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VOL 17 ISSUE 38 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • SEP 29 - OCT 05, 2023

ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

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 Salujindra@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 02, 2023.

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Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein of California dies at 90



Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California has died. She was 90.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, a centrist Democrat who was elected to the Senate in 1992 in the "Year of the Woman" and broke gender barriers throughout her long career in local and national politics, has died. She was 90, says an Associate Press report. Feinstein, the oldest sitting U.S. senator, was a passionate advocate for liberal

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EAM Jaishankar, US Secretary Blinken discuss global developments amid India-Canada diplomatic row



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington., D.C. on September 29, and the two had a wide-ranging discussion.

Photo / courtesy @DrSJaishankar/Twitter

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India and the US agreed to continue their cooperation in the areas of defense, space and clean energy as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Secretary of State Antony Blinken here, amid a simmering diplomatic row between India and Canada over the killing of a Khalistani separatist.

Jaishankar is currently on a five-day official trip to Washington DC. This is the highest-level interaction between the two countries after the recent G-20 Summit in New Delhi. "Great to meet my friend US Secretary of State @SecBlinken at State Department today. A wide-ranging discussion, following up on PM @narendramodi's June visit.

CONTD ON PAGE 42

A Shutdown looms as McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep government open fails



U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is in an unenviable position as a faction of hard-right holdouts rejected the package, making a shutdown almost certain.

Official portrait

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep the federal government temporarily open collapsed in dramatic fashion Friday, September 29, as a robust faction of hard-right holdouts rejected the package, making a shutdown almost certain, says an AP report.

Mr. McCarthy's right-flank Republicans refused to support the bill despite its steep spending cuts of nearly 30% to many agencies and severe border security provisions, calling it insufficient.

CONTD ON PAGE 42

Owner of Adani Power's Largest Public Investor a 'Single Person Company': Report



Gautam Adani is perpetually in news- for good or bad

Photo credit / PTI

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): The controlling shareholder in the largest public investor in Adani Power Ltd (APL) is a "single person company" established in the UAE in 2019, reveal corporate records accessed by the Indian Express.

The company in question is Opal Investment Pvt. Ltd - which is one of the foreign portfolio investors in Adani Power Ltd (APL). The Wall Street Journal had in February reported the firm has links with the Adani family.

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COMMENT**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan: A Legacy of Agricultural Innovation and Humanitarianism**BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The world mourns the passing of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, a pioneering figure in the field of agriculture and a relentless advocate for sustainable development and food security. Dr. Swaminathan's contributions to agriculture, particularly in the context of India, are immeasurable, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Born on August 7, 1925, in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan displayed a keen interest in agriculture from a young age. He pursued his education with dedication, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Madras. His thirst for knowledge led him to the United States, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin in 1952.

Dr. Swaminathan's most significant contribution to agriculture was his pivotal role in India's Green Revolution. In the mid-1960s, India was grappling with food shortages, and millions of its citizens faced starvation. Dr. Swaminathan's innovative work in crop breeding, particularly wheat and rice, played a crucial role in increasing

crop yields. He introduced high-yielding varieties of these staple crops, which led to a remarkable increase in food production.

This transformation in agriculture, known as the Green Revolution, not only saved countless lives but also established India as a self-sufficient food producer. Dr. Swaminathan's dedication to improving crop genetics and farming practices earned him the nickname "Father of the Green Revolution in India."

While the Green Revolution brought immediate relief, Dr. Swaminathan was acutely aware of its environmental consequences. He recognized that the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides could lead to soil degradation and harm the ecosystem in the long term. Consequently, he became a strong advocate for sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Swaminathan stressed the importance of biodiversity, organic farming, and integrated pest management techniques to ensure food security while preserving the environment. His commitment to sustainable practices paved the way for the adoption of eco-friendly farming methods and the protection of India's rich agricultural heritage.

Dr. Swaminathan's influence extended far beyond the borders of India. His expertise was sought after by international organizations and governments facing food security challenges. He served as the

Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and played a pivotal role in developing strategies to combat global hunger. His collaborative efforts with other scientists and organizations contributed to advancements in agricultural research worldwide.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Dr. Swaminathan was a compassionate humanitarian. He believed that access to food was a fundamental human right. Throughout his life, he advocated for policies and programs aimed at alleviating poverty and ensuring equitable access to food resources.

As we reflect on his life and legacy, it is clear that Dr. Swaminathan's contributions transcend borders and generations. His passion for feeding the hungry and protecting the planet serves as a timeless inspiration for scientists, policymakers, and advocates working towards a more sustainable and equitable world.

In the face of the challenges posed by climate change, rising populations, and evolving agricultural practices, Dr. Swaminathan's principles of innovation, sustainability, and compassion will continue to guide our efforts to ensure a food-secure and resilient future for all. His memory will forever be etched in the annals of agricultural history as a beacon of hope and progress.

GUEST COMMENT**India talks tough: Sends out stern message to Canada and its allies**

Amid a diplomatic fracas with Canada over the killing of pro-Khalistan terror accused Hardeep Singh Nijjar, India has exhorted the UN member states not to allow 'political convenience' to determine responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Addressing the 78th UN General Assembly session in New York, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar didn't mince words when he stated that respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of countries could not be 'exercises in cherry-picking'. In a reaffirmation of India's fiercely independent foreign policy, Jaishankar said the days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over.

It is laudable that India has held its ground despite being in the crosshairs of the Five Eyes - the intelligence-sharing alliance between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US - with regard to the Nijjar case. During a discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations after his UN address, Jaishankar said New Delhi had conveyed to Ottawa that it was open to looking at 'specific' and 'relevant' information concerning the case. With regard to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that agents of the Indian Government were linked to the June 18 murder, he clarified that it was not India's policy to indulge in such activities.

This tough stand should make Canada and its allies realize that India is no longer a country beholden to the West. New Delhi has rightly put the onus on Ottawa to first set its own house in order before pointing a finger at other nations. In recent years, the Maple Country has witnessed many incidents of organized crime related to secessionism and extremism, but not much has been done to rein in anti-India elements. India-Canada cooperation can make headway only if the latter stops hosting terrorists while claiming the moral high ground. (Tribune, India)

Manipur burning: Centre, state must go all out to stop violence

It's been almost five months since clashes broke out in Manipur during a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organized by residents of hill districts in protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status. Ethnic violence has claimed more than 180 lives so far, with the Central and state governments failing miserably in bringing the situation under control. Manipur took center stage in July when a video clip of two women being paraded naked shook the nation's conscience, prompting PM Narendra Modi to break his silence on the crisis in the northeastern state, hours before the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Things, however, were soon back to square one. The Manipur mayhem receded into the background amid the nationwide euphoria over the success of Chandrayaan-3 and the G20 summit. Now, a fresh wave of violence has erupted in state capital Imphal after photos of the bodies of two youths - who had gone missing in July - went viral on social media. A mob consisting mostly of students vandalized the Deputy Commissioner's office in Imphal West. Repeatedly accused of laxity, the Centre has extended the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) by six months in most parts of the state and transferred senior IPS officer Rakesh Balwal from Jammu and Kashmir to his parent cadre Manipur. It's a moot point whether these moves will make any difference on the ground.

Unfortunately, Manipur was reduced to a mere footnote during the special session of Parliament held last week, even as Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge criticized the Prime Minister for not visiting the strife-torn state. The ruling BJP's decision to persist with Chief Minister N Biren Singh has not helped matters either. Bringing the warring groups to the negotiating table is a prerequisite for the restoration of peace and public order, but the powers that be seem powerless to make that happen anytime soon.

(Tribune, India)

West Windsor Arts to Present an Evening of Traditional Indian Dance with Shivani Badgi



Shivani Badgi is a dancer, teacher and choreographer

Saturday, October 14, 2023, 6 to 9 pm

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

PRINCETON JUNCTION, N.J (TIP): West Windsor Arts is hosting a special solo dance performance by Shivani Badgi, an Indian American dancer, teacher and choreographer. Badgi will perform Nritya Mehfil, a traditional Kathak dance that originated in northern India hundreds of years ago. Kathak is derived from the Sanskrit word "katha," which means story. During a Kathak performance, the dancer becomes a storyteller through graceful, expressive movements.

"Shivani will transport you to an Indian country-style Mehfil," says Aylin Green, executive director of West Windsor Arts. "She will blend dance with music, art and history for a very special evening."

When performed in the United States today, Kathak is often a part of a larger show, rather than the entire show, explains Shivani, who grew up in

West Windsor and is the artistic director and owner of The Gurukul Performing Arts, a performing arts school with branches in Plainsboro, N.J. and New York City. Traditionally, Kathak is performed in intimate settings that allow the dancer to talk directly to the audience throughout the performance. "I am excited to present this kind of immersive, evening-length solo show to my community," Shivani says. "I wanted to bring the whole ambiance-what you would get if you went to a show in India 200 years ago. It will be a treat for all of the senses. You will smell the sandalwood and taste the tea. I will also be explaining to my audience what I am doing, and what to look for in the next portion of the dance."

Shivani, whose mother is also a Kathak practitioner, has been performing since she was five years old. In addition to running the school, she performs in and around New York City at festivals and cultural events, as well as solo shows.

"This performance is a great opportunity to give back to the community I love," she says.

Tickets are \$35 for West Windsor Arts members and \$40 for non-members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT WESTWINDSORARTS.ORG/EVENT/NRITYA-MEHFIL-DANCE-EVENT.

ABOUT WEST WINDSOR ARTS COUNCIL

The West Windsor Arts Council (952 Alexander Road, Princeton Junction) offers art and cultural events, workshops, and classes for all ages and in all disciplines at the West Windsor Arts Center and in the community. For more information, call 609-716-1931 or visit westwindsorarts.org.

Widespread flooding impacts New York City, Long Island, Tri-state region



Parts of New York see wettest day on record as life-threatening flooding submerges subways, streets

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Life-threatening flash flooding pummeled the New York City area Friday, September 29, as remnants of Tropical Storm Ophelia lashed the already heavily saturated region with several inches of rain in mere hours.

All of New York City's five boroughs were placed under Flash Flood Warnings on Friday, as torrential rains flooded streets and subway stations, causing massive system-side disruptions to rail and bus services. Impacts were especially felt in Brooklyn, where nearly 7 inches of rain had fallen by midday.

"I want to say to all New Yorkers, this is time for heightened alertness and extreme caution," New York City Mayor Eric Adams warned. "If you are home, stay home. If you are at work or school, shelter in place. For now, some of our subways are flooded, and it's extremely difficult to move around the city."

The FOX Forecast Center said radar estimated 8-12 inches of rain fell Friday over parts of Long Island.

In the city, impacts were especially felt in Brooklyn, where more than 6 inches of rain fell.

Friday is now preliminarily the wettest day on record at John F. Kennedy International Airport beating Hurricane Irene's daily record which was set back on August 14, 2011, the National Weather Service said.

Widespread rain totals of 4 to 6 inches were New York City, Long Island and Hudson Valley, with locally higher amounts in excess of 7 inches of rain. New York Governor Kathy Hochul declared a State of Emergency across the same areas due to the extreme rainfall.

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SIXTEEN INDIAN AMERICAN MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN STEM CHALLENGE FINALS



A total of 16 Indian American youngsters are among 30 finalists in the inaugural Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC).

Photo for representation only

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A total of 16 Indian American youngsters are among 30 finalists in the inaugural Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge (Thermo Fisher JIC), the nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) competition.

The 30 finalists were selected by a nationwide panel of scientists, engineers and educators from a pool of top 300 Junior Innovators announced earlier this month, Society for Science announced Sep 20.

The finalists will attend the Thermo Fisher JIC Finals Week in Washington, DC next month, where they will compete for more than \$100,000 in awards, including the top \$25,000 Thermo Fisher Scientific ASCEND (Aspiring Scientists Cultivating Exciting New Discoveries) Award.

A panel of judges will evaluate their scientific research and their communication, creativity and collaboration skills during team challenges.

"I applaud the top 30 Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovator Challenge finalists! I look forward to meeting them in Washington, DC," said Maya Ajmera, President & CEO of the Society for Science and Executive Publisher of Science News.

"These young people are truly inspiring, with many of them seeking to solve problems within their own communities. They give me hope for the future."

The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of the Society for Science, seeks to inspire young scientists, engineers and innovators who will solve the grand challenges of the future.

A full list of the finalists can be viewed here: <https://www.societyforscience.org/jic/2023-finalists/>.

Indian American finalists and their projects:

Inika Adapala, 7th Grade, Stratford Middle School, San Jose, California; Communication App for Patients With Locked-in Syndrome.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Nihar Malaviya becomes CEO of Penguin Random House

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American publishing executive Nihar Malaviya has been named as permanent CEO of New York-based Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive.

Malaviya, 48, succeeded Markus Dohle, who departed weeks after a federal judge struck down Penguin Random House's attempted merger with Simon & Schuster, a deal Dohle had pushed for.

Penguin Random House, the world's largest trade publisher, has been undergoing a company-wide reorganization in 2023, with numerous senior editors either laid off or departing under a voluntary retirement plan.

Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate, has owned Random House since 1998. Random House and Penguin merged in 2013.

"In Nihar Malaviya, the right leader is at the helm of Penguin Random House at the right time," Bertelsmann Chairman and CEO Thomas Rabe said in a statement Monday.

"Nihar has proven exactly this over the past nine months, and I am delighted that he is now taking over responsibility for Penguin Random House on a permanent basis."

"As interim CEO, Nihar has set an important strategic course. Most importantly, he has transformed the structures at Penguin Random House so that the publishers and publishing



Nihar Malaviya has been named as permanent CEO of New York-based Penguin Random House

groups can work more creatively and entrepreneurially," he said.

"I am confident that he will continue to develop the Group with great vigor. I look forward to continuing to work with him as CEO of Penguin Random House and on the GMC," Rabe added.

Malaviya has been a member of Bertelsmann's Group Management Committee (GMC), a body of top executives that advises the Group's Executive Board, since his appointment as interim CEO.

Prior to his appointment as interim CEO of Penguin Random House on January 1, 2023, Malaviya served as President & Chief Operating Officer of Penguin Random House US since 2014.

During his tenure in publishing,

Malaviya has spearheaded the creation of a variety of industry-first capabilities in data science, supply chain, technology, and consumer insights, according to a news release.

The objective was always to reach the widest possible audience for the company's authors and their books across multiple formats and platforms, it said.

"As leader of the Penguin Random House Global Executive Committee, Malaviya is focused on elevating the publishing independence and creative autonomy of the company's imprints and driving the creation of competitive advantages that position the company for growth," the release stated.

Malaviya began his career at Bertelsmann in 2001 as a participant in the Bertelsmann Entrepreneurs Program. In 2003, he moved within the group to Random House, successfully taking on a number of leadership positions.

Malaviya is a two-time recipient of the Bertelsmann Entrepreneur Award for Strategy Execution.

He holds an MBA in Finance and Marketing from the NYU Stern School of Business, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

Malaviya also serves on the board of directors of the Association of American Publishers and Poets & Writers. He resides in New Jersey with his wife and two children.

Indian-origin eight-year-old girl receives UK's first kidney transplant without need for lifelong drugs

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023



Aditi Shankar, an eight-year-old girl, was on Friday, September 22, declared the first person in the UK's National Health Service (NHS) history to have a transplant without the need for lifelong drugs after medics reprogrammed her immune system.

reprogrammed her immune system. Aditi Shankar, suffering from a rare genetic condition, received a stem cell transplant using bone marrow taken from her mother, Divya, who also donated her kidney. The pioneering treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London means that Aditi's new kidney works without the continued need of immunosuppressant drugs to stop her body from rejecting it. "This is the first time I have cared for someone in 25 years who has not required immunosuppression after kidney transplantation," said Professor Stephen Marks, Clinical Lead for Renal Transplantation at GOSH and Professor of Pediatric Nephrology and Transplantation at University College London Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

"We hope that our research will provide the option for more children, like Aditi, for whom kidney transplant was not previously an option, to have the opportunity to have a life-changing kidney transplant," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin man from London campaigns for patients' rights after son's death

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin man from London who lost his son due to what he terms as a "cascade of errors" by medics has launched a new charity foundation to campaign for the rights of patients.

Jay Patel registered Patients Lives Matter earlier this month after his 30-year-old son, Balram, died due to "failures" in treatment and care from a hospital in London. The coroner's office has since told him that it is opening an investigation into the conditions leading up to Balram's death last month.

"Balram died in a huge amount of pain, and discomfort, and before his time, due to a cascade of errors and failures in treatment and care from the hospital consultant and a number of staff," said his father in a mission statement for the new foundation.

"We feel very strongly that the government is taking steps 'after the event' so as to speak to see what went wrong with patient care and/or patient treatment. However, totally inadequate steps are available at the time of the incident to rectify the failure and ensure little or no harm comes to the patient. Whether you are the patient, a parent, a family member, a friend or none of the above we want to hear from you," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Jay Patel registered Patients Lives Matter earlier this month after his 30-year-old son, Balram, died due to "failures" in treatment and care from a hospital in London.

Photo for representation only

Indian American digital marketing expert Rupal Gadhia to head MBA admissions at Harvard Business School

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American brand and digital marketing expert Rupal Gadhia returns to her alma mater, Harvard Business School (HBS) in October as the next managing director of MBA Admissions and Financial Aid.

In her new role, Gadhia (MBA 2004), will partner with a variety of internal and external stakeholders including current HBS students, alumni, faculty, and administrators, the Boston based top business school announced.

She will oversee an admissions process that aims to deliver a high-quality, MBA class with wide-ranging talents and experiences. She is also tasked with building upon previous efforts to increase access and affordability and remove financial barriers for applicants and students from diverse socioeconomic



Rupal Gadhia returns to her alma mater, Harvard Business School (HBS) in October as the next managing director of MBA Admissions and Financial Aid.

backgrounds, according to a news release.

Gadhia's post-HBS career began in brand management with Sara Lee and Campbell Soup Company, followed by a move to Booz & Co as a management consultant.

Leveraging her passion for brand and consulting, she joined the Brand Union, managing North American strategy and research for consumer and corporate clients and was recruited to Interbrand to lead the relationship for two of their largest clients.

In 2017 she was recruited to Genpact as global vice president of brand and digital marketing and helped guide the company through a brand transformation, leading a global team made up of the creative, editorial, talent marketing, digital, social, and brand groups.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American entrepreneur Apoorva Mehta quits Instacart

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Instacart's Indian American co-founder Apoorva Mehta has ended his 11-year tenure with the company he founded in 2012 with a \$1.3 billion fortune as the online grocery-delivery giant went public.

As the San Francisco-based company made its stock market debut, Mehta, 37, relinquished his board position as executive chairman to current CEO Fidji Simo, a former Meta Platforms Inc executive, after transitioning to the role from CEO in August 2021.

The young entrepreneur, who became a billionaire in 2020, is exiting with "a \$1.3 billion fortune," Fortune reported. His addition to the Forbes coveted list of billionaires comes after Instacart's value rose from \$7.9 billion to \$13.7 billion.

