosion of creative energy. You'll have a hard time resisting the overpowering temptation to express yourself in original and creative ways today. Whether it be through the creation of works of art or literature, or even just by talking about your feelings with those you care about, let your inner artist show. Every thought and emotion you have is a brushstroke on the world, which serves as

your canvas. Plunge headfirst into this wellspring of inspiration, and you will unearth the masterpiece that resides deep within you.

### SEPTEMBER 26

Ganesha says the focus of the day is on interpersonal connections. You'll find that you're thinking a lot about the connections you value and the bonds that you've made over the years. It is a day to cultivate these connections, to reach out to individuals who are dear to you and let them know how much they mean to you. Keep in mind that the seemingly insignificant actions can frequently have the most important effects. Therefore, send that message, make that call, and allow love to serve as the compass that directs you.

### SEPTEMBER 27

Ganesha says today is a day for reflection and self-examination. Take a break from the busyness of the world around you to concentrate on yourself for a while. What are some of the hopes and wishes that keep your spirit going strong? Do you have any worries or uncertainties that are preventing you from moving

forward? Take advantage of today to face these feelings, get a better understanding of them, and release yourself from their shackles. At the conclusion of the day, you will have a sense of lightness and a greater connection to your authentic self.

### SEPTEMBER 28

Ganesha says the winds of change are blowing, and with them come new opportunities and challenges. You'll have a decision to make today, so prepare yourself. Do you choose to remain in your comfort zone, or do you push yourself into the unknown? Keep in mind that we find the most growth when we step outside of our comfort zones. Therefore, gather up your courage, take a deep breath, and step into the next chapter that lies in wait for you.

### SEPTEMBER 29

Ganesha says the natural world is calling to you today. Spend some time connecting with the world around you. This might be done by activities such as taking a stroll through the park, going on a hike in the woods, or even just sitting by a window and watching the world go by. The earth is filled with knowledge and

experience, as well as stories to share. If you pay careful attention, you might be able to pick out the sound of the universe's beating heart.

### SEPTEMBER 30

Ganesha says today, the focus is on the goals you've set for yourself. What are some of the things you want to do for yourself? Are you heading in the proper direction to realize them? Make today a day to realign, reevaluate, and recommit to your goals. The path to achievement is rarely a direct one, but if you have the willpower and concentration necessary, you can scale any hill in your path.

### OCTOBER 1

Ganesha says today marks the beginning of a whole new era for you, which ushers in a clean slate as well as countless opportunities. You are being urged to make new plans, dream greater dreams, and pursue those dreams with a newfound enthusiasm today. You have the support and encouragement of the entire cosmos. So go ahead and take that leap of faith, and then sit back and watch as the universe reveals its beautiful secrets to you.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥



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# Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, TO SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

## 22nd September



JOTI JOT, Patshahi First, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. First Patshahi, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, left this world for heavenly abode. Today is the actual date of first Patshahi's Joti Joti, though it is observed on a different day by Guru Khalsa Panth. In a world rife with falsehood, sunk in superstitions and plagued by all kinds of inequities and inequalities, Guru Nanak rang in the gospel of truth, universal love and brotherhood. The Founder Guru of the Sikhs and one of the greatest and saintliest of saviours, he redeemed the soul of a moribund society that had experienced a total eclipse, if not annihilation, of all abiding human values. The condition of the contemporary society has been vividly described by the First Master in the well-known words

1970 Bhai Sahib Dayal Singh was killed in a car accident.

1981 Indira Gandhi, then prime minister of India, visited Chandigarh. She invited Akali Dal for talks. However, Akali's demanded an unconditional release of Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae before any talks.

1987 Sant Baba Bhag Singh Ji, a close associate of Sant Baba Sewa Singh Ji passed away.

1989 Singh Sahib, Prof. Manjit Singh assumed the responsibilities of Jathaedar Keshgadh Sahib.

## 23rd September



1637 Bhai Gurdas, the great Sikh Scholar and Poet, passed away. Bhai Gurdas was one of the true Sikhs, a true saewak, and an example for the Panth. Bhai

Gurdas enjoys a prominent place in Sikh history and Sikh faith. His writings (Vara) have been accorded the status of key to Guru Granth Sahib by Guru Arjun Dev Ji. He also enjoyed the pleasure of composing Sri Guru Granth Sahib under the guidance of Guru Arjun Dev Ji. Bhai Gurdas's writings enjoys such a prominent status in Sikh world that no kirtan is considered complete without reciting either one of his writings or those of Bhai Nanad Lal. Despite such prominence, Bhai Gurdas requested Sri Guru Hargobind Ji to disallow the establishment of any place of remembrance for him.