Instacart, which is incorporated as Maplebear Inc, priced its IPO at \$30 a share on Sep 18, "giving it a \$9.9 billion valuation," according to media reports. "The following day they "jumped more than 40% "when they began trading in New York and "were at \$40.02 by afternoon."

According to the Associated Press, the IPO is "a long-awaited step for Instacart," after it "filed privately for an IPO in May 2022, but delayed those plans last fall when the markets were roiling due to recession fears."



Apoorva Mehta has quit Instacart

The company raised \$660 million in its initial public offering, selling 22 million shares at \$30 apiece, the news agency reported. That pricing gave Instacart "a market value of around \$10 billion, significantly lower than the \$39 billion value placed on it after a fund-raising round in 2021."

Data shared on the company website reveals that it "provides delivery and pick up from 85% of US grocers, or more than 80,000 stores, using a network of 600,000 freelance shoppers.

It offers retail enablement solutions for more than 1,400 retail banners across more than 80,000 locations, according to the website.

Mehta founded Instacart in 2012. The demand for the company's delivery model has skyrocketed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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IMPORTANCE OF COLONOSCOPY



BY NATASHA SINGH

Why is it important to schedule your next colonoscopy if you are in your late fourth decade. Colon cancer is one of the most common and preventable cancers if detected at an early stage. The incidence of this increases with age. Approximately the incidence is 15-30% by age 50 years. Colonoscopy is the best method for polyp detection and removal. It decreases the incidence and mortality of colorectal cancer by 60-70%.

As per the new guidelines of the U.S Preventive Service Task Forces regular screenings are recommended from age 45 to 70 years. Colonoscopy helps in detection of polypoid outgrowths called polyp which itself is not cancer but is a precancerous lesion. If managed in a timely and appropriate manner it can help in prevention of colon cancer.

Colonoscopy is a procedure which is done to examine the surface of colon for outgrowths and irregularities. It is usually an outpatient procedure. The

sample taken is then sent for testing. Not only polyps but it can help in detection of other important disease processes like inflammatory bowel disease which requires close follow up as it does increase one's risk for colon cancer.

So next time you visit your doctor's office don't forget to schedule your colonoscopy if you are in the age group of 45-70 years.

Natasha Singh MD, FCAP, FASCP
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The need for quiet diplomacy to clear the air



BY VIVEK KATJU

INDIAN AND CANADIAN LEADERS AND DIPLOMATS HAVE NEVER REALLY ENGAGED; RATHER, THEY HAVE TALKED PASSED EACH OTHER. THIS IS OCCURRING TODAY TOO

"Indian frustrations with Canada on the Khalistan issue go back more than four decades. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was established in 1984. As many CSIS officers were taken from the police, they were aware of Khalistani activities which, as Stewart Bell notes in his work Cold Terror, began in 1969 when the Khalistan Commando Movement led by Jagjit Singh Chauhan "declared unilateral independence for Punjab" and set up "consulates" in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto. The Canadian authorities did not take these seriously even when it became apparent in the 1980s that Khalistani supporters were willing to use terror. Tragically, Air India's Kanishka bombing in June 1985 did not lead to a determination in Canada that terrorism was a universal threat. The threads of Khalistani terror go back to India's western neighbor. India has given evidence on this score but if Canada and other countries wish to have a quiet dialogue on any of these aspects, India should be willing to have one."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi extends his hand for a handshake with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau in New Delhi on February 23, 2018. File photo

Indian and Canadian leaders and diplomats have never really engaged; rather, they have talked passed each other. This is occurring today too. For decades, India has felt that Canada has shown scant respect for its interests, especially on the Khalistan issue. On the other hand, Canada believes that India displays little understanding of its laws and governance system, which prevents it from taking actions that India wants. These differing perceptions have been accumulating over the years and a trigger was needed to publicly bring them out. The Nijjar case has been just that.

Significantly, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "Canada has shared the credible allegations that I talked about... with India. We... are there to work constructively with India and we hope that they engage with us so that we can get to the bottom of this very serious matter". The operative words here are "constructively" and "engage". For India, the problem is that Canada has never shown a willingness for a constructive engagement on its concerns.

DIFFERING PERCEPTIONS

At the UN headquarters on September 21, Mr. Trudeau emphasized that Canada is a country based on the rule of law, and on the need for the global community to uphold a rules-based world order. Canada has obviously made the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar a test case for upholding such an order. Implicit in its approach is the proposition that whatever may be the grievances of a country against Canada, the causing of harm to any its nationals is unacceptable. Canada's allies - the U.S., the U.K., and Australia - are clearly endorsing this proposition by asking India to cooperate with

Canada in the investigation. The Indian government has called Mr. Trudeau's accusation "absurd" and "motivated," but has offered to look into Canadian concerns if it is given specific evidence.

For India, national laws cannot become a shield for calling for secession and staging protests which glorify murder. If there is an absence of such laws, then it is necessary for a country to enact them. What Canada is currently doing is condemning Khalistani propagandists involved in hate speech, but not taking legal action against them. There is also a deeper issue. The Canadian law enforcement system does not seem to trust the Indian system. Otherwise, what can be the reason for Khalistani supporters, accused of violence and murder in India, not being sent back to face the law? The principle of 'constructive engagement' that Canada wants demands a quiet engagement on the entire gamut of legal processes and practices of both countries so that all grievances can be satisfactorily addressed.

This is especially so because a strong body of Indians believes that Canadian approaches to governance systems of countries like India is colored, if not racist. For them, the intrusive questions raised by Canada of Indian visa seekers who belong to the security services are unacceptable, for example. They ask if U.S. and British security or defense services personnel who have served in the world's troubled spots or are accused of torture are asked similar questions. It is the sovereign right of states to give or deny visas, but it is clearly an infringement of the global rules-based order to seek answers that violate a country's laws and rules. A full bilateral engagement is needed on this issue too.

THE KHALISTAN ISSUE

Indian frustrations with Canada on the Khalistan issue go back more than four decades. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was established in 1984. As many CSIS officers were taken from the police, they were aware of Khalistani activities which, as Stewart Bell notes in his work Cold Terror, began in 1969 when the Khalistan Commando Movement led by Jagjit Singh Chauhan "declared unilateral independence for Punjab" and set up "consulates" in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto. The Canadian authorities did not take these seriously even when it became apparent in the 1980s that Khalistani supporters were willing to use terror. Tragically, Air India's Kanishka bombing in June 1985 did not lead to a determination in Canada that terrorism was a universal threat. The threads of Khalistani terror go back to India's western neighbor. India has given evidence on this score but if Canada and other countries wish to have a quiet dialogue on any of these aspects, India should be willing to have one.

This background is necessary to recall because it has contributed to Indian responses to Canada's recent charges. Besides, it would have been wiser for Mr. Trudeau to have sought "constructive engagement" in the Nijjar case in his remarks to the Canadian Parliament; instead, he used harsh language. Mr. Trudeau should have also refrained from expelling a senior Indian diplomat. That would have elicited a more measured Indian response. The Indian tradition of calmly but firmly responding to diplomatic situations has given way to 'giving it back'. This is popular but is it wise? Measured language is an attribute of strength.

Canadian officials have publicly refused to divulge the exact nature of the intelligence they possess. They have leaked to the media though that they have human and signals intelligence of India's involvement in Nijjar's murder. Naturally, all this has to be converted into evidence which will stand judicial scrutiny. Is this likely even if Canadian allies with Khalistani populations have made it known that they helped Canada gather intelligence in the case? Mutual recriminations are never helpful, especially in resolving issues in important bilateral relationships. Quiet and mature diplomacy is required to clear the air on the Nijjar case and on old but continuing issues.

(The author is a former Indian diplomat)

Women's Reservation Bill wrapped in uncertainties



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

THE QUESTION IS: WILL THE BILL ENSURE EQUITY IN REPRESENTATION OR WILL UPPER-CLASS/CASTE WOMEN CONTINUE TO HAVE INHERENT ADVANTAGES OVER THE OTHERS?

"As the BJP expediently shoved the sub-quota issue to a later date, will the celebrated Bill impact women voters in the impending state elections as well as the 2024 battle? The Congress and the BJP have worked hard to cultivate a gender vote bank through targeted programs in the states they rule. However, the atrocities against women and the manifest failure of the administration and the police to nail the criminals often detracted from the cutting-edge benefits of publicized schemes such as MP's Ladli Laxmi and Ladli Behana Yojana, Rajasthan's Udan scheme, Swavalamban Yojana and Mahila Nidhi and Chhattisgarh's Saraswati Bicycle Scheme and Godhan Nyay Yojana."

The deed is done, but the deal hangs mid-air, wrapped in uncertainties which a future government will need to unravel as and when the Act is implemented. The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008 - popularly known as the Women's Reservation Bill or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, as christened by the Narendra Modi government to emphasize the underlying message of gender empowerment - sailed through both Houses in the just-concluded special session of Parliament. While seeking to set aside one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies, the Act is riddled with complexities, not the least being its linkage to the delimitation exercise, whose fate itself is unknown. The coupling of the Act with

THE POLEMICAL BATTLE BETWEEN HINDUTVA AND MANDAL - MANDAL-KAMANDAL, AS IT WAS TERMED - WHICH DOMINATED THE NORTH'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN THE 1990S LOOKS SETTLED IN FAVOR OF HINDUTVA. MANY BELIEVED THAT CASTE IDENTITY WOULD TRUMP RELIGIOUS POLARIZATION, BUT FAITH HAS TAKEN PRECEDENCE, AT LEAST IN THE PRESENT PHASE.



The delimitation exercise will delay the implementation of the legislation.

Photo / PTI

delimitation raises the question - when can women expect to get the political representation they have been seeking for decades?

The other issue is the demand for a separate sub-quota for women from the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and minorities, both of which were raised mutedly, the latter more so in the pervading socio-political milieu. The Bill set aside the statutorily mandated quota for SC and ST women from the overall 33 per cent.

The call for an OBC sub-quota had scuppered attempts to pass the Bill in the past. It was a hangover of the Mandal era, which ushered in a new phase of OBC empowerment - or re-empowerment of the economically empowered - in the Hindi heartland. The southern states, pushed by social reformers and political radicals such as Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar and D Devaraj Urs in Karnataka, Narayana Guru in Kerala and EV Ramasamy Naicker (Periyar) and CN Annadurai in Tamil Nadu - accepted the sub-quota demand as an inevitability, but joined their colleagues from the north as and when it figured in Parliament.

Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Sharad Yadav, the leading lights of post-Mandal politics, championed the 'cause' of the OBC sub-quota for women. The Congress distanced itself since its then president Sonia Gandhi resolutely pushed for the Bill's passage in its existing form, but the BJP was in a pickle and conflicted over its stand. In principle, BJP leaders stressed that they wanted the Bill, but

in reality, the bloc of powerful OBC leaders it nurtured to catch up with the Manualized socialists was second to none in supporting the sub-quota demand. Those were the days when the writ of the BJP's top brass didn't necessarily prevail over its rank and file. Uma Bharti, backed by the male OBCs in her party, led the clamor for an OBC sub-quota.

Remarkably, when the Bill was finally passed, the sub-quota bugbear was submerged in the all-party enthusiasm over its passage and the celebrations which ensued once it was done. The Mandalites, especially those from the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal, were muted in their response. The only note of dissent was struck by the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), but nobody associated with its two MPs who voted against the Bill.

It appears as though Mandal politics might have run its course as its stormy petrel is no longer around in Parliament. Their successors, mostly legatees, are less caste-obsessed than their fathers. They look to enlarge their social alliances and engage with the upper castes by minimizing the scope for combat. The BJP has an OBC Prime Minister and a covetable bench strength of OBC MPs who seem least concerned about caste politics.

The polemical battle between Hindutva and Mandal - Mandal-Kamandal, as it was termed - which dominated the north's political landscape in the 1990s looks settled in favor of Hindutva. Many believed that

caste identity would trump religious polarization, but faith has taken precedence, at least in the present phase.

Strangely, the Congress doubled down on the demand for an OBC sub-quota after a long and uneasy relationship with the OBCs and Mandal. It appeared as though the party hoped that its carefully nurtured social equation of Brahmins-Muslims-Dalits in the heartland would endure even when politics entered a new chapter.

There was a Rip Van Winkle feel to the Congress, as though it had sleepwalked when the forces unleashed by Vandalization and Hindutva battled one another. The Congress's 'discovery' of the OBCs is an afterthought, but to be fair, it tried to catch up by appointing two OBC CMs in the heartland - Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel.

As the BJP expediently shoved the sub-quota issue to a later date, will the celebrated Bill impact women voters in the impending state elections as well as the 2024 battle? The Congress and the BJP have worked hard to cultivate a gender vote bank through targeted programs in the states they rule. However, the atrocities against women and the manifest failure of the administration and the police to nail the criminals often detracted from the cutting-edge benefits of publicized schemes such as MP's Ladli Laxmi and Ladli Behana Yojana, Rajasthan's Udan scheme, Swavalamban Yojana and Mahila Nidhi and Chhattisgarh's Saraswati Bicycle Scheme and Godhan Nyay Yojana.

Certainly, the BJP packaged the Bill with the Centre's other gender-oriented projects, such as the Ujjwala gas, toilets in villages, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, extended maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks and paid tap connections, to reinforce Modi's 'commitment' to improving the quality of life for women.

With or without the new Bill, women have emerged as vote blocs. The notable examples are Bihar, where women voted Nitish Kumar massively after he brought in prohibition, and West Bengal, where they rooted in a big way for Mamata Banerjee when she was pilloried and heckled by the BJP. In Gujarat, women are among the BJP's biggest supporters since 2002, when Modi led the party's election campaign.

The question that needs to be asked is: will the legislation ensure equity in representation or will the upper-class/upper-caste women continue to have inherent advantages over the others?

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

Hail to the Fraudster in Chief

And on Tuesday (September 26), Justice Arthur F. Engoron ruled in New York that Trump did, in fact, persistently commit fraud by overvaluing his assets, possibly by as much as \$2.2 billion.

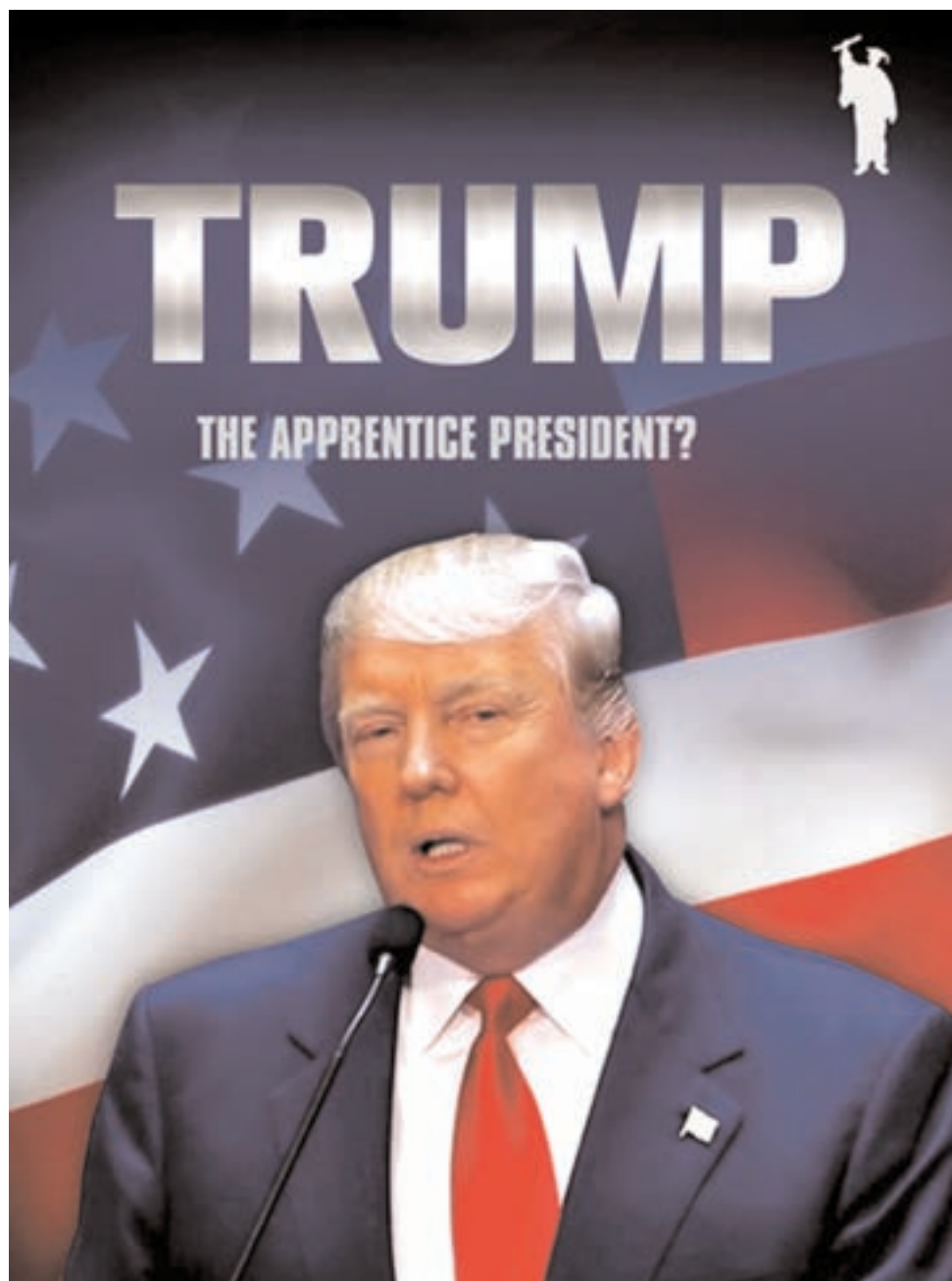


BY PAUL KRUGMAN

"FINALLY, TRUMP DECLARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT "MY CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM ME" AND THAT HE BORROWED MONEY FROM "SOPHISTICATED WALL STREET BANKS" THAT PRESUMABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASILY DECEIVED BY FRAUD. IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WALL STREET'S ATTITUDES TOWARD TRUMP, THAT'S A REAL HOOT. FOR YEARS, ONLY ONE MAJOR WALL STREET PLAYER, DEUTSCHE BANK, WAS WILLING TO DEAL WITH HIM AT ALL, LEADING TO MUCH PUZZLEMENT ABOUT THAT BANK'S MOTIVES. AND EVENTUALLY DEUTSCHE BANK ALSO PULLED THE PLUG, CITING CONCERNS ABOUT HIS FINANCIAL CLAIMS. TRUMP DID MANAGE TO PAY OFF THAT DEBT, ALTHOUGH IT'S A MYSTERY WHERE HE FOUND THE CASH. BUT AS I JUST EXPLAINED, GETTING LUCKY IS NO EXCUSE FOR FRAUD."

Ever since debt was invented in ancient Sumer, there have probably been people enriching themselves through bad investments. The trick is to make these investments using other people's money.

Suppose, for example, that a wheeler-dealer uses borrowed funds to make risky investments in New Jersey casinos. If the investments somehow end up making money, he can pocket the profits. But if the investments fail, he may - if he's been tricky about the wording in his loans or manages to persuade his



Trump wasn't a real business genius; he just played one on TV.

creditors not to go after his other assets - be able to walk away and leave other people holding the bag. That is, it's heads he wins, tails the creditors lose.

He may also be able to siphon off some of the borrowed money, say by having the casinos pay him or businesses he owns large sums for various services before they go bust.

As readers may have guessed, this isn't a hypothetical example. It is the story of Donald Trump's New Jersey casino empire, a venture ending in multiple bankruptcies that was a disaster for outside investors but appears to have been quite profitable for Trump.

The problem for someone who wants to play that game is how to persuade lenders to play along. Why would any people risk their money in such dubious ventures?

Well, there are a couple of ways to pull this off. One, perhaps the main story with those casinos, is sheer power of persuasion, perhaps supported by a cult of personality: Convince lenders that these dubious ventures are actually good investments or that you're a uniquely effective businessman who can turn

straw into gold.

Alternatively, you can try to persuade lenders that they're safe by offering collateral that seems sufficient to protect them but isn't, because you've inflated the value of the assets you put up and possibly also inflated your personal wealth to make it seem you are both a brilliant businessman and a reliable borrower.

Which is why making false claims about the value of assets you control is illegal. And on Tuesday, Justice Arthur F. Engoron ruled in New York that Trump did, in fact, persistently commit fraud by overvaluing his assets, possibly by as much as \$2.2 billion.

Trump and his lawyers offered, as I read it, three main defenses against accusations of fraud.

First, they argued that the value of real estate is, to some extent, subjective. Indeed, if you own a building, you don't know for sure what it's worth until you try to sell it.

But while there's some wiggle room in valuing real estate, it's limited. And Engoron ruled that Trump went far beyond those limits, creating a "fantasy

world" of indefensible valuations. For example, the Trump Organization treated rent-regulated apartments as being worth as much as noncontrolled apartments. The judge made special note of Trump's claim that he had a 30,000-square-foot residence in New York, when the true number was only 11,000; square footage isn't subjective.

Second, Trump's lawyers argued that banks that lent to him got repaid in full, so there was no harm done. Of course, that wasn't true for lenders caught up in Trump's earlier bankruptcies. More generally, playing heads-I-win-tails-you-lose based on fraudulent valuations isn't legal even if sometimes the bets come up heads.

Finally, Trump declared on social media that "my Civil Rights have been taken away from me" and that he borrowed money from "sophisticated Wall Street banks" that presumably wouldn't have been easily deceived by fraud. If you know anything about Wall Street's attitudes toward Trump, that's a real hoot. For years, only one major Wall Street player, Deutsche Bank, was willing to deal with him at all, leading to much puzzlement about that bank's motives. And eventually Deutsche Bank also pulled the plug, citing concerns about his financial claims. Trump did manage to pay off that debt, although it's a mystery where he found the cash. But as I just explained, getting lucky is no excuse for fraud.

What's remarkable about Engoron's finding that Trump committed large-scale fraud (it's now a ruling, not a mere accusation) is what it says about the man who became president and the voters who supported him.

Back in 2016, some observers warned conventional political analysts that they were underrating Trump's chances because they didn't appreciate how many Americans believed that he was a brilliant businessman - a belief based largely on his role on the reality TV show "The Apprentice." What we now know is that the old joke was, in Trump's case, the simple truth: He wasn't a real business genius; he just played one on TV.

But the truth is that this was obvious, to anyone willing to see, from the beginning of Trump's political rise.

I'd like to predict that this ruling will finally destroy Trump's public persona. In reality, however, his supporters will probably brush this ruling off, partly because they'll view it as the product of a left-wing conspiracy, partly because at this late date, few of those who backed him will be willing to admit that they were taken in by a charlatan.

But they were. And the fact that so many Americans were and remain fooled should lead to some serious national soul-searching.

(Paul Krugman is opinion columnist with New York Times)



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Elon Musk livestreams from Texas 'unfiltered' situation of migrants from US-Mexico border



Elon Musk livestreams from Texas 'unfiltered' situation of migrants from US-Mexico border
Credit / ANI

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

TEXAS (TIP): Amidst the ongoing migrant crisis in the US, billionaire Elon Musk visited the Texas border with Mexico and live-streamed his tour of the area to give people a sense of the real situation of the migrant crisis, reported Fox News.

"Went to the Eagle Pass border crossing to see what's really going on," Musk posted on the X app on Thursday, September 28.

Musk, wearing a black cowboy hat, live-streamed on his platform and said that he was going to go around and speak with officials and "eyeball the situation to get the real story." "This is real-time, unfiltered," he said. "What you see is what I see" Musk said.

The SpaceX founder and CEO has displayed major interest in the ongoing crisis at the border.

He has also posted about the migrant

situation frequently on his social media platform 'X', Fox News reported.

Earlier on Tuesday, he said that he had spoken with US Representative for Texas Tony Gonzales and discussed the ongoing crisis. In the conversation, Gonzales confirmed it was a "serious issue".

Being an immigrant himself, Musk said, he is "extremely pro-immigrant". However, he explained that there needs to be expanded immigration that allows hardworking and honest people to legally come to the US, but not allow immigrants who are going to break the law, reported Fox News. During his visit the southern border in Eagle Pass, Texas on Thursday, he raised one of the fears that the flow of illegal immigrants into the country could lead to the collapse of social services, just as New York City was buckling under the pressure of migrants being bused there from Texas.

Moreover, after Musk's livestream, he

was flooded with comments. One user said, "Good to see Elon having to do the job of the MSM and of the politicians who are literally paid to do this but refuse." Several users loved and praised that Musk was live streaming from the border town, according to Fox News.

Earlier this week, Mexico made an agreement with the United States to deport migrants from its border cities to their home countries and take several actions, CNN reported.

As part of the agreement, Mexico agreed to "depressurize" its northern cities, which border El Paso, San Diego and Eagle Pass, Texas, where the mayor has declared a state of emergency. They will also implement more than a dozen actions to prevent migrants from risking their lives by using the railway system to reach the US-Mexico border, according to Mexico's National Migration Institute.

Congressman Thanedar launches Hindu Buddhist Sikh and Jain American Congressional caucus



Congressman Shri Thanedar has announced the formation of a new Congressional caucus aimed at protecting the interests of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar has announced the formation of a new Congressional caucus aimed at protecting the interests of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains. To be formally launched on Friday, September 29, the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain (HBSJ) American Congressional caucus is being supported by two dozen lawmakers, Thanedar said on Thursday. The caucus would provide a platform for fostering dialogue, promoting understanding and raising awareness about the specific needs and concerns of these communities.

It aims to combat religious discrimination and promote religious freedom for Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, and Jains. It would also ensure accurate representation and inclusion of Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain perspectives in policy discussions.

The caucus will address cultural misunderstandings, promote interfaith dialogue and harmony and support initiatives to promote Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain Americans' well-being, education, and empowerment.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US Congress recognizes two Indian spiritual leaders for their contributions towards global peace



Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Acharya Lokesh Muni have been recognized by the US Congress for their efforts towards global peace and harmony.

File photo / X (formerly Twitter)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US Congress has recognized two Indian spiritual leaders, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Acharya Lokesh Muni, for their efforts towards global peace and harmony.

"With his message of peace and commitment to education and humanitarianism, Gurudev has lived a life dedicated to the betterment of others," Indian American Congressman

Raja Krishnamoorthi said in his remarks in the House of Representatives.

Describing Ravi Shankar as a global humanitarian and spiritual leader, Krishnamoorthi said for over 40 years, he has helped guide individuals in Illinois and throughout the world in their search for inner peace with his programs rooted in meditation and yoga.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

World Culture Festival to send message of global unity



beginning at the National Mall here on Friday which will see an unprecedented performance from more than 17,000 artists from over 100 countries. "This festival could not have arrived in this iconic place at any better time. With so much polarization around us, and so much negativity, mental health challenges abound during that time.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Olympic-scale World Culture Festival to be attended by thousands of people from over 100 countries and a gathering of global leaders would send a message of global unity, organizers of the mega event have said. More than 600,000 people have registered for the three-day event

Ramaswamy wants to end H-1B visa system, says it's 'indentured servitude': Report



Indian-American GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has pledged to get rid of the H1B visa system if he is voted to power in 2024

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Calling the much sought-after H-1B visa system "indentured servitude", Indian-American GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has pledged to get rid of it if voted to power in 2024, the Politico reported. Having himself used the system 29 times in the past to hire highly-skilled professionals for his pharma company, Ramaswamy said that the temporary worker visas system is "bad for everyone involved", and the US needs to eliminate chain-based migration.

"The lottery system needs to be replaced by actual meritocratic admission. It's a form of indentured servitude that only accrues to the benefit of the company that sponsored an H-1B immigrant. I'll gut it," Politico quoted the 38-year-old entrepreneur as saying. "The people who come as family members are not the meritocratic immigrants who make skills-based contributions to this country," Ramaswamy, born to immigrant parents from Kerala, added.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 29 applications for Ramaswamy's former company, Roivant Sciences, to hire employees under H-1B visas from 2018 through 2023, the report said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Knoxville City Council member Seema Singh running for Tennessee House



Seema Singh, has announced she will run as a Democrat to represent District 90, on the north side of Knoxville, in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

KNOXVILLE (TIP): Seema Singh, an Indian American member of Knoxville City Council, has announced she will run as a Democrat to represent District 90, on the north side of Knoxville, in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

That seat is currently held by Rep Gloria Johnson, a fellow Democrat running for the US Senate seat now held by Republican Sen Marsha Blackburn.

"I feel like I will be there (as a) bookmark for sanity," Singh told Knox News Sep 20. "I will try to bring up the points of view that I think are important and push ahead for a lot of people who

are not being represented or listened to."

Her platform issues will be the funding of healthcare and education, defending women's reproductive rights and economic issues.

"The state of Tennessee continues to say how we're thriving," she said. "But what I continue to see ... is people being unhoused." Singh was elected to the city council to represent the 3rd District in 2017, becoming first South Asian American to be elected to any public office in East Tennessee. She was re-elected in 2021 for another four-year term.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American candidate Taral Patel targeted with racist messages on social media

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Taral Patel, an Indian American policy expert, who is running for Fort Bend County Commissioner in Texas, says he has received racist and xenophobic messages on social media.

Patel, 29, a Democrat running from Precinct 3, shared a photo in a news release of some of the messages he's received online.

Some social media users wrote that he is a foreigner and is trying to take away people's freedom and guns. They questioned if he was "even" born in America.

Other people said they support Andy Meyers, the current commissioner, because he is Christian while Patel and his followers worship monkeys and elephants.

"As your Democratic candidate for County Commissioner, I am always open to criticism of my policy positions and stances on issues," Patel stated.

"However, when my Republican opponent's supporters decide to hurl #racist, #anti-immigrant, #Hinduphobic, or otherwise disgusting insults at my family, faith community, colleagues, and me - that crosses a line."

"Fort Bend County's diversity has



Taral Patel says he has received racist and xenophobic messages on social media.

made us all stronger, and these hateful images, a small sample attached here, are from a place of deep and misguided fear - incited by people like former President Donald Trump and today's extremist Republican party fear that immigrants are 'taking their jobs' and setting out to hurt our own communities," Patel stated.

Patel was previously the chief of staff for Fort Bend County. He grew up in the county, went to local schools, and said he is a proud American. Patel also said his campaign is focused on hard work and respect for all communities. 2023)

He quoted Fort Bend County Judge KP George, who also received xenophobic comments in the past.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian-origin firms among Earthshot Prize 2023 finalists



Boomitra and S4S Technologies figure among the Earthshot Prize's third class of 15 global innovators, entrepreneurs, community leaders and activists working to find cutting-edge solutions to climate change. Photo for representation only

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : Two firms founded by persons of Indian origin figure among the Earthshot Prize's third class of 15 global innovators, entrepreneurs, community leaders and activists working to find cutting-edge solutions to climate change.

Each of the finalists will be in the running to receive one of the five £1 million prizes awarded at the third-annual Earthshot Prize awards ceremony in Singapore in November.

Prince William and The Earthshot Prize announced the 15 Finalists for this year's

Prize at the second Earthshot Innovation Summit in New York earlier this month.

The 15 innovators honored as Earthshot Finalists represent six continents and were chosen from more than 1,300 nominees.

Founded by Prince William in 2020, The Earthshot Prize aims to discover and help scale the world's most innovative climate and environmental solutions to protect and restore our planet.

Boomitra, a US based company founded by Indian American Aadith Moorthy, who hails from Karnataka, has been chosen in "Fix Our Climate" category.

His company is a soil carbon marketplace that rewards farmers for sustainable land management practices.

Boomitra, which means "friend of the earth" in Sanskrit, works with more than 150,000 farmers managing more than five million acres of land in some of the poorest parts of Africa, South America and Asia.

Satellites and AI technology are used to monitor improvements farmers make to the soil, tracking its ability to store carbon over time. In exchange, companies and governments looking to offset their emissions can purchase independently verified carbon credits from Boomitra's marketplace.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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BORN OCTOBER 2, 1869

Remembering Father of the Nation Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on his 154th birthday

United Nations in 2007 decided to observe Gandhi's birthday, October 2, as International Day of Non-violence

The birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, October 2, is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence. It was established on 15 June 2007 according to United Nations General Assembly resolution. The day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence through education and public awareness and reaffirm the desire for a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence". It is not a public holiday, but is observed around the world in various ways, often to draw attention to global issues. Its date and purpose correspond with those of the Indian national public holiday of Gandhi Jayanti.

Biography

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, India. He became one of the most respected spiritual and political leaders of the 1900's. Gandhi helped free the Indian people from British rule through nonviolent resistance, and is honoured by Indians as the father of the Indian Nation. He was highly influenced by Thoreau, Tolstoy, Ruskin, and above all the life of Jesus Christ. The Bible, precisely the Sermon of the Mount and the Bagavad -Gita had a great influence on him. The Indian people called Gandhi 'Mahatma', meaning Great Soul. At the age of 13 Gandhi married Kasturba, a girl the same age. Their parents arranged the marriage. The Gandhis had four children. Gandhi studied law in London and returned to India in 1891 to practice. In 1893 he took on a one-year contract to do legal work in South Africa.

At the time the British controlled South Africa (though South Africa as such did not exist at that time, and the British did not control all of it by any means. In fact the Boer War (1898-1900) established the supremacy of the British over the Dutch (Boers) and eventually led to the Union of South Africa. Gandhi served as a medical attendant in this war.) When he attempted to claim his rights as a British subject he was abused, and soon saw that all Indians suffered similar treatment. Gandhi stayed in South Africa for 21 years working to secure rights for Indian people. He developed a method of action based upon the principles of courage, non-violence and truth called Satyagraha. He believed that the way people behave is more important than what they achieve. Satyagraha promoted nonviolence and civil disobedience as the most appropriate methods for obtaining political and social goals. In 1915 Gandhi returned to India. Within 15 years he became the leader of the Indian nationalist movement. Using the principles of Satyagraha he led the



Mahatma Gandhi with his wife Kasturba Gandhi.

campaign for Indian independence from Britain. Gandhi was arrested many times by the British for his activities in South Africa and India. He believed it was honourable to go to jail for a just cause. More than once Gandhi used fasting to impress upon others the need to be nonviolent. India was granted independence in 1947, and partitioned into India and Pakistan. Rioting between Hindus and Muslims followed. Gandhi had been an advocate for a united India where Hindus and Muslims lived together in peace.

There are five great contributions which Mahatma Gandhi gave to the world

as follows: (1) A New spirit and technique- Satyagraha; (2) The Emphasis that the moral universe is one and that the morals of individuals, groups, and nations must be the same. (3) His insistence that the means and the ends must be consistent; (4) The fact that he held no ideals he did not embody or was not in the process of embodying. (5) A willingness to suffer and die for his principles. The greatest of these is his Satyagraha.

Gandhi, Truth and Ahimsa

"My religion is based on Truth and Non-Violence. Truth is my God. Non-Violence is the means of realising him"

- Mahatma Gandhi

The idea of Truth is the principle on which Mahatma laid the thrust of the methodology he referred to as "Satyagraha", where he emphasised the need to search for Truth. For Gandhi, nothing exists in reality but the Truth. Devotion to what is true is the only justification for a person's existence. The general understanding of Truth only indicates that one must speak the Truth. However, the word Satya/Truth has a broader connotation for Mahatma. The Truth has to be observed not only in one's speech but also in thought and action.

Mahatma's idea of Satyagraha, where 'Satya' means Truth and 'agraha' translates to insistence, implies following the path of Truth. It is the demonstration of the Truth that does not seek vengeance but appeals to the oppressor's conscience to see what is true. Satyagraha is resistance, but it cannot be equated to passiveness. It is not the weapon of the weak. It is a power that only the strong have, as it demands intense activity. It neither implies any hatred nor destruction. It recognises the difference between evil and evil-doers. This is a significant distinction Satyagraha recognises. It understands that the oppressor is not the enemy but only away from the Truth and can be convinced (not forced) to know the Truth.

Gandhi and Ahimsa

The word Ahimsa is loosely translated to Non-Violence. Ahimsa means "lacking any desire to kill". It means to be harmless to oneself, others, and all living beings. But that is only a limited definition of what he meant by Ahimsa or Non-Violence. Gandhi gained an understanding of Hinduism and Jainism in his childhood, and perhaps, that was the significant influence that allowed him to advocate for Ahimsa. His belief in non-violence was demonstrated when he decided to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement at its height after a peaceful demonstration turned into a violent conflict at Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur.

For him, there was no space for violence. He advocated Ahimsa (Non-Violence) in his idea of Satyagraha, a method used for mass mobilisation. While the Truth was the foundation of his philosophy, Ahimsa was the guiding law that should be followed by each Satyagrahi.

Ahimsa has two different connotations. In the narrow sense, it means not harming the other or oneself by body or mind. In the positive and broader sense, it denotes infinite love and charity.

He says,

"..in its negative form, [Ahimsa] means

not injuring any living being whether by body or mind. I may not, therefore, hurt the person of any wrong-doer or bear any ill-will to him and so cause him mental suffering. In its positive form, Ahimsa means the largest love, the greatest charity. If I am a follower of Ahimsa, I must love my enemy or a stranger to me as I would my wrong-doing father or son. This active Ahimsa necessarily included Truth and fearlessness."

How Gandhi shaped our Independence

Mahatma Gandhi was the leader who guided India towards Independence. India was under the British rule for over 250 years. Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915 at the request of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Gandhi's contribution to the Indian freedom movement cannot be measured in words. He, along with other freedom fighters, compelled the British to leave India. His policies and agendas were non-violent and his words were the source of inspiration for millions.

Let's look at Mahatma Gandhi's famous contributions to Indian freedom movement:

1. World War I

Lord Chelmsford, the then Viceroy of India, invited Gandhi to Delhi at a War Conference. In order to gain the trust of the empire, Gandhi agreed to move people to enlist in the army for World War I. However, he wrote to the Viceroy and said that he "personally will not kill or injure anybody, friend or foe".