## 24th September



1494 Baba Sri Chand Ji Maharaj (Udasiyan), the eldest son of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was born to Matta Sulakhni. He was a "baal brahmchari" and prominent tapasvi. He founded the Udassi sect.

1534 Guru Ramdas Ji enlightened this planet with his prakash. In 1546, at the age of twelve, Bhai Jetha came to Goindwal to visit Guru Amar Das with his village folks and never went back. He requested Guru Amar Das to accept him as his disciple. Later he became Guru Amar Das's most trustworthy devotee and a sincere and dedicated follower.



1543 PRAKASH UTSAV, Patshahi Fourth, Guru Ram

Das Ji.

1809 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered Kangra Fort.

1898 Akal Chalana of Professor Gurmukh Singh, the chief organisers of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Lahore.

1898 Professor Gurmukh Singh, the chief organisers of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Lahore, passed away.

1980 Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the SGPC chief, met Indira Gandhi and demanded "Holy City" status for Amritsar.

## 25th September



1984 The control of Sri Harmandir Sahib was returned to Sharomani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee after the operation Bluestar.

1985 Elections of Punjab Assembly were held. It was a friendly election of Surjit Barnala-Congress conspiracy that made Surjit Singh Barnala the Chief Minister. He was sworn on Sep. 29, 1985.

## 26th September

1563 Bhai Budha Ji was born in village of Ramdas. BABA BUDHA JI: born on 7 katak sanmat 1563 at Kathunangal (Dist. Amritsar) to father Sudhae and mother Gora. Parents named the child as Budda. In sanmat 1574, Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited Kathunangal village. While grazing cattle, Budda met Guru Nanak and served milk in sewa. During their conversation, Guru Nanak declared that though young in age, he was "Budha" in terms of understanding and wisdom. Since then he came to known as Budha.

1914 Kamagata Maru ship arrived at Calcutta where the Budge Budge incident took place.

Kamagata Maru arrived in Calcutta. The forcibly returning ship "Nanak Nam Jahaj" (Koma Gata Maru) was fired upon by the British forces. The police insisted that all returning passengers should board the train bound for Punjab. Only 50 men and 2 children boarded the train while others defied the police. In the combat 19 were killed, 203 were arrested and 32 absconded. Baba Gurdit Singh was one of those who escaped the police net.

1978 8 Sikhs were massacred by Nirankaris while police killed 10 sikhs at Kanpur. The U.P. police arrested a very large number of Sikhs instead of Nirankaris.

## 27th September

1926 Akali leaders of Gurudwara Sudhar movement, who were confined in Lahore fort during the Akali agitation, were finally released.

## 28th September

1968 Shiromani Akali Dal organized an All India Akali conference in Batala and demanded autonomy for states.

1981 Akali Dal executive met at Aalamgir and decided to launch Civil disobedience from Nov. 18, 1981 for the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

contd from page 1

## Canada shared intelligence on Nijjar's...

Singh Nijjar, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

The Canadian government has amassed both human and signals intelligence in a months-long investigation into the Sikh separatist leader's murder, CBC News reported separately on Thursday, September 21, citing sources.

The report said the intelligence included communications of Indian officials present in Canada, adding that some of the information was provided by an unidentified ally in the Five Eyes alliance.

Five Eyes is an intelligence-sharing network that includes the U.S., the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

However, Mr. Trudeau has not provided any details about what Canada's spy agencies have collected, and his office has not confirmed or denied the CBC report.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday, September 22, the United States wanted to see "accountability" over the killing.

"We are deeply concerned about the allegations that Prime Minister Trudeau has raised," Mr. Blinken told reporters in a press briefing. The White House has raised similar concerns, but Mr. Blinken is the most senior U.S. official to have commented on the issue thus far.

## External Affairs Minister Jaishankar...

Early on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and the new Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, for the Quad ministerial meeting.

"Discussed defending the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific and delivering on Quad commitments," Mr. Jaishankar wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

"Always value our collective contribution to doing global good," he said.

The Minister is due to address the General Assembly on Tuesday, September 26, - later than has been in recent years. A number of heads of state and government, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are not attending this year's UN 'High Level Week'.

Mr. Jaishankar is scheduled to attend a special event, 'India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development', on Saturday. He will also have discussions with UN Secretary General António Guterres and UNGA President Dennis Francis.

In Washington, Mr. Jaishankar will have bilateral talks with Mr. Blinken, as well as interactions with think tanks and business leaders. (Source: The Hindu)

## No signals from Chandrayaan-3's...

"Efforts have been made to establish communication with the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to ascertain their wake-up condition. As of now, no signals have been received from them. Efforts to establish contact will continue," ISRO posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday.