2. Champaran

The Champaran agitation in Bihar was Gandhi's first active involvement into Indian freedom politics. The Champaran farmers were being forced to grow Indigo and were being tortured if they protested.

The farmers sought Gandhi's help and through a calculated non-violent protest, Gandhi managed to win concessions from the authority.

3. Kheda

When Kheda, a village in Gujarat, was badly hit by floods, the local farmers appealed to the rulers to waive off the taxes. Here, Gandhi started a signature campaign where peasants pledged non-payment of taxes.

He also arranged a social boycott of the mamlatdars and talatdars (revenue officials). In 1918, the Government relaxed the conditions of payment of revenue tax until the famine ended.

4. Khilafat Movement

Gandhi's influence on the Muslim population was remarkable. This was evident in his involvement in the Khilafat Movement. After the first World War, the Muslims feared for the safety of their Caliph or religious leader and a worldwide protest was being organised to fight against the collapsing status of the Caliph.

Gandhi became a prominent spokesperson of the All India Muslim Conference and returned the medals he had received from the Empire during his Indian Ambulance Corps days in South Africa. His role in the Khilafat made him a national leader in no time.

5. Non-cooperation Movement

Gandhi had realised that the British had been able to be in India only because of the co-operation they received from



Mahatma Gandhi during Dandi March.



the Indians. Keeping this in mind, he called for a non-cooperation movement.

With the Congress' support and his indomitable spirit, he convinced people that peaceful non-cooperation was the key to Independence. The ominous day of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre triggered the non-cooperation movement. Gandhi set the goal of Swaraj or self-governance, which since then became the motto of Indian freedom movement.

6. Salt March

Also known as the Dandi Movement, Gandhi's Salt March is considered to be a pivotal incident in the history of freedom struggle. At the Calcutta Congress of 1928, Gandhi declared that the British must grant India dominion status or the country will erupt into a revolution for complete independence. The British did not pay heed to this.

As a result, on December 31, 1929, the Indian flag was unfurled in Lahore and the next January 26 was celebrated as the Indian Independence Day. Then, Gandhi started a Satyagraha campaign against the salt tax in March 1930. He marched 388 kilometres from Ahmedabad to Dandi in Gujarat to make salt. Thousands of people joined him and made it one of the biggest marches in Indian history.

7. Quit India Movement

During the Second World War, Gandhi was determined to strike the British Empire with a definitive blow that would secure their exit from India. This happened when the British started recruiting Indians for the war.

Gandhi protested strongly and said

that the Indians cannot be involved in a war that is in favour of democratic purposes when India itself is not a free country. This argument exposed the two-faced image of the colonisers and within half a decade, they were out of this country.

How the Mahatma influenced and inspired people in other countries

Regarded by many as the greatest leader of the Indian independence movement, Gandhi's legacy and teachings continue to have a huge global influence even seven decades after his death.

Despite the moniker affectionately bestowed upon him by Indians, the truth is that Gandhi, as a person and a symbol, belongs to the whole of humanity. As Dr Martin Luther King Jr himself put it, 'If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk.'

The quote is particularly telling in that it speaks of a man who strived to live a life tethered to a carefully crafted value system that has come to be admired by so many of history's most important leaders.

When Gandhi first returned to India in 1915 from South Africa, he found himself aghast at the poverty and exploitation that his fellow countrymen were subject to. The next few years and decades would see him discover and hone unprecedented ways to unify a populace, challenge an

What others said about Mahatma Gandhi

"It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi, a seditious middle temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir of a type well known in the east, striding half-naked up the steps of the viceregal palace, while he is still organizing and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience, to parley on equal terms with the representative of the king-emperor."

Winston Churchill, 1930

"Friends and Comrades, the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere."

Jawaharlal Nehru, 1948 on the death of Gandhiji

"Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this walked the earth in flesh and blood."

Albert Einstein, 1948

"If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

"Mahatma Gandhi will go down in history on par with Buddha and Jesus Christ."

Lord Mountbatten

"He is a man among men, a hero among heroes, a patriot among patriots and we may well say that in him Indian humanity at the present time has really reached its high water-mark."

Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

imperialist authority, and ultimately spark a grand revolution. Through a political movement premised on non-violent civil disobedience, better known as 'Satyagraha,' the Mahatma would show the world the transformational impact that persistence, conviction, honesty, and truth could have.

Himself inspired by greats like Russian author Leo Tolstoy, English art critic John Ruskin, and American writer Henry David Thoreau, Gandhi forged an ideology on social harmony, inclusion and simplicity that instantly resonated with those who came to dedicate their lives to social service. From Martin Luther King Jr to Nelson Mandela to Ho Chi Minh and even the Dalai Lama, nearly every great leader has sought to learn and borrow from a rare man who strived to live his life by the same principles he preached.

But Gandhi was more than just a symbol of beneficence. His intellectual astuteness coupled with a unique sensitivity to the Indian masses allowed him to foresee challenges that many others couldn't. For instance, he understood the problems that would arrive with the onset of modernisation and laid them bare in his work Hind Swaraj, published in 1909. He consistently spoke of the importance of making India a self-reliant nation in the face of rapid industrialisation, warning against the destruction of the environment and the death of the local economy. 'The world has enough for everyone's need, but not greed,' he once said.

Teacher asks Muslim student to slap Hindu classmate in UP, arrested

In a similar incident to the Muzaffarnagar school row, a school teacher in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal was arrested on Thursday, September 28, for allegedly instructing a Class 5 Muslim student to slap a Hindu classmate as a punishment for not answering a question, news agency PTI reported citing the police. In the latest incident, which took place on Tuesday at a private school in Dugawar village under the Asmoli police station limits in Sambhal, the teacher allegedly incited communal hatred by engaging two children. A police official had said the victim's father has lodged a complaint saying that the incident has hurt his son's religious sentiments. He claimed that the class teacher got his son slapped by a Muslim student after he could not answer a question asked by her.

Based on the complaint, an FIR under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, etc.) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) was lodged against the accused teacher, additional SP Shrish Chandra told PTI.

Last month, a similar incident came to light from Muzaffarnagar's Khubbapur village where a private school teacher, Tripta Tyagi, had got a Muslim boy repeatedly slapped in the classroom by his Hindu classmates for allegedly not doing homework. A video of the incident had gone viral on social media. A case was registered against the woman teacher under IPC sections 323 (voluntary causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace).

In the viral video, students could be seen taking turns to slap the Muslim boy who was standing in front of the class crying.

Cong MLA arrested in AAP ruled Punjab; rift likely to widen in INDIA bloc

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

Punjab Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira was on Thursday, September 28, arrested in connection with a case surrounding the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, pertaining to the year 2015, even as the Congress party reacted sharply, terming the move as 'politically motivated' by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), indicative of widening rift between the Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) partners.

The AAP justified the arrest of the Congress MLA and dismissed the allegation of any 'political vendetta'.

The arrest of the Congress leader is being seen as a jolt to the INDIA bloc unity in the run-up to the 2024 parliamentary election as the relations between the Congress and the AAP could sour as their leaders have been vocal against any political alliance with each other in Punjab.

While as at the national level, the AAP and the Congress party have got together as a part of the INDIA bloc, in Punjab the state units of both the parties have expressed their reservations surrounding any political alliance for the general election. Since the outset, senior leaders of Congress's Punjab unit have been critical of the alliance with the AAP. The Congress leaders have been consistently pointing out to the party's 'high command' that the AAP had unleashed a 'witch-hunt' campaign against the Congress leaders and workers by allegedly misusing the police and investigation agencies.

The AAP's state leadership has also clearly dismissed the possibility of an alliance with the Congress. Punjab



Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira

Tourism Minister Anmol Gagan Maan recently stated there would be no alliance of the Aam Aadmi Party with the Congress party in Punjab, and that the party's state unit has taken the decision not to have the alliance in Punjab.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) team of the Punjab Police team led by Superintendent of Police Manjeet Singh raided the Chandigarh residence of Khaira in the early hours of Thursday morning. Khaira, MLA from Bholath constituency had been relentlessly attacking the AAP government, accusing it of failing to fulfil its pre-poll promises and time and again questioned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's style of working asserting he was being "remote controlled" by "Delhi Durbar" and his actions were against the interests of Punjab.

Terming the arrest of Khaira as an act of 'political vendetta', the leader of the Opposition in Punjab, Congress's Partap Singh Bajwa said "The arrest of Senior Congress Leader and Bolath MLA Sukhpal Khaira is extremely deplorable. The AAP-led Punjab government has stooped to an all-time low and resorted to vendetta politics. Sukhpal Singh Khaira has been outspoken and raised his voice against the wrongdoings and irregularities committed by Chief Minister Bhagwat Mann's government. The Punjab Congress under the ambit of law will leave no stone unturned to get him released," he said.

Justifying the arrest of Khaira, the AAP said that the SIT had found enough evidence during the investigation that Sukhpal Khaira had been involved in drug smuggling, and hence he was arrested.

AAP Punjab Chief Spokesperson Malvinder Singh Kang said that the AAP government is working rigorously to eliminate the drug mafia from Punjab and free our youth from drug addiction. He said that Sukhpal Khaira's arrest has no political vendetta behind it. His arrest was made on the basis of evidence found against him during the SIT investigation.

Kang said that in 2022, the Supreme Court had given relief to Mr. Khaira in the case, but the court had clearly written in its order that the Punjab Police could re-investigate the case. Based on the order of the Supreme Court, an SIT of Punjab Police started re-investigation of this case, he said.

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Cheema also reacted sharply, saying there's nothing happening in Punjab apart from vendetta politics.

Source: The Hindu

MS Swaminathan, father of India's Green Revolution, dies at 98

NEW DELHI (TIP)



M.S. Swaminathan, the renowned Indian agricultural scientist and the driving force behind India's Green Revolution, passed away on Thursday, September 28, at the age of 98.

Known as the "Father of Economic Ecology" by the United Nations Environment Programme, Swaminathan's groundbreaking work in the 1960s and 1970s revolutionised Indian agriculture, helping the country to stave off widespread famine and achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

Swaminathan's pioneering efforts involved the development and introduction of high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice, which significantly increased food grain production across India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, mourning his demise, said that at a very critical period in our nation's

history, his groundbreaking work in agriculture transformed the lives of millions and ensured food security for our nation. Using the social networking platform X, previously known as Twitter, the prime minister added "Beyond his revolutionary contributions to agriculture, Dr. Swaminathan was a powerhouse of innovation and a nurturing mentor to many. His unwavering commitment to research and mentorship has left an indelible mark on countless scientists and innovators."

His innovative approach to agriculture, combining modern scientific techniques with a deep understanding of local conditions and needs, transformed the lives of countless low-income farmers and contributed to the nation's economic growth.

In recognition of his monumental contributions, Swaminathan was awarded the first World Food Prize in

1987. He used the prize money to establish the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai, further cementing his commitment to sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices.

His other notable accolades include the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971 and the Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986.

Beyond his work in India, Swaminathan was an influential figure on the global stage, contributing to various international agricultural and environmental initiatives. He was named one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century by Time magazine, reflecting his far-reaching impact.

Swaminathan is survived by his wife, Mina, and their three daughters, Soumya, Madhura, and Nitya. His passing marks the end of an era in Indian agriculture.

Source: India Today

Assam shocker: Three men kill minor girl, have sex with her body

The Assam police on Thursday, September 28, arrested three men, including a railway employee, for allegedly strangling a minor girl to death in Assam's Karimganj district and then engaging in sex with her body.

The minor's body was found beside Karimganj town bypass on September 9, the day she was murdered.

The harrowing incident took place on September 9 at around 11pm when the three accused forcibly entered the victim's house, killed her, and later had sex with her body, said SP Partha Pratim Das.

"On September 9, an incident was reported from Medal Part-I where the body of a minor girl was found in her home during the absence of her parents. Accordingly, we registered a case under Section 376 of the IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act. The post-mortem examination was done at Silchar Medical College," said police.

During the investigation, police found a mobile number in the notebook of the deceased girl and arrested Biplab Paul, Shubra Malakar and Rahul Das.

Rahul Das revealed that he had tried to develop a physical relation with the victim girl, which was not successful as the girl had denied it.

Source: ANI

75-yr-old man convicted of rape, murder gets bail after 40-yr trial

The Supreme Court (SC) has granted bail to a 75-year-old man convicted of rape and murder after a 40-year trial and asked the Calcutta High Court to take up his appeal on a priority basis.

"The trial came to an end with the order of conviction of the appellant on April 21. The appellant was throughout on bail. The present age of the appellant is about 75 years. The appeal before the HC has been admitted for final hearing," a Bench led by Justice AS Oka said. It said normally, the SC should not issue a direction to a constitutional court or any other court to fix a schedule to decide a case. However, this case had a peculiar feature that the trial took 40 years to conclude. "We, therefore, request the high court to give out of turn priority to the disposal of the appeal in accordance with law," the Bench said on September 25 while hearing an appeal filed by the convict challenging the May 17 HC order rejecting his bail plea.

Source: TNS

India moves to secure key flashpoint at LAC

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Racing to reshape the strategic landscape of Ladakh, where China's predatory conduct and military ambitions have led to a lingering border spat, India is on the verge of completing an ambitious project to provide much-needed alternative connectivity to a remote, strategically important outpost near the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC), top officials aware of the matter said on Thursday, September 28.

The new road to Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO), India's northernmost military base, will permit movement of soldiers, weapons and logistics to reinforce the front lines. The new road cannot be sighted from across the LAC, an advantage denied by the only existing road to DBO from Darbuk, said one of the officials requesting anonymity. And the fact that it is farther away from the LAC also means that it is less vulnerable to attacks from across the line.

It will be ready to support critical military movement by November-end and is expected to be fully blacktopped in a year, he added. Around 2,000 people are working on meeting the deadline.

The construction of the 130km road from Sasoma in the Nubra Valley to DBO near the Karakoram Pass has entered its final and most challenging phase that will require the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to finish a stretch in steep glaciated terrain and build a bridge on the Shyok River, Hindustan Times has learnt.

Work on the Sasoma-Saser La-Saser Brangsa-Gapshan-DBO road gathered momentum three years ago in the backdrop of escalating military tensions between India and China: the two countries have been locked in a standoff



since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border crisis through ongoing negotiations still appears elusive.

Depsang, which falls in the DBO sector, is one of the problem areas.

"Latest technologies are being employed to clear construction hurdles in the final lap," said a second official, who also asked not to be named. The road falls under Hardness Index-III, which is BRO's top-most classification for tough projects.

The existing 255km Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road runs close to the LAC. Sasoma and Darbuk can be reached from Leh via two different road axes.

Several key sections of the Sasoma-Saser La-Saser Brangsa-Gapshan-DBO road have been completed, the officials said, sharing granular details with HT.

Of the 52km stretch between Sasoma and the 17,600-foot Saser La, 46 kilometres have been blacktopped and only 6 kilometres remain, but this glaciated patch is the most difficult to build and BRO is using geocells (three-dimensional, expandable panels made of polymer) to stabilise the road and increase its bearing capacity. This stretch will be fully ready by November.

The connectivity between Saser La and Saser Brangsa has been achieved, and blacktopping of the 27-km stretch will be complete by October 2024. Work on the 42-km Saser Brangsa-Gapshan stretch is in full swing -- a road length of 31km has been built while 11 kilometres remain, and the full stretch will be blacktopped within a year. The 10km stretch between Gapshan and DBO will also be ready next year.

Source: HT

Committee formed to probe 'excessive use' of force on protesters in Manipur

IMPHAL (TIP)

The Manipur government on Thursday, constituted a committee to verify complaints of alleged use of excessive force on protesters, mainly students, by security forces here over the last two days, an official order said.

The order issued by the DGP said, "There have been various reports/allegations of use of excess force by the security forces to maintain law and order over the last few days in Imphal area."

The committee will be headed by IGP (Administration) K Jayanta, the order said, adding that it will "submit the report at the earliest."

Violent protests rocked Manipur's capital for two days on Tuesday and Wednesday as thousands of students protested the kidnapping and killing of two youths, pictures of whose bodies had gone viral.

On Tuesday night, a clash occurred between RAF personnel and locals over the murder of the duo, prompting the law enforcers to lob tear gas shells and fire rubber bullets at the agitators and baton-charge them, leaving 45 of the protesters, mostly students, injured.

On Wednesday, around 20 protesters were injured in similar clashes with security forces.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Committee on Manipur



Integrity (COCOMI) has condemned the "brutal act of RAF and security forces" against student protesters on Wednesday and termed it as a "violation of human rights."

Two school students were badly injured after being hit by "multiple pellet bullets" fired by security forces during the students' protest rally against the killing of the two youths.

One student had more than thirty pellets lodged on the back of his head while another had his shoulder torn open after being hit by a lethal weapon, hospital officials told reporters.

Source: PTI

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, TO OCTOBER 5, 2023

29 SEPTEMBER



1932 The actor, producer-director Mahmood Ali was born.

1959 Aarati Saha became the first Asian woman to cross the English Channel.

1836 Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established.

1971 About 10 thousand people died due to cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal.

1837 The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II took over the rule of Delhi.

1962 Birla Planetarium opens in Kolkata.

1928 India's first National Security Advisor Brijesh Mishra was born.

30 SEPTEMBER

1993 In Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, more than 10 thousand people died due to earthquake and millions were rendered homeless.

2003 The famous Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess Championship.



2010 The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ruled in the disputed Babri Masjid case, dividing the land into three parts and giving one part each to Ramlala, Nirmohi Akhara and Waqf Board.

2007 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey was selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2009.

01 OCTOBER

1962 The war started between India and China over the border dispute.

1574 The third Sikh Guru Amardas died.

1847 Anne Besant, a member of the Theosophical Society, who played a major role in India's freedom movement, was born in London.

1854 The introduction of postage stamps started in

India.

1919 Famous Urdu poet Majrooh Sultanpuri was born.



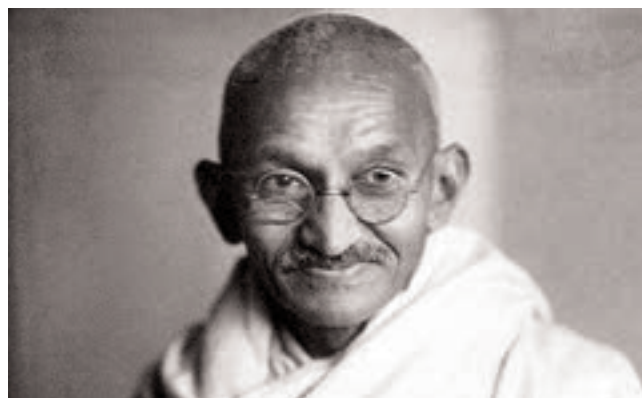
1853 Andhra Pradesh became a separate state in India.

1967 Indian Tourism Development Corporation was established.

1978 The marriage age of girls was increased from 14 to 18 and that of boys from 18 to 21 years.

2003 India overcame Bangladesh's apprehensions about linking rivers.

02 OCTOBER



1869 Birth of Mahatma Gandhi in Porbandar, Gujarat. On the strength of non-violence, he contributed significantly to the independence of the country.

1904 Birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri. With his simplicity and the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', he became popular among the masses. Led the country in the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

1924 The Geneva proposal, brought with the aim of strengthening the League of Nations, was approved by the General Assembly but was not ratified later.

1975 Bharat Ratna honored freedom fighter, politician, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K.K. Kamaraj was born.

1951 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

1952 Initiation of community development program.

1955 The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Madras, built the first coach of the rail.

1961 Establishment of Shipping Corporation of India in Bombay (Mumbai).

1971 The President of India dedicated the Birla Sadan to the country. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in this building and was renamed Gandhi Sadan.

1985 Dowry Prohibition Amendment Act implemented.

1988 The largest road bridge at that time over the sea connecting Mandapam and Pamban was opened for traffic.

2000 Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrived in Delhi on a four-day visit, adding a new chapter to the old friendly relations between India and Russia.

2006 South Africa decided to support India in the

nuclear fuel supply case.

03 OCTOBER

1994 India submitted its formal claim for permanent membership of the Security Council.

1978 The first test tube baby was born in the Indian state of Calcutta (now Kolkata) and the second in the world.

1984 India's longest distance train Himsagar Express was diverted from Kanyakumari to Jammu Tawi.

1831 Britain was captured by Mysore (now Mysuru).

1880 The first Marathi music drama 'Sangeet Shakuntal' was staged in Pune.

2008 Tata Motors Chairman Ratan Tata announced the move of the Nano car project from Singur elsewhere.

1949 Indian film director J.K. P. Dutta was born.



1992 Geet Sethi won the World Professional Billiards Championship.

04 OCTOBER

1884 Ramachandra Shukla, the leading Hindi writer and critic, was born.

1977 India's Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi. This was the first address given in Hindi.

1986 Indian Helicopter Corporation was established.

1974 India refused to participate in the Davis Cup by going there to resist the pillar of the South African government.

1927 Sarla Grewal, the second woman officer of Indian Administrative Service and former Governor of Madhya Pradesh was born.

2011 The strike continued on the 22nd day in Andhra Pradesh for a separate Telangana state.

05 OCTOBER

1864 About 50,000 people died due to cyclone in Calcutta city.

1805 The second governor general of the British Raj in India, Commander in Chief Lord Cornwallis, died in Ghazipur.

1989 Meera Sahib Beevi became the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

1999 India decided not to attend the special meeting on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

2011 The world's cheapest Rs 2250 tablet PC Aakash was launched in India.

1676 The East India Company got the right to exchange Indian currency in Mumbai from the King of England.

2008 The Central Government started testing elsewhere for the 'Setu Samudram Project' as directed by the Supreme Court.

1524 The birth of Rani Durgavati, one of the famous Veeraganna queens of Indian history.

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BORN OCTOBER 2, 1904

Remembering Lal Bahadur Shastri on his 119th birthday

Lal Bahadur Shastri was a politician and statesman from India who served as the country's second Prime Minister.

Early Life

Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on October 2, 1904, in Mughalsarai, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, British India (now Uttar Pradesh). Lal Bahadur Shastri's father was Sharada Prasad Srivastava, who was a school teacher before becoming a clerk in the revenue office at Allahabad. His mother was Ramdulari Devi. He was the second child. He had an elder sister Kailashi Devi and a younger sister Sundari Devi.

When Lal Bahadur Shastri was six months old, his father died in an epidemic of bubonic plague. Lal Bahadur Shastri and his sisters grew up in the home of his maternal grandfather Munshi Hazari Lal after his father died.

Shastri started his education at the East Central Railway Inter college in Mughalsarai at the age of four, under the tutelage of a maulvi, Budhan Mian. He was a student there until the sixth grade.

Shastri began seventh grade at Harish Chandra High School in Varanasi.

Family

Shastri married Lalita Devi, a Mirzapur native, on May 16, 1928. Kusum Shastri, Hari Krishna Shastri, Suman Shastri, Anil Shastri, Sunil Shastri, and Ashok Shastri were the couple's four sons and two daughters.

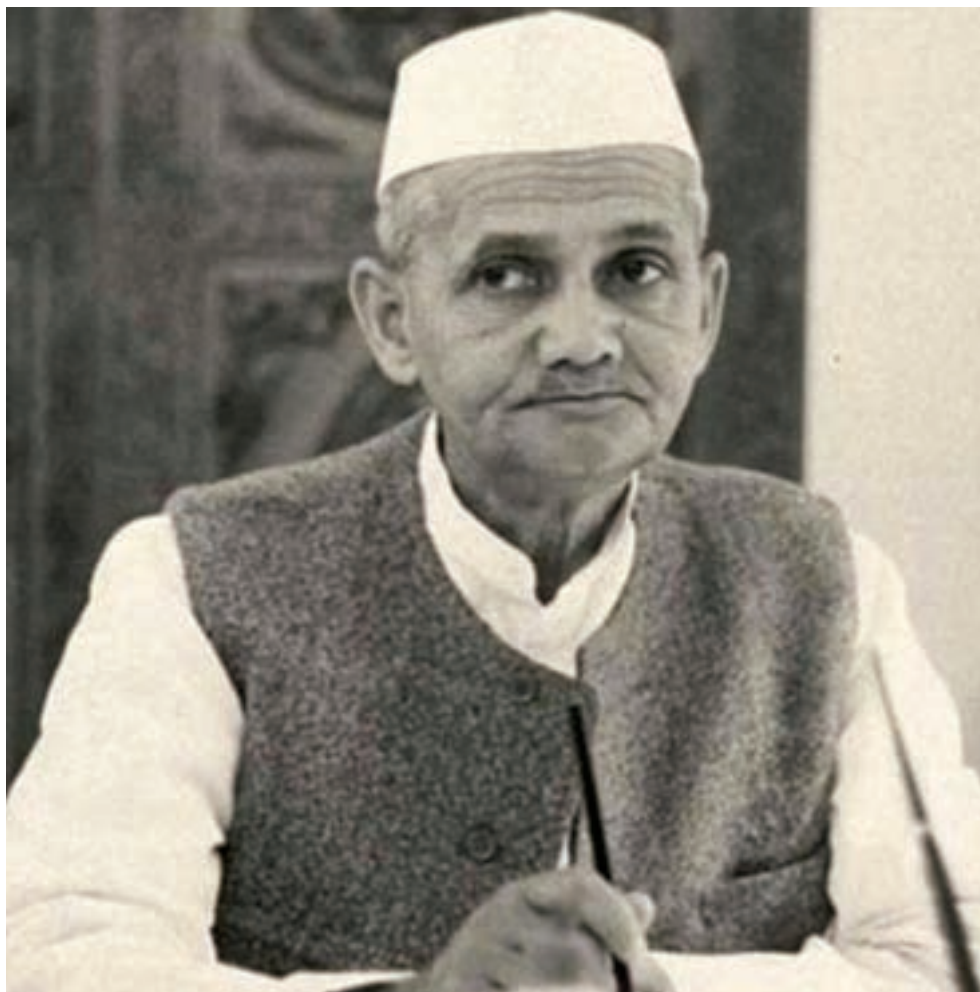
The entire Shastri family continues to participate in social initiatives and is actively involved in shaping relevant forums in India to aid in the country's growth and advancement.

Independence Activism

Shastri became interested in the freedom movement after being inspired by a patriotic and well-respected teacher named Nishkameshwar Prasad Mishra at Harish Chandra High School. He started to research its history and the works of many notable figures, including Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, and Annie Besant.

He attended a public meeting in Banaras organised by Gandhi and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in January 1921, when he was in the tenth grade. Shastri withdrew from Harish Chandra High School the next day, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's call for students to withdraw from government schools and join the non-cooperation movement. He joined the local branch of the Congress Party as a volunteer, actively engaging in picketing and anti-government demonstrations.

He was quickly apprehended and imprisoned but was later released because he was still a minor. J.B. Kripalani, a former Banaras Hindu University professor who went on to become one of the most influential figures of the Indian independence movement and one of Gandhi's closest followers, was Lal Bahadur Shastri's



immediate supervisor.

On 10 February 1921, recognising the need for younger volunteers to continue their education, Kripalani and a friend, V.N. Sharma, established an informal school centred on nationalist education to educate the young activists in their nation's heritage, and the Kashi Vidyapith was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in Banaras.

Shastri was one of the first students to graduate from the Vidyapith with a first-class degree in philosophy and ethics in 1925. The title "Shastri" (Scholar) was bestowed upon him, which was a bachelor's degree from the university, and later it became part of his identity.

He became a member of Lala Lajpat Rai's Servants of the People Society (Lok Sevak Mandal) and started working for the betterment of the Harijans in Muzaffarpur under Gandhi's leadership. He later became the Society's President.

At Mahatma Gandhi's request, Shastri joined the Indian National Congress as an active and mature member in 1928. He spent two and a half years in jail. Later, in 1937, he served as the Organising Secretary of the U.P. Parliamentary Board. He was imprisoned for a year in 1940 for providing individual Satyagraha support to the independence movement.

At Gowalia Tank in Bombay on August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi delivered the Quit India address, demanding that the British leave India. Lal Bahadur Shastri, who had just been released from prison after a year, travelled to Allahabad.

In 1937 and 1946, he was elected to the United Provinces legislature.

Political Career

After India's independence, Lal Bahadur Shastri was named Parliamentary Secretary in his home state of Uttar Pradesh. Following Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's departure to become a minister at the centre, he became the Minister of Police and Transport under Govind Ballabh Pant's Chief Ministership on 15 August 1947. He was the first to name female conductors as Transport Minister.

As the minister in charge of the Police Department, he requested that unruly crowds be dispersed using water jets, which he instructed officers to use instead of lathis. During his time as police minister, he was instrumental in putting an end to communal riots in 1947, as well as mass migration and refugee resettlement.

With Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister, Shastri was appointed General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee in 1951. He was in charge of the candidate selection process and the direction of advertising and electioneering efforts. He was a key figure in the Congress Party's landslide victories in the Indian general elections of 1952, 1957, and 1962.

In 1952, he ran for the Uttar Pradesh Vidhansabha and won the Soraon North cum Phulpur West seat with over 69% of the votes. On May 13, 1952, Shastri was appointed Minister of Railways and Transport in the First Cabinet of the Republic of India. In 1959, he was appointed Minister of Commerce and Industry, and in 1961, he was appointed

the Minister of Home Affairs.

As a minister without a portfolio, Shastri laid a foundation for Mangalore Port in 1964.

When Jawaharlal Nehru died in office on 27 May 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri was elected as the second Prime Minister of India on 9 June.

During Lal Bahadur Shastri's time as Prime Minister, the Madras anti-Hindi agitation of 1965 took place. Under the Official Languages Act of 1963, it was proposed that Hindi would be the primary official language. To defuse the crisis, Shastri promised that English would remain the official language as long as the non-Hindi-speaking states wanted it. After Shastri's assurance, the riots and student unrest subsided.

Shastri used central planning to carry on Nehru's socialist economic policies. He supported the Amul milk cooperative in Anand, Gujarat, and founded the National Dairy Development Board to promote the White Revolution, a national movement to increase milk production and supply. On October 31, 1964, he came to Anand to inaugurate the Amul Cattle Feed Factory at Kanjari.

Shastri maintained Nehru's non-alignment policy while strengthening relations with the Soviet Union. Shastri's government agreed to increase the country's defence budget following the Sino-Indian War of 1962 and the establishment of military relations between China and Pakistan.

Shastri and Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike signed an agreement Sirima-Shastri Pact or Bandaranaike-Shastri Pact, in 1964 about the status of Indian Tamils in Sri Lanka, which was then known as Ceylon.

Shastri's crowning achievement came in 1965 when he led India in the Indo-Pak War. The Pakistani army clashed with Indian forces in August 1965, claiming half of the Kutch peninsula. During this time, Shastri used the popular slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" to encourage soldiers to protect India while encouraging farmers to increase food grain production and reduce reliance on imports. The Indo-Pak war ended on September 23, 1965, when the United Nations ordered a ceasefire. Following the declaration of a cease-fire with Pakistan in 1965, Shastri and Pakistani President Mohammed Ayub Khan met in Tashkent for a summit arranged by Alexei Kosygin. Shastri and Ayub Khan signed the Tashkent Declaration on January 10, 1966. Shastri travelled to many countries during his time as Prime Minister, including the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, England, Canada, Nepal, Egypt, and Burma.

Lal Bahadur Shastri's Death

Lal Bahadur Shastri's death date was 11 January 1966. He died in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, one day after signing a peace treaty ending the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War. He was hailed as a national hero, and the Vijay Ghat memorial was named after him.

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NJ SYMPHONY RINGS IN NEW SEASON

BY MABEL PAIS



Opening Night, logo

Credit / Courtesy njsymphony.org

"What the New Jersey Symphony has established, bringing music to the Garden State in schools and in six different cities, is a sincere accomplishment. And it's never been better." - nj.com

The New Jersey Symphony (NJS) presents ten concerts in five venues throughout New Jersey this October. The 2023-24 season opens on October 14 in Newark and October 15 in New Brunswick with concerts titled 'Ellington & Dvořák: New Worlds,' which explore the music of Black composers such as Duke Ellington and William Grant Still. The concerts open with a work by living composer Valerie Coleman, which starts with a whisper and gradually builds to a melody, evoking the power and sweetness of 'Umoja,' the Swahili word for unity (also the title of the piece).

Pianist Aaron Diehl will perform William Grant Still's 'Out of the Silence, which is a gentle and ethereal hymn written in the depths of the Great Depression. The Aaron Diehl Trio performs Duke Ellington's 'New World A-Comin', which is a lush musical portrait of, in the words of Ellington himself, a "new world where there would be no war, no greed-where love was unconditional." The trio members are Aaron Diehl on piano, Aaron Kimmel on percussion and Ben Wolfe on double bass.

The finale of the opening weekend program is Dvořák Symphony No. 9, 'From the New World.' Robert Spano, music director laureate of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and current music director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra will conduct.

Season-opening performances in New Jersey Symphony's Princeton and Red Bank venues will continue on October 20 and 21, along with additional concerts in Newark on October 19 and 22. Schumann's Cello Concerto, performed by Sterling Elliott - winner of the Senior Division of the 2019 National Sphinx Competition - will be performed alongside Elgar's Enigma Variations and the East Coast premiere of a New Jersey Symphony co-commissioned work by composer Jessie Montgomery, titled Snapshots. Joseph Young, music director of the Berkeley Symphony, will conduct.

On October 25-29, the unforgettable main theme to Jurassic Park will be heard at four venues throughout the state, in Morristown, Red Bank, Newark and New Brunswick. Audiences can experience Jurassic Park in a unique way: projected in HD on a large screen with a full symphony orchestra performing John Williams' iconic score live to the complete film. Constantine Kitsopoulos, a frequent New Jersey Symphony guest conductor, will conduct. The Symphony invites all fans to attend in their favorite dinosaur or Halloween costume.

PROGRAM

OCTOBER 14 & 15: ELLINGTON & DVOŘÁK: NEW WORLDS

Featuring Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "From the New

World" conducted by Robert Spano

OCTOBER 19-22: SCHUMANN'S CELLO CONCERTO

Also including works by Jessie Montgomery and Edward Elgar



Jurassic Park in Concert

Credit / Courtesy njsymphony.org

OCTOBER 25-29: JURASSIC PARK IN CONCERT

The complete film projected live as John Williams' iconic score is performed by the New Jersey Symphony

ELLINGTON & DVOŘÁK: NEW WORLDS

New Jersey Symphony Classical
Robert Spano conductor
Aaron Diehl piano
Aaron Diehl Trio
New Jersey Symphony

Newark - Saturday, October 14, 8 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

New Brunswick - Sunday, October 15, 3 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

Valerie Coleman Umoja
Still Out of the Silence
Ellington New World A-Comin'
Dvořák Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"
Schumann's Cello Concerto
New Jersey Symphony Classical
Joseph Young conductor
Sterling Elliott cello
New Jersey Symphony

Newark - Thursday, October 19, 1:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Princeton - Friday, October 20, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Red Bank - Saturday, October 21, 8 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

Newark - Sunday, October 22, 3 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

JESSIE MONTGOMERY SNAPSHOTS (NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY CO-COMMISSION)

R. Schumann Cello Concerto
Elgar Enigma Variations
Jurassic Park in Concert
New Jersey Symphony at the Movies
Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor
New Jersey Symphony

Morristown - Wednesday, October 25, 7:30 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center

Red Bank - Friday, October 27, 8 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts

Newark - Saturday, October 28, 8 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

New Brunswick - Sunday, October 29, 3 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

For more information on concerts and tickets, visit njsymphony.org/events

TICKETS

For Concert tickets, visit njsymphony.org.

Patrons can also attend an Opening Night Celebration event on Saturday October 14, which includes a dinner prelude, the concert and a fun after-party. Details at njsymphony.org/gala.

Tickets for all other programs are available by phone 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or on the Orchestra's website.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

The Emmy and Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of its organization-all to better reflect and serve our vibrant communities.

Since 2021, Music Director Xian Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current Music Director in 2016. Since her arrival at the New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts.

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

CONNECT WITH NJS:

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Email: information@njsymphony.org

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

WHARTON ARTS USHERS IN NEW SEASON

BY MABEL PAIS



Tharanga Goonetilleke (soprano) with Ryan Bridge (piano).

Credit / whartonarts.org

Wharton Arts' new season presents the first Salon Series concert featuring Tharanga Goonetilleke, soprano, and Ryan Bridge, piano, on Sunday, October 1 at 3:00 p.m. in the Wharton Black Box Theater at 60 Locust Avenue, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922.

The 45th Season Opening Concert on Saturday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. takes place at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton. The NJYS (New

Jersey Youth Symphony) led by Helen H. Cha-Pyo and NJYO (New Jersey Youth Orchestra) led by Simon Lipskar will perform works by Louise Farrenc, Jennifer Higdon, Giacomo Puccini, Ottorino Respighi, Jean Sibelius, and Dmitri Shostakovich.

During the month of December, Wharton Arts presents exciting concerts and events embodying the holiday spirit with the Wharton Players' production of Beauty and the Beast Jr., New Jersey Youth Chorus' (NJYC) Readings and Carols, the Holiday Kids-for-Kids Choral Festival by the Paterson Music Project (PMP) Choir, and the All That Jazz Holiday Concert featuring the NJYS and Jazz Orchestra.

In addition to performances, Wharton Arts has planned an informative Parent Circle Series, offering insights into supporting student musicians. These discussions cover a range of topics, including preparing college applications and supporting neurodiverse children in their study of music.

Wharton Arts celebrates the New Jersey Youth Symphony's 45th Anniversary Season with an exciting Alumni Weekend, May 4-5, 2024 and 45th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, May 5 at 3:00 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark.

Throughout the 2023-24 season, NJYS honors its vibrant history and bright future with premieres of new compositions and beloved music from the inaugural season in 1979. Alumni are warmly invited to perform alongside current students at the 2024 Playathon and spring concerts in May.