On September 2, the rover was put into sleep mode; two days later, on September 4, the lander was also put to sleep, following the end of one lunar day. "Vikram will fall asleep next to Pragyan once the solar power is depleted and the battery is drained. Hoping for their awakening, around September 22, 2023," ISRO had said on September 4.

Before putting them into sleep mode, the lander's payloads were switched off. However, both the Vikram's and Pragyan's receivers were kept on by ISRO, with the hope of re-establishing communication with the two.

Nilesh M. Desai, director of the Space Applications Centre, said that efforts were on to establish contact with the lander and the rover, adding that it could happen anytime.

Once the sun sets on the moon after the completion of one lunar day, the temperature on the lunar surface could plunge below -200°C. "The temperature there goes down to minus 200 degrees. In such an environment,

there is no guarantee that the battery, electronics will survive, but we did some tests and we get the feeling that they will survive even in such harsh conditions," ISRO chairman S. Somanath had said earlier.

Since the Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully landed on the moon on August 23, the Vikram and the Pragyan have carried out many in-situ measurements, including to confirm the presence of sulphur in lunar surface in that region, and to detect the presence of minor elements.

The Vikram lander also achieved a significant milestone as it successfully undertook a hop experiment. On command, the lander fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm and landed safely at a distance of 30 cm to 40 cm away. This successful hop experiment and kickstart could have significant bearing on future missions which will be launched with an objective to bring back samples from the moon, as well as future human missions to the moon.

If ISRO manages to receive signals and wake the Vikram and the Pragyan, it would be a bonus for the space agency as it hopes to carry out some more experiments on the moon.

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was launched on July 14 and touched down on the lunar surface on August 23, making India the fourth country to successfully land on the moon and the first nation to touch down on the polar region of the moon. (Source: The Hindu)

## USCIRF Commissioners, UN Special...

Particular Concern (CPC) for its severe violations of human rights and religious freedoms. This recommendation has yet to be implemented by the US Department of State.

In commending the testimonies of the experts and activists called to speak at the hearing, USCIRF Commissioner David Curry said, "I've become convinced that India has the most sophisticated, systematic persecution of religious minorities by any democratic government. And I don't say that lightly."

"Religious freedom conditions in India have notably declined in recent years," said USCIRF Chair Rabbi Abraham Cooper. "Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Dalits, Adivasis are experiencing increased levels of attacks and acts of intimidation... These trends and their implications for US foreign policy should not be ignored."

"Policymakers cannot ignore the foreign policy and trade implications of deteriorating religious conditions in India," said Vice Chair Frederick A. Davie, adding that USCIRF's reporting takes note of several Indian states' legal restrictions "on religious conversion, religious dress, educational curriculum, interfaith marriage, and cow slaughter," which "negatively impacts Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Indigenous and scheduled tribal people."

Other speakers also called on the US government to condemn India's declining religious freedoms and human rights violations.

"It is for the government of the United States to be very frank here and indicate that there are serious areas of concern [in India]... in order to ensure peace," said Dr. Fernand de Varennes, United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues. "Because if we don't have that, we are heading towards a massive dangerous situation in India, [which] will have repercussions on the United States."

Sarah Yager, Washington Director of Human Rights Watch, criticized the Biden administration's open display of support for Modi as a means to counteract China. "Prime Minister Modi was warmly welcomed in Washington as we remember very recently by the White House and Congress," she said. "With this unmitigated demonstration of support by US officials, we question what reason [Modi] has to change course... China's rise cannot be an excuse for US officials to overlook, ignore or play down the human rights abuses of its friends."

Sunita Viswanath, co-founder of Hindus for Human Rights, read a statement on behalf of the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), Dalit Solidarity Forum, Federation of Indian American Christian

Organizations, Hindus for Human Rights, India Civil Watch International, and the New York State Council of Churches, all of which co-authored the statement.

"We are disappointed that Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Dalits, who face the brunt of religious freedom and human rights violations under Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have not been invited to speak on this panel," Viswanath said.

"The rejection by the Biden and Trump Administrations of USCIRF's recommendation to designate India as a CPC for three years in a row is a troubling precedent," she added. "If the Biden Administration continues its uncritical embrace of the Modi government despite mounting violations of religious freedom and human rights in India, America will carry the burden of being on the wrong side of history."

Irfan Nooruddin, Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor of Indian Politics in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, spoke on rising mob violence in India.