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest independent non-profit performing arts education center, announces its 2023-24 season dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in performing arts education. Over the course of the season, the nearly 2,000 Wharton Arts students and music lovers of all ages will inspire audiences through the power of collaboration and celebrating the strength that comes from creating

together.

MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS

Tickets to the first Salon Series Concert, intimate performances with esteemed faculty where the audience is seated on stage with the performers, include a wine and cheese reception and the chance to connect with the artists.

For a complete listing of concerts and events and to purchase tickets, visit WhartonArts.org.

Said Artistic Director Helen H. Cha-Pyo, "We are thrilled to present a diverse lineup of events and performances showcasing remarkable talent within our community. I invite you to join us in experiencing the transformative power of performing arts in the 23-24 season at Wharton Arts. Together, we can create moments of beauty, connection, and inspiration that resonate for a lifetime."

WHARTON ARTS

Learn more at whartonarts.org

HOT SPRINGS BRINGS YOU 32ND DOC FILM FEST

'Between Earth & Sky.'
Credit / hsdff.org



'You Can't Shrink Love.'
Credit / hsdff.org



BY MABEL PAIS

Screening Shorts:

ANDREW NADKARNI's 'Between Earth & Sky'

KARLA MURTHY's 'Love, Jamie'

VEENA RAO's 'You Can't Shrink Love'

And many more

The critically acclaimed Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival (HSDFF), Arkansas presented by Oaklawn has the lineup of films and honorees for its 32nd edition, taking place October 6-14. Screenings will begin at Oaklawn's Event Center. All other screenings will take place at The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa, Arkansas.

This year's Honorary Chair, Mary Steenburgen, will participate in the Southern Storytellers Screening and Panel, one of a handful of special events and new initiatives featured at this year's edition of the film festival. Sky Hopinka will receive the HSDFF Brent Renaud Career Achievement Award, and Diane Becker and Shane Boris will be the recipients of this year's Impact Award. Other new initiatives include the

'Love, Jamie'
Credit / hsdff.org



Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB)-funded Filmmaker Forum, The Natural State - a new section focused on the environment, outdoor adventure, athletic achievement and the stories and people of Arkansas, a new film series added to the lineup - The Wellness Series, True Stories: A Live Storytelling Event, and a Secret Screening.

HSDFF Executive Director, Ken Jacobson, said, "In our 32nd year, we are underlining the high level of film programming that has made the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival such a beacon for the best and most innovative filmmakers working in the documentary form today. In addition, we are incorporating dynamic new programs

and events to enrich the audience experience and support the documentary filmmaking community. Our goal is to embrace the rich tableau of nonfiction storytelling and forge deeper connections between filmmakers, the people and place of Hot Springs, Arkansas and the broader world. We are thrilled to be launching these efforts alongside this year's Honorary Chair, the extraordinary and beloved Arkansan, the multi-talented Mary Steenburgen."

For the complete lineup of Galas, Special Presentations, Highlights, Opening Night, Centerpiece, Closing Night films and events, visit hsdff.org.

TICKETS

For Tickets & Passes to the Festival, visit hsdff.org/attend.

Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

Learn more at hsdff.org.

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



Alia Bhatt to star in Vasan Bala's 'Jigra', film to release in 2024

National Award winner Alia Bhatt is set to star in and produce "Jigra", a film directed by Vasan Bala, the makers said. Backed by Dharma Productions and Eternal Sunshine Productions, the movie will hit the screens on September 27, 2024.

Karan Johar's Dharma Productions shared the film announcement on its official X page.

".@aliaa08 is back to put up a courageous fight like no other for her #Jigra! JIGRA, directed by Vasan Bala - releasing in cinemas on 27th September 2024," the banner said in the post.

"Jigra" marks Bhatt's second production venture via Eternal Sunshine Productions after 2022's "Darlings", which was released on Netflix. She was last seen in the streamer's "Heart of Stone", her Hollywood debut.

From debuting in Dharma Productions' 2012 film "Student of the Year" to now producing a film with the studio, Bhatt said life has come full circle for her. *Source: PTI*

Newlyweds Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha get Bollywood's blessings

Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha's royal wedding in Udaipur was mostly a private affair with the couple's close family members, few AAP politicians and some sportspersons in attendance. Those who couldn't attend the wedding congratulated the newlyweds on social media. As Parineeti shared the pictures of her and Raghav as bride and groom, many of her industry colleagues wished her in the comments section of the post.

Parineeti's cousin Priyanka Chopra couldn't be a part of the wedding but was among the first ones to react to Parineeti's post. Sharing a heart, fire, star-eyes and crying face emoji, Priyanka wrote, "my blessings always." She had earlier flown for the couple's engagement in Delhi.

Earlier, Priyanka had posted on her Instagram Story, "I hope you are as happy and content as this on your big day little one.. always wishing you so much love #newbeginnings @parineetichopra @raghavchadha88".

Actor Sidharth Malhotra shared Parineeti's post on his Instagram stories and wrote, "Congratulations @parineetichopra and @raghavchadha88. Wishing you both a blessed married life."

Actor Kiara Advani wrote, "Welcome to the club. Wishing you both a lifetime of happiness and love."

Actor Varun Dhawan wrote, "Wishing the beautiful couple eternal happiness, peace and love congratulations."

Taking to Instagram story, Alia Bhatt re-shared the stunning wedding pictures of lovebirds and wrote, "Congratulations dearest of all ones...wishing you both a wholesome ride ahead...welcome to the club."

Actor Bhumi Pednekar shared the pictures and wrote, "Congratulations @parineetichopra @raghavchadha88 This is so beautiful." Huma Qureshi wrote, "Congratulations @parineetichopra @raghavchadha88 To a lifetime of togetherness, love and joy."



Waheeda Rehman to be feted with Dadasaheb Phalke award

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, Waheeda Rehman, will be honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, India's highest recognition in the world of cinema.

Waheeda Rehman's illustrious career is synonymous with excellence. She has worked in over 90 films. Known for her versatility, she has delivered unforgettable performances in a myriad of iconic films, including "Pyaasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul." Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur, taking to Twitter, expressed his immense happiness and honor in bestowing this prestigious award upon Waheeda Rehman. He highlighted her stellar contributions to Indian cinema, acknowledging her role in shaping the industry into what it is today.

"I feel an immense sense of happiness and honor in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award this year for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema," the minister wrote.

A Glowing Tribute to an Iconic Career

Waheeda Rehman's journey in cinema spans over five glorious decades. She has portrayed her roles with finesse and dedication, earning critical acclaim for her exceptional performances. Notably, she was honored with a National Film Award for her portrayal of a clanswoman in "Reshma and Shera."

Additionally, she holds the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards, further underscoring her exceptional contributions to Indian culture and cinema.

Beyond the Silver Screen

As India celebrates her accomplishments, the timing of this award is significant. Parliament's recent passage of the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam underscores the achievements of women in various fields. Waheeda Rehman's recognition is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema. Her dedication to philanthropy and the betterment of society after her retirement from films reflects her commitment to the greater good.

A Legacy of Iconic Films

Waheeda Rehman's cinematic journey commenced with the Telugu film "Rojulu Marayi" in 1955, and since then, she has graced numerous films with her exceptional talent. Her filmography includes timeless classics such as "Pyaasa," "Guide," "Khamoshi," "Phagun," "Kabhi Kabhie," "Chandni," "Lamhe," "Rang De Basanti," and "Delhi 6," among others.

As the Indian film fraternity and admirers from around the world celebrate this well-deserved honor, it is a moment to reflect on the enduring impact of Waheeda Rehman's contributions to the cinematic legacy of India. Her name will forever be synonymous with excellence, dedication, and the embodiment of a Bharatiya Nari achieving the highest level of professional excellence through her unwavering commitment and hard work.





Shakira charged for tax evasion of \$7.1 million in Spain

Shakira has landed in legal trouble over alleged tax evasion in Spain. According to a report by NBC News, Spanish authorities have charged the singer for tax evasion of \$7.1 million, in Barcelona on September 26.

As per the report, Shakira allegedly failed to pay the said amount to the Spanish government in 2018. She allegedly used an offshore company in a tax haven to evade paying the tax amount. Barcelona prosecutors have notified Shakira of the charges in Miami, where she resides.

Notably, Shakira is set to face trial in Barcelona on November 20 in a separate legal case in which prosecutors allege her to have failed to pay \$15.4 million in tax. In that case, prosecutors allege that she failed to pay tax for the 2012-14 period during which she spent more than half of the time in Spain.

Shakira used to spend time in Spain, with her former boyfriend and popular footballer Gerard Pique. The couple who have two children from their relationship, split up last year after 11 years of being together. Reportedly, the breakup took place due to infidelity by Pique who cheated on Shakira with a woman named Clara Chia Marti.

The Hollywood writers strike over, guild leaders approve contract with studios

Hollywood's writers strike was declared over after nearly five months on September 26 night when board members from their union approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing the industry at least partly back from a historic halt in production.

The governing boards of the eastern and western branches of the Writers Guild of America and their joint negotiating committee all voted to accept the deal, two days after the tentative agreement was reached with a coalition of Hollywood's biggest studios, streaming services and production companies. After the vote they declared that the strike would be over and writers would be free to start on scripts at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Late-night talk shows — the first to go dark when writers walked out on May 2 — are likely the first shows that will resume. Scripted shows will take longer to return, with actors still on strike and no negotiations yet on the horizon.

The writers still have to vote to ratify the contract themselves in early October, but lifting the strike will allow them to work during that process, the guild told members in an email.

After Tuesday's board votes, the contracts were released for the first time to the writers, who had not yet been given any details on the deal, which their leaders called "exceptional."

The three-year agreement includes significant wins in the main areas writers had fought for — compensation, length of employment, size of staffs and control of artificial intelligence — matching or nearly equaling what they had sought at the outset of the strike.

The union had sought minimum increases in pay and future residual earnings from shows of between 5% and 6%, depending on the position of the writer. The studios had wanted between 2% and 4%. The compromise deal was a raise of between 3.5% and 5%.

The guild also negotiated new residual payments based on the popularity of streaming shows, where writers will get bonuses for being a part of the most popular shows on Netflix, Max and other services, a proposal studios initially rejected.



Many writers on picket lines had complained that they weren't properly paid for helping create heavily watched properties.

The writers also got the requirement they sought that shows intended to run at least 13 episodes will have at least six writers on staff, with the numbers shifting based on the number of episodes. They did not get their desire for guaranteed staffs of six on shows that had not yet been ordered to series, settling instead for a guaranteed three.

Writers also got a guarantee that staffs on shows in initial development will be employed for at least 10 weeks, and that staffs on shows that go to air will be employed for three weeks per episode.

Source: AP

May December trailer: Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore face off to discover uneasy truths



Oscar winners Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore come together to unravel some dark truths in the official trailer of May December. On Tuesday, Netflix released the first official trailer of Todd Haynes's upcoming drama that first premiered at the Cannes Film Festival to universal acclaim.

The trailer of May December begins with Natalie Portman's Elizabeth, who is an actress taking in a new role based on a real person named Gracie Atherton-Yoo (played by Julianne Moore). When Elizabeth is asked, "How do you choose your roles?" she says, "I want to find a character, that's difficult to, on the surface... understand. Were they born or were they made?"

As she finds herself residing in the house of Gracie to know her better, Elizabeth is also confronted with the relationship Gracie shares with her young husband Joe Yoo (Charles Melton). "What would make a 36-year-old woman have an affair with a seventh grader?" is a question that she is confronted with. The trailer teases how Elizabeth begins to lose herself in the convoluted family ties of Gracie and Joe.

Loosely based on the true story of Mary Kay Letourneau, an American teacher who was charged with having a sexual relationship with one of her 12-year-old students, May December marked its World Premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May this year. On the review aggregator site Rotten Tomatoes, May December currently holds a 90% rating with 58 reviews.

Reacting to the trailer, a fan said, "Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore in a Todd Haynes movie? Sign me up, always a fan of Haynes' work." Another said, "I just know they're taking home lots of awards." A second fan wrote, "Can't wait!"

Todd Haynes has collaborated with Julianne Moore on a number of projects before, including Safe, Far from Heaven and Wonderstruck. A few days ago, it was also revealed that Netflix would be submitting Natalie Portman for Best Actress consideration, while Julianne Moore will campaign for Supporting Actress category in the upcoming awards season. May December will have a limited theatrical release on November 17 and then move to Netflix on December 1.

Source: HT

FOUR MORE OFFICIALS HELD AFTER LIBYA FLOOD DISASTER

BENGHAZI (TIP): Libya's prosecutor general has ordered the arrest of four more officials, bringing to 12 the number held as part of an inquiry into this month's flood that killed thousands.

Flooding caused by hurricane-strength Storm Daniel tore through eastern Libya on September 10, leaving at least 3,893 people dead and thousands more missing.

The seaside city of Derna was the worst hit by the flash flood, which witnesses likened to a tsunami. It burst through two dams and washed entire neighbourhoods into the Mediterranean.

The four additional suspects, including two members of the Derna municipal council, were arrested for suspected "bad management of the administrative and financial missions which were incumbent upon them", said a statement issued overnight on September 29 and September 30 by the prosecutor general's office in Tripoli, western Libya.

On Monday the office ordered the arrest of eight officials, including Derna's mayor who was sacked after the flood. Libya's prosecutor general Al-Seddik al-Sour belongs to the internationally recognised administration in the country's west. Another, in the flood-stricken east, is backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar. On September 29 the eastern authorities said they would begin paying compensation to people affected by the disaster, which a UN agency has said uprooted more than 43,000 people. "Cheques have been handed over to the mayors" after a relief committee received records of damage caused by the flooding, the government based in Libya's east said in a statement.

People whose homes were destroyed would receive 100,000 dinars (\$20,500) in compensation, Faraj Kaeem, the eastern administration's deputy interior minister, said separately.

Those with partially destroyed homes would get 50,000 dinars, while those who lost furniture or household appliances would be given 20,000 dinars, he said.

Libya has been wracked by division since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and then killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011.

The eastern administration announced on Wednesday the creation of a fund for the reconstruction of Derna and confirmed it would host an "international conference" on October 10 to aid the port city's reconstruction.

The authorities have yet to specify how the new fund will be financed, but the eastern-based parliament has already allocated 10 billion dinars to reconstruction projects.

On Thursday during talks with the European Commission, the United Nations' envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, said he had called for funds to be monitored. (AFP)

Leaders of European Union's Mediterranean nations huddle in Malta to discuss migration

VALLETTA (TIP): The leaders of nine southern European Union countries met in Malta on September 29 to discuss common challenges such as migration, the EU's management of which has vexed national governments in Europe for years.

The nations represented at the one-day huddle included host Malta, France, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. Slovenia and Croatia, with Adriatic Sea coasts, were added to the so-called "Med Group" in 2021. While Portugal has a long Atlantic Ocean border, the European Union considers it partially in the Mediterranean region.

Two top EU officials — European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel — were invited to the closed-door meeting. The leaders of the EU's 27 nations have an informal European Council meeting scheduled for next week in Spain.

The huddle's main aim is to help develop consensus among the members on major issues concerning all EU countries.

However, unity on migration has been elusive, as witnessed in Brussels during a Thursday meeting of interior ministers, who are tasked with enforcing individual nations' rules within the broader contours of EU regulations.

Italy, for example, which now receives by far the largest number of migrants arriving via the Mediterranean Sea, has pushed in vain for fellow EU nations to show solidarity by accepting more of the tens of thousands of people who reach its shores.



Many of the migrants are rescued by military boats, humanitarian vessels or merchant ships plying the waters crossed by migrant smugglers' unseaworthy boats launched from Tunisia, Libya, Turkey and elsewhere. Earlier this month, some 8,000 migrants stepped ashore on Lampedusa, a tiny Italian fishing island, in barely 48 hours, overwhelming the tourist destination.

The relentless arrivals, which slow only when seas are rough, have put political pressure on one of the Malta summit's attendees — Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni. She came to power a year ago after campaigning on a pledge to stop illegal migration, including with a naval blockade, if necessary.

Under current EU rules, the nation where asylum-seekers arrive must shelter them while their applications are processed. In Italy's case, the majority of migrants arriving by sea from Africa and Asian countries are fleeing poverty, not war or persecution, and aren't eligible for asylum.

But because Italy has so few repatriation agreements with home countries, it is stymied in sending unsuccessful applicants back. Many migrants slip out of Italy and into northern Europe, their ultimate destination, in hopes of finding family or work.

Little progress has been made on a new EU pact as the member states bicker over which country should take charge of migrants when they arrive and whether other countries should be obligated to help.

Three years after unveiling a plan for sweeping reform of the European Union's outdated asylum rules, such squabbling fuels doubt as to whether an overhaul will ever become reality.

While heads of government or state represented most countries at Friday's summit, Spain sent its acting foreign minister because Acting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was involved in discussions at home on forming a new government. (AP)

Teen in court after schoolgirl becomes latest UK knife victim

LONDON (TIP): A teenager will appear in a London court on September 29 charged with the murder of a 15-year-old schoolgirl in a case that has once again shone the spotlight on UK knife crime.

Elianne Andam was stabbed to death in Croydon, south London, as she went to school on Wednesday.

A 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was arrested shortly afterwards.

He is due to appear at youth court, sitting at Croydon Magistrates' Court, later Friday charged with murder and possession of a knife, police said in a statement.

Emergency services including an air ambulance were called to the scene at



around 8:30 am (0730 GMT) following reports of a stabbing.

Paramedics battled to save the girl but she was pronounced dead at the scene 50 minutes later. London mayor Sadiq Khan said he was "heartbroken" by the fatal incident and pledged to "continue working day and night to end the scourge of knife crime in our city".

According to official figures, 99 people under the age of 25 were killed in

England and Wales with a knife or sharp object in the year to March 2023. Of those 13 were under the age of 16.

The deaths were among 50,000 stabbing incidents in the year to March 2023, a five percent increase on the previous year and a 75 percent increase on a decade ago, the figures from the Office for National Statistics showed.

Andam was a pupil at Old Palace of John Whitgift School, a private girls' school in Croydon.

"We are deeply shocked by the senseless and tragic death of our much-loved and valued friend and pupil," the school said in a statement.

"It will take some time for the Old Palace community to come to terms with this terrible news." (AFP)

Russia says 11 Ukrainian drones destroyed overnight

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia claimed on September 29 that it had destroyed 11 Ukrainian drones overnight, though one UAV dropped explosives on a substation, cutting the local power supply, a regional governor said.

"Eleven Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles were destroyed by air defence systems on duty, one of them over the territory of Kaluga region and 10 over Kursk region," Russia's defence ministry said on the messaging platform Telegram.

Kursk governor Roman Starovoyt said that the region bordering eastern Ukraine was "massively attacked" by Ukrainian UAVs.

In Belaya village, less than 25 kilometres (16 miles) from the border, "a Ukrainian drone dropped two explosive devices on a substation", he said on Telegram.

"One of the transformers caught fire. Five settlements and a hospital were cut off from power supply. Fire crews rushed to the scene," he added.