"Vigilante groups - in a manner reminiscent of the darkest periods of American history - harass, beat, and murder Muslim men rumored to be smuggling beef, dating a Hindu girl, or insulting a deity. No evidence is required," he said.

Adding that these attacks are enabled by the Modi regime's silence, Nooruddin said, "This offers an opening for the US government to call upon its alleged partner to speak more clearly and act more decisively to defend religious minorities."

Indian American Muslim Council is the largest advocacy organization of Indian Muslims in the United States with chapters across the nation. For more information, please visit our website at: [www.iamc.com](http://www.iamc.com)

## Murphy, other top N.J. Democrats call...

"The allegations in the indictment against Senator Menendez and four other defendants are deeply disturbing," Murphy said in a statement. "These are serious charges that implicate national security and the integrity of our criminal justice system."

"Under our legal system, Senator Menendez and the other defendants have not been found guilty and will have the ability to present evidence disputing these charges, and we must respect the process. However, the alleged facts are so serious that they compromise the ability of Senator Menendez to effectively represent the people of our state. Therefore, I am calling for his immediate resignation."

In an emotional and defiant statement earlier in the day, Menendez made it clear he has no intention of stepping down and asked his supporters to give him time to debunk the "smear campaign" against him.

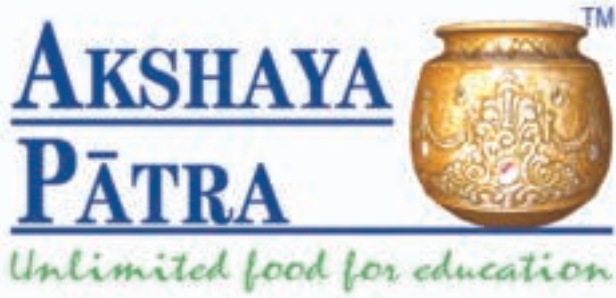
"Those behind this campaign simply cannot accept that a first-generation Latino American from humble beginnings could rise to be a U.S. Senator and serve with honor and distinction," Menendez said.

Murphy's statements were followed by similar missives from the Democratic State Committee Chairman LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., state Senate President Nick Scutari, D-Union, and state Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, D-Middlesex. U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, D-3rd Dist., called for Menendez to quit earlier in the day.

Jones said Menendez deserved "the same presumption of innocence that the U.S. Constitution guarantees to all Americans." "But in the interest of ensuring that New Jerseyans continue to be granted the federal representation that they deserve, and to make sure that our party is able to keep its focus on the critical upcoming state legislative elections in November, I believe that the best course of action is for Senator Menendez to resign so that he can focus his full attention on his legal defense," Jones' statement said.

Declaring it to be "a sad day for our state," Scutari said: "Due to the severity of the charges brought against him today, I believe Senator Menendez must resign from office to pursue his defense and allow our state and our nation to move forward."

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



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# Radhashtami

**R**adhashtami is a holy day for Hindus. Krishna Priya Radhaji was born on the eighth day of the Shukla Paksha of Bhadrapada month. Therefore this day is celebrated as Radhashtami. The sacrificial fire of Shri Radhaji Vrishabhanu was revealed from the land. Sri Radha is considered to be the incarnation of Lakshmi. It is mainly celebrated by Krishna devotees. The festival of Radhashtami is celebrated with great pomp in all its temples by the ISKCON organization. In Barsana, which is the birthplace of Sri Radha, Radhashtami is especially celebrated. Radha was the most beloved of Lord Krishna. It is said that the worship of Lord Krishna is considered incomplete without worshipping Shri Radha.

Sri Vrindavaneshwari Radha always brings joy to Shri Krishna in Vedas and Puranadi, which is praised as 'Krishna Vallabha'.

## Legend

Radha was born or rather believed to be found lying on a lotus leaf in a pond of Barsana. She was picked up from there and brought up by a couple Vrishbhanu and Keerti.

It is believed that the divine girl did not open her eyes till Sri Krishna was born. Hence the divine love of Sri Radha and Krishna surpasses all human concepts and is spiritually significant.

Hindu scriptures describe Radha as Lord Krishna's spiritual energy. It is said that whenever the Lord takes an incarnation, His spiritual energy is born in a female form. Hence one can attain the grace of Lord Krishna only by worshipping His spiritual energy, Radha.

## Significance

Radha Ashtami is a vital festival for all the Krishna devotees. Devotees observe a fast on this day in the honour of Radha Rani.

The idol of Radha is cleaned with milk and then decorated. The idol is offered various sweets and 'aarti' is performed along with singing bhajans and devotional songs.

It is believed that if one observes fast on Radha Ashtami and worships the Goddess with the utmost devotion, the person is freed from all his/her sins. The person attains spiritual bliss which gives him/her immense peace and satisfaction. The mind of the person is cleared from all the bad and negative thoughts which gives him/her the much desired mental and spiritual satisfaction.

Radha Ashtami is a huge festival for the people of Vrindavan and the adjacent areas. On normal days, people are not allowed to chant Radha's name or dip in the holy Radha Kund because it is considered as disrespectful for the Goddess. However on the day of Radha Ashtami, the devotees can take a dip in the pond and chant Her name after midnight. So, every year people gather in large numbers on this day to take bath in the Radha Kund and get blessed by Radha Rani. Devotional songs such as the bhajan and kirtan are sung throughout the day in honour of the deity.

Hence, Radha Ashtami holds a special spiritual significance for all those who believe in Lord Krishna and His spiritual love for Radha.

## Radhashtami Celebrations Across India

On this occasion, Hindus decorate the idols of Shri Radha and Lord Krishna with a new dress and fresh flowers. Also, the temple is decorated with bright, colourful flowers that spread their fragrance everywhere. Devotees listen to the devotional songs composed by Vaishnava gurus and sing the glory of Sri Radharani. Thousands of devotees gather at the Shri Krishna temple to get a glimpse of Lord Krishna and Radhaji. Devotees pour holy water on the idols and offer milk, curd, ghee, honey, and jaggery.

They also keep juices of fruits like musk, apple, watermelon, pineapple, pomegranate, orange, sweet lime, papaya, grapes etc. at the feet of idols. Later, they conclude the puja after performing aarti and showering flowers on them. Devotees and saints prepare Chappan Bhog for Hindu deities in the well-known temples of India and seek divine blessings from them.

## Radhashtami Puja Vidhi

- Start the fresh day with a positive mental state.



- Take a bath with the water mixed with Gangajal in order to purify yourself.
- Place the idol of Radha on your puja altar and worship it at 12 noon.
- Recite the vrat Katha for Radhaashtami, then the Radha Stuti and Radha Chalisa.
- Sing bhajans and light an oil lamp in the evening to invoke the deity.
- Make an aarti and a bhog offering to the deity.
- Feed brahmins and married women the next day.
- Later, eat prasad to break the fast.

## Benefits of Celebrating Radha Ashtami

On this auspicious day, worshipping Lord Krishna and the goddess Radha brings harmony and tranquility into one's life.

Reciting the Radha Gayatri mantra and participating in Aarti may make it simpler for them to overcome obstacles in life, accomplish their worldly objectives, and attain salvation.

Fasting on Radha Ashtami is a tradition that helps people purge their past transgressions. According to ancient texts, followers may only be able to satisfy Shri Krishna if Shri Radha is adored.

Therefore, worshipping Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha on the day of Bhadrapada's Ashtami has immense significance.

Sage Narada has explained the importance of worshipping goddess Radha with Shri Krishna using Hindu mythology as his source.

Since Lord Sri Krishna lives underneath Goddess Radha, she serves as the ruling goddess over his life. Therefore, on this day of Ashtami, Vaishnavas offer the utmost homage to the Hindu deities.

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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."

# Dalhousie: Little Switzerland of India

Dalhousie is a popular hill station spread out over five hills in Himachal Pradesh boasting views of the snow-capped peaks of the Dhauladhar ranges. Famous for its meadows, dense forests, and waterfalls, it is especially a favourite amongst honeymooners and family vacationers.

Established in 1854, the valley is named after Lord Dalhousie, and was one of the favourite summer destinations of the Britishers during the colonial era. Dalhousie offers an old-world charm, mesmerizing natural landscapes, pine-clad valleys and magnificent misty mountains.

The Scottish and Victorian-era architecture of churches like the St Patricks Church, St John's Church and St Francis Church reminds of its colonial heritage. Dalhousie is also known for woollen Himachali shawls, Tibetan handicrafts, Chamba handkerchiefs, and other paraphernalia. These can be bought from The Mall Road which is the town's main market.

A trip to Dalhousie is incomplete without Khajjiar. Known as the mini Switzerland of India, Khajjiar is just 21 km away. The little hill town is famous for its spellbinding vistas of mountains loaded in white snow and lush green pastures of land. Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary in Khajjiar is famous for an exquisite variety of endangered species and breathtaking views of the mountains in the backdrop. Chamba, located almost 50km from Dalhousie, is also worth visiting.