"Power will be restored as soon as it is safe to do so."

The governor warned citizens that "due



to the danger of self-destruction of downed UAVs, it is forbidden to touch their debris, approach them or take photographs".

Russia earlier said it had destroyed two Ukrainian drones on Thursday evening over the neighbouring Belgorod region.

The defence ministry said the first drone was "thwarted" at about 5:00pm (1400 GMT), while a second was brought

down around four hours later.

The Belgorod and Kursk regions, south of Moscow, border eastern Ukraine. Kaluga region is closer to the Russian capital.

Since Ukraine launched its counter-offensive in early June, Russia has weathered waves of drone attacks that have sporadically damaged buildings, including in Moscow. (AFP)

KARABAKH FUEL DEPOT BLAST TOLL JUMPS TO 170: OFFICIALS

YEREVAN (TIP): The toll from an explosion at a fuel depot in Nagorno-Karabakh that was thronged with Armenians fleeing an Azerbaijani military offensive has jumped to 170 people, authorities in the region announced on September 29.

The blast occurred days after the breakaway region's separatist fighters announced they would disarm and integrate with Azerbaijan, spurring an exodus of thousands of ethnic Armenians.

"To date, a total of 170 remains ... have been found in the same area and handed over to the forensic medical examination bureau," separatist authorities said in a statement on social media.

Authorities had earlier said the blast claimed the lives of 68 people and wounded another 200. They said Monday that the remains would be transferred to Armenia for identification.

The fireball erupted as refugees were stocking up on fuel for the long drive along the lone mountain road leading to Armenia. (AFP)

As China censors homegrown feminism, a feminist scholar from Japan is on its bestseller lists

HONG KONG (TIP): In the last few years, China's government has promoted increasingly conservative social values, encouraging women to focus on raising children. It has cracked down on civil society movements and made laws to drive out foreign influence.

So a 75-year-old Japanese feminist scholar who's not married and does not have children is an unlikely celebrity on the country's tightly censored internet.

But Chizuko Ueno, a professor emerita at the University of Tokyo, is a phenomenon. She leapt to fame in China in 2019 with a speech that criticized social expectations for women to act cute and the pressure they face to hide their success.

Ueno's popularity reflects a surge in interest in women's rights, said Leta Hong Fincher, a research associate at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute who has written about gender discrimination and feminism in China.

About a decade ago, China had a rambunctious feminist movement that staged protests like occupying a men's restroom to demand more toilets for women, or marching in wedding dresses spattered with fake blood to draw attention to domestic violence. But that movement has been silenced as President Xi Jinping's administration has tightened controls on civil society and promoted conservative family values in a bid to boost childbirths.

Ueno declined multiple requests to be interviewed for this story.

In mainland China, Ueno's books sold



more than half a million copies in the first half of 2023, according to sales tracker Beijing OpenBook, and 26 were available in Chinese bookstores as of September. They cover topics ranging from "misogyny" in Japanese society to feminist approaches to elder care issues in an ageing society.

"Starting From the Limit," a collection of letters between Ueno and Suzumi Suzuki, a writer who used to act in Japanese porn, topped the 2022 Books of the Year list on the popular Chinese review platform Douban.

Fans said Ueno's openness about choosing not to marry or have children makes her a role model.

Edith Cao, a writer who spoke on the condition of being identified by her English nickname due to fear of government retaliation, said seeing an

East Asian woman succeed without a family helped her decide not to marry. Yang Xiao, a graduate student, said Ueno's example helped assuage her anxieties about being single and inspired her to start booking holidays alone to build confidence.

Relationships are a divisive issue even among Ueno's Chinese fans. Earlier this year, fans attacked a Chinese video blogger who asked Ueno if she hadn't married because "she'd been hurt by men," saying the blogger had reinforced traditional assumptions. That started a series of online conversations about marriage and feminism that lasted for months, with related hashtags drawing some 580 million views on the Twitter-like social media platform Weibo.

Ueno doesn't write about China, and that's probably one key reason her books

have escaped censorship, said Hong Fincher.

Feminist ideas are not banned in China, but authorities view all activism with suspicion.

Police regularly summon owners of bookstores and cafes and pressure them to cancel feminism-themed events, several organizers and founders told The Associated Press. Online, posts that refer to the #MeToo movement are deleted, and nationalist bloggers attack feminists with a public presence as foreign agents.

Chinese journalist and activist Huang Xueqin, who helped spark China's first high-profile #MeToo case, was tried last week for allegedly inciting subversion of state power. According to a copy of the indictment published by supporters of Huang, she was accused of publishing "seditious" articles and facilitating training activities on "non-violent movements."

Protest and campaigning are no longer possible, said Lü Pin, a Chinese feminist activist based in the U.S., meaning feminism is confined to individual action and small groups. The Ueno boom, she said, has helped keep feminist ideas in the "lawful" mainstream.

Megan Ji, a 30-year-old financial analyst, said it wasn't until she read one of Ueno's books that she began taking an interest in the ideas of feminists.

That helped her confront her boss when he began caressing her back at an after-work karaoke party with colleagues and potential business partners. (AFP)

AFGHANISTAN EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI TO SHUT DOWN ITS OPERATIONS

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Afghan Embassy in Delhi has closed down, due to a lack of finances, and infighting amongst diplomats with some seeking asylum in other countries.

"The presence of the Afghan Diplomatic Mission in India cannot function normally without the help of the Indian government. After a careful consideration and assessment of the current situation, disappointingly the Embassy finds itself in a position where this support is not forthcoming. Given these circumstances, the Embassy has concluded that it is in our mission and its staff's best interest to bring it to a close by the end of September 2023. The Embassy requests the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)," according to a note verbal issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Afghanistan).

While the Ambassador, Farid Mamundzay, has been in London for several months, many other diplomats have received asylum in several countries including the US, Canada and Australia.

Trouble had been brewing for many months after the power struggle between Ambassador Mamundzay and Taliban-appointed Ambassador Qadir Shah became public a few months back.

Ambassador Mamundzay was appointed by the previous Ashraf Ghani government and has been operating as the envoy even after the Taliban took over in 2021.

However, in April Qadir Shah claimed to be appointed by the Taliban as head of India's mission. Shah has been working as a trade councillor since 2020 in Delhi.

After taking power the Taliban sent Ambassadors to four countries – Russia, Pakistan, China and Turkmenistan.

"Indian government is aware of the developments and have received a note verbal on the same – which they are said to be examining. The authenticity of the communication and its contents are being examined. This is in the context of the Ambassador being out of India for the past many months, steady departure of diplomats to other countries reportedly after receiving asylum as well as reports of infighting amongst Embassy personnel," according to a source.

Meanwhile, many Afghans are sore with India for not issuing visas for their students (nearly 3000) who want to continue their studies in India.

"We had written to the Indian government many times to enable Afghan students to continue their education in India, and all in vain," said Onib Dadgar, who represents a student body of Afghans, adding that all their hopes have crashed with this closure.

After the Taliban took over the country in 2021, India closed down its embassy in Kabul. (ENS)

At least 34 people killed, over 130 injured in suicide blast in Pakistan

KARACHI (TIP): At least 34 people were killed and over 130 injured in a suicide blast near a mosque in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on September 29 when people were gathering for a rally to celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, according to media reports.

The explosion occurred near Madina Mosque in the Mastung district, Geo News reported.

Mastung's Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Nawaz Gashkori, who was on duty for the rally, was among the deceased.

The explosion took place when people were gathering to mark Eid Miladun Nabi, the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad.

City Station House Officer (SHO) Mohammad Javed Lehri said the explosion was a 'suicide blast' and that the bomber exploded himself next to



DSP's car.

Lehri said that the wounded are being shifted to a medical facility while an emergency has been imposed in the hospitals.

At least 34 people were killed and over 130 injured in the blast, the Dawn

newspaper quoted Dr Saeed Mirwani, chief executive officer of Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital, as saying.

Some of the injured were in critical condition.

Balochistan interim Information Minister Jan Achakzai said rescue teams have been dispatched to Mastung.

He added the critically injured persons are being transferred to Quetta and that an emergency has been imposed in all the hospitals.

"The enemy wants to destroy religious tolerance and peace in Balochistan with foreign blessings," Achakzai said.

"The explosion is unbearable." He further said caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki has directed authorities to arrest those responsible for the blast.

Meanwhile, interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti strongly

Nepalese climber Kami Rita sets new record for 'Most Climbs of 8,000 metres'



KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's veteran summiteer Kami Rita Sherpa has made a new record for the 'Most Climbs of 8,000 metres', as he scaled 8,000ers 42 times, an official said.

The 53-year-old summited 42 mountains of more than 8,000 metres, breaking the record set by another famous climber, Nims Purja, who had set a record by scaling 8,000ers 41 times.

Kami Rita climbed the 8,163 metre Mt Manaslu - the world's eighth highest peak - on September 26 morning as a part of his Seven Summit Treks 14 Peaks expedition, according to Thaneswar Guragai, General Manager at Seven Summit Treks.

"Kami Rita, along with other climbers, reached the summit of Mt Manaslu at 8:10 am," Guragai told PTI.

The Nepalese climber now holds the record for 'Most Climbs of 8,000 metres', he said, adding that Kami Rita has made a total of 42 summits of 8,000ers to date.

"Mt Manaslu ascent earns Kami Rita the title of 'Most successful ascent of 8000ers by any individual'," Guragai said.

Last year, Kami Rita scaled the world's eighth-highest peak, Mt Everest, for the 28th time, setting a world record for most ascents on the world's highest mountain.

Kami, a Senior Climbing Guide at Seven Summit Treks Pvt Ltd, had scaled Mt Everest for the first time in May 1994.

According to Guragai, between 1994 and 2023, Kami Rita climbed Mt Everest 28 times, Mt K2 and Mt Lhotse one time each, Mt Manaslu four times and Mt Cho Oyu eight times. (PTI)

Nepal, China sign 12 agreements

BEIJING/KATHMANDU (TIP): China and Nepal on September 25 signed 12 agreements, including seven MoUs, to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors including trade and road connectivity coinciding with the visit of Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda amid reports that he was not inclined to sign up Beijing's new security doctrine.

Prachanda who met President Xi Jinping two days ago on the sidelines of the Asian Games in Hangzhou travelled to Beijing where he held wide-ranging talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Monday.

The two sides exchanged views on the ways to further strengthen and consolidate the mutual understanding and cooperation and give a new impetus to the economy, trade and people-to-people contacts, said Nepal's embassy in Beijing.

REPORTS FROM KATHMANDU SAID PRACHANDA WAS SIDESTEPPING CHINA'S PRESSURE TO WELCOME XI'S NEW DOCTRINES, THE GLOBAL SECURITY INITIATIVE (GSI) AND ITS GLOBAL CIVILISATION INITIATIVE (GCI).

Speaking in the context of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during the interview, the Prime Minister stated that China was initiating the GSI, the GCI and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and among these, there is no hesitation to participate in the GDI.

"But we cannot wade into security-related issues," Prachanda said. (PTI)



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DIY hacks that will change your makeup game

Whether you are a legit beauty pro or a total newbie, you can always benefit from a few makeup tips. Like, why struggle with your cat eye or contour when there are so many easy hacks to make the process 100 times smoother? So go ahead and adopt these amazing makeup tips and tricks of all damn time for the best results.

Eyebrow hack

On busy days when you don't have time to fill in the eyebrows, do the next best thing: quickly comb up your arches with a spoolie brush (aka those little mascara wands). It takes 10 seconds max, and it's an easy way to make sure each of your brow hair are in the right spot before you go in with any products.

Melt your pencil liner to help it glide

Creamy makeup products blend better when they're warmed up. So if your kohl eyeliner pencil skips or tugs on your eyelid or takes multiple coats for a decent color payoff, melt it down slightly before you start lining. To do so, hold the tip of your kohl liner under the flame of a lighter for a second or until it gets tacky, let it cool slightly (swatch it on your hand to make sure it's not too hot or melted), then watch the consistency change right before your eyes.

Outline your cat eye

If you are struggling with nailing your winged eyeliner look, try drawing the outline of the shape first and then filling it in. Extend a line beyond your lower lash line to create the bottom of your cat eye first. Then, decide on the thickness you want for your wing, and trace the top line from the end point of your flick to your upper lash line. Once you have the shape mapped out on both sides and everything looks symmetrical, fill in the open space.



Use a spoon as mascara shield

Nothing is more annoying than making your eyeshadow look perfect, and then swiping on mascara and ruining the whole thing with smudges. The fix? Hold a spoon so it's shugging your eyelid, then apply your mascara like you normally would. As you sweep the mascara wand against the spoon, the residue will coat the back of the utensil rather than your skin.

Set your lip color with a tissue and powder

For lip colour that lasts hours, just swipe on your shade, lay a tissue over your mouth, then dust translucent powder over the top to set the colour from budging or bleeding. This process may seem extra, but the payoff is worth it. The translucent powder alone could alter your lip shade, but using the tissue as a shield will protect it from lightening or dulling.

Source: Free Press Journal



Advantages of hibiscus for healthy hair

Hibiscus is a natural wonder plant that works like a miracle for hair and skin. Hibiscus strengthens the roots of the hair, encourages hair growth, and reduces hair loss because it is a rich source of vitamins, antioxidants, and amino acids. Also, it aids in preserving the scalp's natural pH balance, preventing problems like dandruff and itching.

Hibiscus gives your hair a gorgeous sheen that will make it look more vivid and alive when used on a regular basis, according to NIH. Hibiscus is a wonderful botanical for unlocking the beauty of your locks, whether you use it in shampoos and conditioners, oils, or hair masks. Therefore, we've compiled a list of some of the top hibiscus for hair advantages below.

Protects Against Early Graying

Since hibiscus is so rich in natural colors, vitamins, and antioxidants, it aids in the production of melanin, a pigment that occurs naturally in the human body. Also, Hibiscus can be used as a natural hair dye to completely hide all gray hair.

Treats Dandruff

Hibiscus for hair has an astringent effect and lessens sebaceous gland oil production. All of the hibiscus plant's antibacterial characteristics also inhibit the formation of the fungus that causes dandruff on the scalp and stop it from returning.

Conditions The Hair

Do you know that the high amount of amino acids included in hibiscus seeds helps to nourish the hair and also makes it strong, healthy, and lustrous? In addition to this, the hibiscus' ultra-emollient quality aids in nourishing your hair and restoring its suppleness.

Good For Hair Growth

Hibiscus oil, powder, or anything else will undoubtedly aid in the growth of your hair. It occurs because hibiscus is high in vitamin C, whose lack is known to result in hair loss. The flower encourages bald areas and dormant follicles to regenerate hair.

It Helps Prevent Baldness

Hibiscus promotes thicker hair and slows hair loss. Also, hibiscus is said to be just as good at treating baldness as prescription medications.

Source: Jagran

FOOD CORNER

Khandavi chaat

Ingredients

Two cup gram flour, Half tea spoon turmeric powder, One teaspoon chopped green chilli, One tablespoon white sesame seed, Half tablespoon mustard seed, Two table spoon refined oil, One sprig curry leaves, One tablespoon lemon juice, Salt to taste

Method

- Take a mixing bowl. Add gram flour, turmeric powder, green chilli, lemon juice, salt and make a batter out of it.
- Take a pan and put it on a slow gas range.
- Add one and half cup of water to the pan and boil it.
- To this boiling water add the above gram flour mixture and cook well.
- Pour this mixture on a hard flat surface and spread into a thin sheet.



- Cut and roll this sheet into small bite size khandvies.
- Mean while take a pan and put it on gas range and heat it. Pour some refined oil in the pan.
- Once the oil is heated add curry leaves, sesame seed, mustard seed and salt for the tampering.
- Pour the tampering on top of khandvies.
- Serve with the chaat.

Stem cell therapy shows promise for reducing Alzheimer's symptoms

Scientists have transplanted stem cells into mice and found reduction of brain abnormalities typical of Alzheimer's disease.

The team, led by researchers at the Stanford University in the US, transplanted blood stem and progenitor cells into mice, effectively leading to the replacement of a type of neural cell, called microglia, that's defective in mice with the disease.

"This cell therapy approach is unique in the field because most researchers are working to find pills or injectables to treat Alzheimer's disease," said Marius Wernig, a professor of pathology at Stanford.

The results were published in the journal Cell Stem Cell in August.

Despite extensive research on Alzheimer's, what causes the neurodegenerative disorder and how it develops are not well understood.

Most therapies focus on clearing the buildup of amyloid plaques found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease, though it is not clear if these plaques are merely a sign of Alzheimer's pathology or are directly causing dementia.

However, there is a clear association between nonfamilial Alzheimer's disease, which tends to strike later in life and does not stem from an inherited gene variant, and various mutations in microglia.

Microglia cells protect other brain cells against invaders and function as a cleanup crew, taking out the metabolic trash that can accumulate in the brain.

Scientists have observed that some genetic variations in microglia show a strong correlation with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease.

One such correlation involves a gene called TREM2, which plays an essential role in how microglia detect and address neurodegeneration.

"Certain genetic variants of TREM2 are among the strongest genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's disease," Wernig said. "The data are convincing that microglial dysfunction can cause neurodegeneration in the brain, so it makes sense that restoring defective microglial



function might be a way to fight neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease," he added.

In the study, mice with a defective TREM2 gene received hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell transplants from mice with normal TREM2 function.

The researchers found that the transplanted cells reconstituted the blood system and that some of them efficiently incorporated into the recipients' brains and became cells that looked and behaved like microglia.

"We showed that most of the brain's original microglia were replaced by healthy cells, which led to a restoration of normal TREM2 activity," Wernig said.

Next, they investigated whether the restored TREM2 activity was enough to improve the brain health of the TREM2-deficient mice.

"Indeed, in the transplanted mice we saw a clear reduction in the deposits of amyloid plaques normally seen TREM2-deficient mice," Wernig said.

They were also able to show a restoration of microglial function and reduction of other disease markers, indicating that functional restoration of this one gene had widespread positive effects.

The researchers said they could transplant cells engineered to have supercharged TREM2 activity that may have an even greater effect.

Source: PTI



Your omega 3 fish oil pills may be rancid, unhealthy, reveals study

Are you one of those who daily pop omega-3 fatty acid supplements like fish oil for its health benefits? Beware, they may be rancid pills, and not healthy as claimed, suggests a new study.

Derived from plants (algae) as well as seafood (fish, krill, etc.), omega-3 supplements -- sometimes labelled as fish oil -- are often taken because of research that suggests they may provide health benefits.

Rancidity is measured by the amount of oxidation of the oil in the supplement.

As supplements become more oxidised, the nutritional benefits delivered to the consumer are reduced.

"Our study suggests many of these supplements are not fresh -- and thus may not provide a potential health benefit," said Leigh A. Frame, Associate Professor of clinical research and leadership at George Washington University in the US.

Higher levels of omega-3 have been associated with a wide range of benefits to multiple organs, including the brain and eyes, but the most common reason for its popularity with consumers is to help the cardiovascular system.