## Panchpula

Surrounded by a cover of green pine and deodar trees, Panchpula is a popular picnic spot in Dalhousie, located at a distance of 3.5 km from Gandhi Chowk in Dalhousie. It is best known for Saptdhara Waterfall, the starting point of the Ganji Pahari trek and activities like Ziplining, and Burma Bridge.

A Samadhi (monument) is built near Panchpula in memory of the great revolutionary, Sardar Ajit Singh (Uncle of Martyr Bhagat Singh), who breathed his last here.

## Khajjiar

This small town, very nearby to Dalhousie is also known as the 'Mini Switzerland' or the 'Switzerland of India'.

The mesmerizing beauty of this place has greatly influenced and inspired many kingdoms throughout the years, including the Rajputs and Mughals. Located at an altitude of 6,500 feet, the natural beauty and picturesque landscape of this place are bound to leave an everlasting impression on a tourist.

Khajjiar is known for its nine-hole golf-course which is nestled in the midst of lush greenery and a breathtaking landscape. Khajjiar is a plateau with a small lake which tends to be a favorite amongst tourists. This region also attracts adventure seekers and has a lot of options in adventure sports like zorbing, trekking etc.

## Satdhara Falls

The stunning Satdhara Falls is situated in Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh. It is surrounded by fantastic views of the Chamba valley - with snow-covered ranges and fresh, green pine and deodar trees. 'Satdhara' means seven springs. This waterfall brings together the waters of seven beautiful springs - their meeting point being 2036masl,



cascading magnanimously in unison. The water here is said to contain mica, which has medicinal properties to cure skin diseases.

This is the perfect place for people in search of some tranquillity in their hectic life. The crystal clear water of the majestic Satdhara Falls gurgles with joy as little droplets bounce off the rocks onto us. The pleasant fragrance of wet mud fills the air with a refreshing scent as the water pours into a sparkling and smooth aquamarine pool. The sweet nougat smell of flower washes over you as the view of the white water surging and plunging from the height hypnotises you with its beauty. The sound of the crashing water is loud but pleasant. The edges of the fall hemmed with silver lines glisten in the sunshine.

## Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary

Thick deodar foliage, a plethora of wildlife, snowcapped mountains, carpets of verdant grasslands and easy on the eye streams of fresh water make up the Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary. Also called

the Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary, it is located in the picturesque hilly Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

The name Kalatop means 'black cap', which refers to the thick, black forest cover on the highest hilltop in the sanctuary. Situated a few kilometres away from the Chamba dam and Chamera reservoir on river Ravi, it is known to be rich in flora and fauna. Hundreds of small freshwater streams flow into the Ravi river north of the sanctuary.

The well laid out trekking and hiking trails in the Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary make for a great nature walk with views of the towering and immaculate Pir Panjal range.

## Ganji Pahari

Ganji Pahari is a scenic hill located near Dalhousie. The 1-2 hour trek to Ganji Pahari starts from Panchpula (about 3.5 km). The name Ganji Pahari was derived from its salient feature which is the complete absence of flora on the hill - 'Ganji' meaning Bald in the local

language, and 'Pahari' meaning Hill. During winters, the same terrain is covered in a thick coat of snow.

A tour to Ganji Pahari can also be accompanied by a guide whom tourists can hire from Dalhousie but it is not mandatory. People trek to Ganji Pahari for the sunset and sunrise. There a handful of places to stay on top and camping is also an option, but the bookings have to be made in advance.

## Chamera Lake

Located near Dalhousie in the Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, the Chamera Lake also known as Chamba Lake is the man-made reservoir for the Chamba Dam. It is a popular picnic spot and boating location. One can explore the lake on a speed boat or a rowboat and indulge in activities like kayaking & canoeing. The Himachal Pradesh Department of Tourism organises several water sports at Chamera Lake, including boating, river rafting, kayaking and canoeing; there are lifeguards on site.

Source: [Holidify.com](http://Holidify.com)

# History This Week

SEP 22 TO SEP 28

## SEPTEMBER 22



September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 22, 1862 - Otto von Bismarck became premier of Prussia. He forged a loose confederation of German states into a powerful nation, with Wilhelm I becoming Kaiser of the new German Empire.

September 22, 1996 - Australian Bob Dent, a cancer victim, became the first person to commit legally assisted suicide, via a lethal injection, under a voluntary euthanasia law.

Birthdays - British scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was born in Surrey, England. His discovery of electromagnetic induction proved that moving a magnet through a coil of wire produces a current, resulting in the development of electric generators.

## SEPTEMBER 23

September 23rd - Autumn (Sept. 23-Dec. 21) begins in the Northern Hemisphere with the autumnal equinox, at 1:37 a.m. EDT. In the Southern Hemisphere today is the beginning of spring.



September 23, 1952 - Vice-presidential candidate Richard Nixon delivered his Checkers Speech on television and radio to address accusations of financial misdeeds.

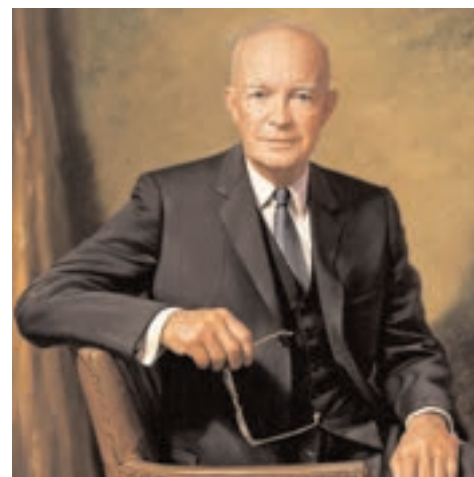
September 23, 1991 - Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

Birthdays - American journalist and influential commentator, Walter Lippmann (1889-1974) was born in New York. "Without criticism and reliable and intelligent reporting, the government cannot govern," he once stated.

Birthdays - Friedrich von Paulus (1890-

1957) was born in Breitenau, Germany. In 1942, Adolf Hitler chose Paulus, a desk officer, to lead the German 6th Army in an all-out attack against Stalingrad, deep inside Russia. Although his troops captured most of Stalingrad, they became trapped within the city. On January 31, 1943, the day Hitler made him a field marshal, Paulus surrendered to the Russians, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies. After the war, Paulus appeared as a witness for the Russian prosecution at the Nuremberg war crime trials.

## SEPTEMBER 24



September 24, 1957 - President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

September 24, 1980 - War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery.

Birthdays - John Marshall (1755-1835) was born in Germantown, Virginia. He was appointed by President John Adams to the position of Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in January 1801. He became known as "The Great Chief Justice," largely responsible for expanding the role of the Supreme Court through such cases as Marbury vs. Madison and McCulloch vs. Maryland.

Birthdays - American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender is the Night*.

Birthdays - Puppeteer Jim Henson (1936-1990) was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He created the Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, and Bert and Ernie, entertaining and educating generations of children via the daily TV show *Sesame Street*.

## SEPTEMBER 25

September 25, 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa first sighted the Pacific Ocean after crossing the Isthmus of Panama.

September 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* appeared in Boston, Massachusetts. However, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate

suppression.

September 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.



Birthdays - American writer William Faulkner (1897-1962) was born in New Albany, Mississippi. Best known for *The Sound and the Fury* and *The Reivers*.

Birthdays - Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He witnessed the Russian Revolution and went on to become one of the greatest Soviet composers.

## SEPTEMBER 26

September 26, 1687 - The Acropolis in Athens was attacked by the Venetian army attempting to oust the Turks, resulting in heavy damage to the Parthenon.

September 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.



September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

September 26, 1984 - Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Birthdays - American folk legend Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) was born in Leominster, Massachusetts (as John

Chapman). For 40 years, he traveled through Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois, planting orchards. He was a friend to wild animals and was regarded as a "great medicine man" by Native Americans.

Birthdays - Writer T.S. (Thomas Stearns) Eliot (1888-1965) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He rejected conventional verse and language in favor of free expression.

Birthdays - Composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including *The Man I Love*, *Strike Up the Band*, *I Got Rhythm* and the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

## SEPTEMBER 27

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

September 27, 1995 - The Israeli cabinet agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank which had been occupied by Israel for 28 years.

Birthdays - American revolutionary leader Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a passionate, vocal man who helped ignite the revolution and served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

Birthdays - American political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was born in Landau, Germany. He originated the symbols for the two main U.S. political parties, the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast was also instrumental in destroying the Tweed Ring, a group of corrupt politicians plundering the New York City treasury.

## SEPTEMBER 28

September 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

September 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.



September 28, 1978 - Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. He was succeeded by John Paul II.

September 28, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House establishing Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

## ICC selects seven venues in Caribbean to host 2024 T20 World Cup

The ICC on Friday, September 22, said seven venues in the Caribbean and three cities of USA will co-host the next year's men's T20 World Cup from June 4-30.

The seven Caribbean venues shortlisted by the ICC are Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Besides three places in the USA -- Dallas, Florida and New York will co-host the event.

"We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event," ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said in a statement.

"This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like to thank Cricket West Indies and the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport."

## Wrestling worlds: Antim Panghal, 19, wins bronze

Young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal's superb campaign at the World Championships culminated with a bronze medal, a performance that also earned the country a quota place in the women's 53kg category for the Paris Olympics.

The 19-year-old became only the sixth Indian woman to win a medal at the Worlds with her victory over Sweden's Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren, the two-time European champion. The high-scoring bout (16-6) ended with a technical superiority win for the Indian, who became the first Indian wrestler — male or female — to lock a quota place for next year's Paris Games.

The wrestler from Haryana seems to be making a smooth transition from the junior to senior circuit, having made an impression in the trials for the Asian Games and World Championships. Panghal is rising in a category that Vinesh Phogat has made her own on the back of her stupendous show in the last few years.

Vinesh is recuperating from a knee surgery and it remains to be seen if the 53kg quota remains with Panghal. Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012), Pooja Dhanda (2018) and Vinesh (2019, 2022) are the other bronze medallists, while Anshu Malik won silver in 2021.

IND VS AUS

# Shami, Shubman set up Indian victory

MOHALI (TIP)

Mohammed Shami's crafty bowling performance was beautifully complemented by the grace and poise of Shubman Gill as India defeated Australia by five wickets in the opening ODI of the three-match series here on Friday, September 22.

Shami displayed his artistry with impressive figures of 5 for 51, reminding all and sundry of his skills while helping India restrict Australia to 276 after asking the visitors to make first use of the strip.

In reply, Gill once again stamped his authority with a 63-ball 74 and added 142 for the opening stand with the Asian Games-bound Ruturaj Gaikwad (71 off 77 balls) to set the foundation for victory, which, on paper, might have looked a bit more stretched than it actually was.

Victory was achieved in 48.4 overs as Suryakumar Yadav (50 off 49 balls) and skipper KL Rahul (58 not out off 63 balls) also played their part with only Shreyas Iyer (3) and Ishan Kishan (18) missing out on a batting party.

Surya would especially be happy with his effort as he came in when India still needed 92 runs to win. It could have been a bit tricky but along with his skipper, the Mumbai batter showed calmness and also earned confidence with a much-needed half-century.

Gill, who hit his ninth half-century in ODIs, was undoubtedly the batting star of the day. He had six fours and two sixes in his knock but the short-arm pick-up pull off Marcus Stoinis left everyone stunned.

Off-spinner Matthew Short was at the receiving end when he was lofted over long-off for the other six.

Gaikwad, who would have to



switch on to the T20 mode in another two weeks' time, had 10 boundaries to his credit. He hit cover drives and square drives and was especially severe on Sean Abbott.

For Australia, the only bright spot was leg-spinner Adam Zampa finding some bowling form with figures of 2/57 off 10 overs.

But the game-changer on the day was Shami, who doesn't seem to feature in India's first XI plans for the World Cup. He literally made a

statement with his second five-wicket haul in ODIs.

His performance also put tremendous pressure on the weakest link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78 in 10 overs), who has been selected in the 15, primarily due to his batting skills.

Shami was literally unplayable in his opening spell, and then came back to remove a set Steve Smith (41 off 60 balls) in a short second stint, to disturb the visiting team's momentum. *Source: PTI*

## Asian Games: Chance for Chopra-led India to showcase its prowess

HANGZHOU (TIP)

Led by Olympics champion Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendancy as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally tomorrow after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with its largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country has made in sports since the historic performance in the Tokyo Olympics.

For a country that aspires to host the Olympics in near future, an eighth place finish in the 2018 Games is far from satisfactory, and it will seek to rise higher in the medal tally in Hangzhou.

India have not finished in the top-5 of the medals tally




Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium is lit up during a light show on the eve of the opening ceremony. REUTERS

since the 1986 edition in Seoul.

Though winning 100 medals may seem far-fetched, India is expected to surpass last edition's count with athletics once again set to contribute the lion's share. The track and field athletes had won 20 medals in Jakarta, and this time at least 25 podium finishes are expected.

For the first time in the Asian Games' history, India will be having five Olympics medallists in their ranks, raising hopes of the country grabbing more gold medals than the 16 won in 2018. The other Olympics medallists are weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Bajrang Punia and boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

Still, it is difficult to predict the gold medal count for India. Sindhu has been struggling for some time, Chanu has had fitness issues recently, while Bajrang started training only a few months ago after taking part in the wrestlers' protest. *Source: PTI*



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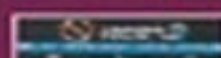
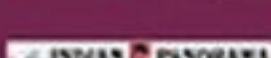
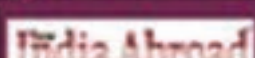
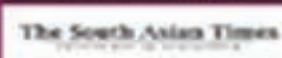
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