The researchers conducted six years of tests on 72 of the most popular brands of omega-3 supplements, using the recommended rancidity limits that are voluntarily set by GOED, a global trade group that represents omega-3 manufacturers.

The results, published in the Journal of Dietary Supplements, found a total of 45 per cent of flavoured and unflavoured supplements tested positive for rancidity, with 32 per cent of flavoured supplements testing positive and 13 per cent of unflavoured pills.

Source: IANS

Chinese virologist warns 'Disease X' could be next pandemic

Another Covid outbreak, akin to the recent deadly pandemic, may be "highly likely", warned Chinese virologist Shi Zhengli, best known as 'batwoman', in a new study.

In the study, Shi and colleagues from the Wuhan Institute of Virology evaluated the human spillover risk of 40 coronavirus species.

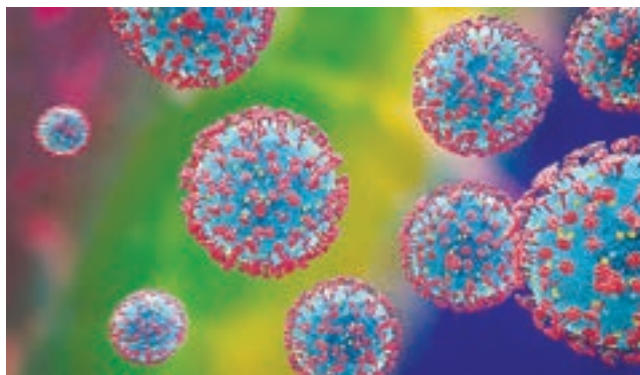
The findings published in the English-language journal Emerging Microbes and Infections in July reported 20 'highly risky' coronavirus species.

"If a coronavirus caused diseases to emerge before, there is a high chance it will cause future outbreaks," she was quoted as saying by the South China Morning Post (SCMP). Of the 40 species, six are already known to have caused diseases that infected humans, while there is evidence that a further three caused disease or infected other animal species.

"It is almost certain that there will be future disease emergence and it is highly likely a (coronavirus) disease again," the study warned.

The study was based on an analysis of viral traits, including population, genetic diversity, host species and any previous history of zoonosis -- diseases that jump from animals to humans, the SCMP reported.

Shi and her colleagues also identified important



hosts of the pathogen, which include natural hosts such as bats and rodents, or possible intermediate hosts, including camels, civets, pigs or pangolin.

The study comes as the former chair of the UK Vaccine Taskforce Kate Bingham in a new book warned of a next pandemic that could come from a million unknown viruses and kill about 50 million people.

According to the experts, thousands of different viruses could evolve to spark a pandemic. There is also a risk that viruses could jump between species and "mutate dramatically".

Source: IANS

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi with ISRO chairman S. Somanath during a visit to the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network, in Bengaluru. PTI file

After moon mission, ISRO eyes Venus, exo-planets

After the success of the Moon mission, ISRO has set sights on unlocking the mysteries of dying stars and exo-planets some of which are known to have atmosphere and are considered habitable, Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman S Somanath said.

Delivering a lecture organised by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Somanath said the space agency was also planning a mission to study the planet Venus, two satellites to study space climate and its impact on the earth, and conceptualising a project to land a spacecraft on Mars. He said the XPoSat or the X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite, meant to study bright X-ray pulsars or stars that are in the process of death, was ready for launch in December this year.

"We are also conceiving a satellite called ExoWorlds, a mission for looking at exo-solar planets or planets that are outside our solar system and orbiting other stars," Somanath said.

He said there were more than 5,000 known exo-planets of which at least 100 were considered to have atmospheres. The ExoWorlds mission will study the atmosphere of exo-planets and whether they are livable or they host life. Somanath said the plans for a Mars Lander Mission too were at the conceptual stage. On the need to study Venus, the ISRO chief said the planet also has an atmosphere with atmospheric pressure 100 times that of earth near the surface.

Source: PTI

Aditya L1 on its way to Lagrange Point 1: Isro reveals how its new home looks

India's Aditya L1 mission is cruising in space as it continues to move closer to its new home at the Lagrange Point 1. The spacecraft took off from India on September 2.

Lagrange points are unique locations in space where the gravitational forces of two large bodies balance the centripetal force felt by a smaller object. This makes them ideal for spacecraft as they require minimal fuel for orbit corrections.

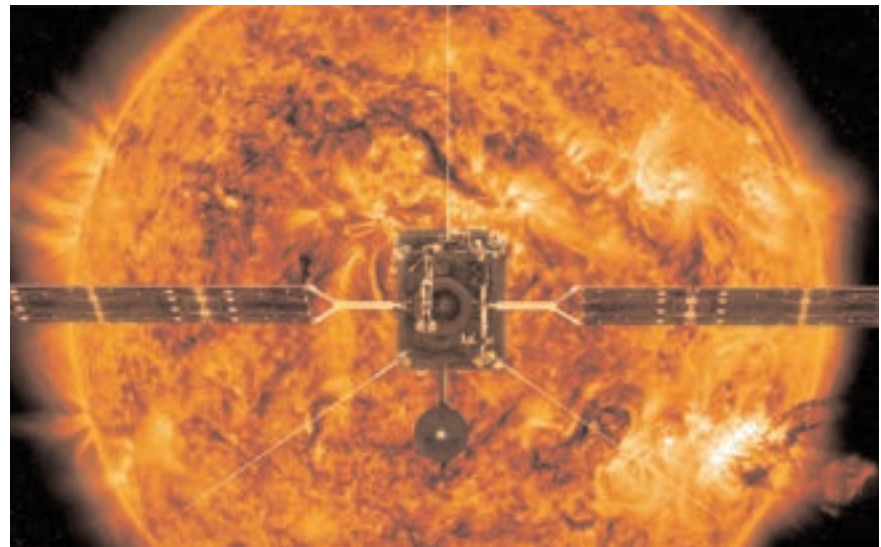
Of the five Lagrange points (L1 to L5) in any two-body system, L1 is particularly significant. Located between the two primary bodies, in this case, the Sun and Earth, it allows for continuous observation of these bodies and unobstructed views of other celestial entities.

Aditya-L1 will operate in a 'Halo orbit' around the Sun-Earth L1 point, approximately 15 lakh kilometers from Earth.

These orbits are three-dimensional and periodic, providing an out-of-plane motion component relative to the primary bodies. The orbit's size ensures that it can be continuously viewed from Earth, appearing to form a halo around Lagrange Point.

The mission aims to provide comprehensive observations of the Sun's photosphere, chromosphere, and corona.

It will join several operational spacecraft that have previously been at the Sun-Earth L1 point, including the International Sun-Earth Explorer (ISEE-3), the Genesis mission, ESA's LISA



Of the five Lagrange points (L1 to L5) in any two-body system, L1 is particularly significant. (Photo: ESA)

Pathfinder, China's Chang'e 5 lunar orbiter, and NASA's Gravity Recovery and Interior Recovery (GRAIL) mission.

Currently, Nasa's Wind mission observes the unperturbed solar wind before reaching the magnetosphere of Earth from L1 along with Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, Advanced Composition Explorer and the Deep Space Climate Observatory, which monitors space weather and climate, deep space Earth observation.

These missions have significantly contributed to our understanding of space and our ability to monitor space weather events.

The spacecraft at the Sun-Earth

L1 point provide crucial early warnings on adverse space weather events, helping to protect both orbiting space assets and ground-based infrastructure.

Despite the sparse population at the L1 point and the vast separation between spacecraft, ISRO plans to carry out periodic close approach assessments for Aditya L1.

This is due to the large positional uncertainty and sensitivity to other perturbative forces. With support from NASA-JPL, these analyses will ensure the safety of the mission and avoid any potential close approaches with neighboring spacecraft.

Aditya L1 is expected to reach its destination on January 6, 2024.

Source: India Today

Audio and video calls arriving on X only for premium users

X Corp is planning to soon roll out audio and video calls to premium, subscription-only users, as X CEO Linda Yaccarino confirmed last month that video calls will arrive on the platform as part of its transition into an "everything app."

Tech veteran-turned-investor Chris Messina revealed the new code in X app which supports audio and video calls from other

Verified users from people they follow, or from people in their address book.

"As hinted in Linda's sizzle reel, X will be adding audio and video calls shortly," Messina posted on X rival Threads. "You will, of course, have to pay for that feature, because Skype is dead," he added.

According to the feature's description, "Take messaging to the next level with audio and video calls".

"Turn the feature on and then select who you're comfortable using it with".



Last month, Yaccarino said that the company is at the verge of breaking even, after it went through a massive churn in the last few months including huge layoffs and platform changes.

In her first TV interview since she took over as X Corp CEO, Yaccarino said that video calls are arriving soon on the platform, as it aims to become an "everything app" like China's WeChat.

"I've been at the company for eight weeks. The operational run rate right now... we're pretty close to break even," she was quoted as saying.

The X CEO informed that soon, "you'll be able to make video chat calls without having to give your phone number to anyone on the platform".

She also spoke about other features like long-form videos and creator subscriptions, along with future plans around digital payments.

Musk always wanted Twitter to become "an everything app" like China's WeChat. Source: IANS

OpenAI's ChatGPT can now see, hear and speak

Sam Altman-run OpenAI has announced it is rolling out new voice and image capabilities in ChatGPT that can now help the AI chatbot see, hear and speak.

These capabilities offer a new, more intuitive type of interface by allowing you to have a voice conversation or show ChatGPT what you're talking about, the company said in a statement. "Voice mode and vision for chatGPT! really worth a try," Altman posted on X.

The company said it is rolling out voice and images in ChatGPT to Plus and Enterprise users over the next two weeks. "Voice is coming on iOS and Android (opt-in in your settings) and images will be available on all platforms," said the Microsoft-backed company.

The new voice capability is powered by a new text-to-speech model, capable of generating human-like audio from just text and a few seconds of sample speech.

"We collaborated with professional voice actors to create each of the voices. We also use Whisper, our open-source speech recognition system, to transcribe your spoken words into text," said OpenAI. Image understanding is powered by multimodal GPT-3.5 and GPT-4. These models apply their language reasoning skills to a wide range of images, such as photographs, screenshots, and documents containing both text and images. Source: IANS

Ambani siblings to receive only a fee, no salary for board meetings

Billionsaire Mukesh Ambani's three children as directors of Reliance Industries Ltd will be paid only a fee for attending board and committee meetings, the company said in a resolution seeking shareholder nod for their appointment on its board.

While Ambani, 66, drew nil salary from the company since the 2020-21 fiscal year, other executive directors including his cousins Nikhil and Hital are paid a salary, perquisites, allowances and commission.

His three children - twins Akash and Isha (both 31) and Anant (28 years) - will get only a sitting fee and a commission on the profit earned by the firm.

The terms of the appointment of the three are the same as the ones on which Ambani's wife Nita was appointed to the company board in 2014. She earned a sitting fee of ₹6 lakh and a commission of ₹2 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023), according to the company's latest annual report.

Ambani, 66, had at the company's annual shareholders meeting last month announced that his three children Akash, Isha and Anant would be inducted into Reliance's board of directors (BoD).

He also stated that he would continue to be the chairman and CEO of the company for five more years, with a focus on grooming and empowering its 'next-gen' leaders.

Reliance has now sent out a postal ballot to shareholders seeking a nod for their appointment as board of directors of the company.

"They shall be paid remuneration by way of fee for attending meetings of the Board or Committees thereof or for any other meetings as may be decided by the Board, reimbursement of expenses for participating in the Board and other meetings and profit-related commission," the notice said.

Reliance has five broad verticals - the oil-to-chemical (O2C) business that houses the world's largest single-location refining complex and petrochemical plants, telecom and digital business, retail (both physical and online), new energy, and recently launched financial services.

Ambani first talked of a succession plan at the oil-to-telecom conglomerate in 2022, where he announced that each of his three children would head various divisions of the company (Akash to head telecom, Isha to head retail, and Anant to head new energy).

He did not divulge the succession plan for Reliance's mainstay oil-to-chemicals or O2C business division.

Reliance shareholders at the annual general meeting (AGM) last month gave a nod to Ambani getting another five-year term till 2029 as the head of India's most valuable company. And just like the past three years, he has opted to draw nil salary during this period. *Source: PTI*

US consumer confidence Declines, fueled by energy costs

NEW YORK (TIP)

US consumer confidence fell again in September, extending a slump from August as Americans voiced concerns about rising food and energy prices, according to survey data published on September 26.

"Consumers continued to be preoccupied with rising prices in general, and for groceries and gasoline in particular," Conference Board Chief Economist Dana Peterson said in a statement.

She added that people "also expressed concerns about the political situation and higher interest rates."

The decline in consumer confidence was notable among those with household incomes of \$50,000 or more, according to the Conference Board.

An increase in oil prices pushed up energy costs in the United States over the summer, and inflation along with it, causing headaches for the Federal Reserve as it attempts to slow price increases through interest rate hikes.

The Fed has raised its benchmark lending rate 11 times since March 2022 in a bid to bring inflation back down to its long-term target of two percent.

While higher interest rates have succeeded in sharply slowing inflation since last year, the recent rise in energy costs fueled an uptick in price increases over the summer, keeping up the pressure on the Fed.

"Consumer confidence fell more than expected in September, to the lowest level since May, on weakness in the expectations component," High Frequency Economics Chief US



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Consumer confidence dropped in September as high gas prices and high interest rates made people more pessimistic about the trajectory of the economy.
- How people feel about the economy can affect their spending plans, and the drop in confidence may be especially meaningful because dwindling savings and tough credit are making it harder to spend.
- While assessments of the present situation remain high, an index measuring the six-month-ahead outlook took its biggest plunge since 2020.

Economist Rubeela Farooqi wrote in a note to clients.

"While household perceptions about labor market conditions improved modestly in September, they have

weakened in the last two months, which could be a headwind for consumers, spending and growth going forward," she added.

Source: AFP

Mercedes on track to continue record sales in 2023 amid surging demand

NEW DELHI (TIP)

German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz expects 2023 to turn out to be its best year in terms of sales in India as the demand for high-end cars continues to grow post the Covid pandemic, according to a top company official.

The carmaker, which sold 15,822 units in the Indian market in 2022, its highest ever in the country so far, anticipates the overall luxury car segment to post its best ever performance this calendar year.

In an interaction with PTI, Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said the company reported a 13 per cent year-on-year growth in its sales at 8,528 units in India in the first half of 2023, its best-ever half-yearly sales in the country.

"We are now coming into the third quarter of this year, and we feel the trend should continue which should mean that we should be able to end this year on a record high once again," he noted.

Iyer said the company expects double digit sales growth this year even as multiple challenges exist in the market.

"There is a lot of uncertainty still



coming from the exchange rate...interest rates are further going up. So you know we still have three and a half months to go for the year to get over... so outlook wise we can still be confident it should be around the double digit mark," he stated. Iyer noted that more and more customers are now opting for costlier trims across its product range, which was not the case earlier.

He said that Mercedes-Benz globally believes that it is more important to provide the right experience and right kind of equipment to a customer than

just focus on attaining sales numbers. "We feel what's more important is to do the right things, get the right products, equipment, get the right customer experience, because that should then drive volumes.

It will be an outcome of what we are trying to do," he noted.

On the overall domestic luxury car market, which roughly accounts for just 1 per cent of the overall passenger vehicle industry currently, he noted that the segment could end somewhere in the region of 45,000 cars this year making it the best so far.

"This year we can see the market growing with everybody participating and that's a great sign for the overall health of the luxury car market," Iyer stated.

He noted that demand is increasing with new set of buyers, including women and salaried employees, also opting for luxury cars.

He said that Mercedes-Benz globally believes that it is more important to provide the right experience and right kind of equipment to a customer than just focus on attaining sales numbers.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCTOBER 2 TO OCTOBER 8, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says your colleagues and managers will appreciate your effort. Your ability to communicate will be commended. Those who are considering shifting careers should wait till later. Due to divergent viewpoints, there can be minor problems within the household, but all will be Alright shortly. Love for you will be where it should be just now. Your partner may really turn out to be a fantastic friend. Make an effort to understand how people believe regarding you prior to making judgments. Now, you may take the next step in your romantic life. You can discuss the subject with your companion to find out their opinion. This week, your wellness will be terrific. This week, you may concentrate on eating regularly.



TAURUS : Ganesha says this week the odds will be on the side of those placed underneath this sign because they'll be at the height of their power to seize and will receive the required wealth. Individuals who have been hoping to quit their boring employment and start their own business will find this week to be a terrific week. Individuals who have previously launched a business will be allowed to instantly make up their damages. This week, your spouse may try to modify aspects of you that you may not appreciate, but you must realize that those adjustments are being made for your own benefit. Another of your greatest tendencies is to create compromises when it involves your well-being. This week, resolve to go above and beyond to maintain your fitness.

GEMINI : Ganesha says this week is the time for you to regain squandered focus on your organization. There may be times when you and your friend dispute, but this time maintaining your cool down can help. It's best to reserve making significant decisions this week since you could feel a bit pompous. Your mentors must have eagerly waited for you to finish the assignments they have given you, and this week is it. Your spouse will be working and unable to visit you; try not to let this affect your connection. There is anything to stress about with regards to your wellness.

CANCER : Ganesha says this week you'll defend your strict schedules and tactics from rivals while also having an important conversation about development. You'll be able to create compelling professional defenses this week. In order to be honest with them and assist them realize their advantages and weaknesses, your spouse will request your assistance and counsel about their job or employment. If maintaining your health is the last thing on your checklist, stop treating your

physique like a computer and adjust your training program.



LEO : Ganesha says it's an excellent week to start a corporation this week. This week will be prosperous for people in the agriculture industry. Aside from just that, this week's youngster will undoubtedly see a change in fortunes; while it may feel that your hard work is futile at the start of each week, by the conclusion of this week, you will still have made substantial progress. This week, you will be able to provide for your companion as well, which will make them happy. Maintain a secure atmosphere as your cardiovascular troubles are likely to annoy you somewhat during the latter part of the week.

VIRGO : Ganesha says you're going to have a fantastic time this week. Perform all tasks with diligence. Bright colors should be present to boost confidence. Tints have a notoriety for drawing in the wrong crowd and leaving you feeling helpless. They have to be capable of functioning in various environments and with various types of individuals. Don't take your possessions too seriously. Since anything can sever the relationship between you and your lover since you were intended to be together, you must resolve this week to combat this negative time together. You should enjoy a calm time outdoors since your body occasionally needs to rest.

LIBRA : Ganesha says your week will begin just how you had hoped, but it will develop progressively. You will be forced to choose between two significant professional duties, but you will most likely make the correct decision. After everything, trust your instincts. The individual you are drawn to will consider asking you out. This week, your wellness requires consideration. If you don't already have a routine, make an appointment for a scheduled check-up this week if you forget to go to one this week.

SCORPIO : Ganesha says your business will thrive this week, I promise. You'll devise fresh solutions for dealing with your issues. For people new to the field, this week is a great one to unwind. On an individual basis, issues with your close family members will be addressed. Your kids will be capable of both creativity and cognition this week. This week, you should astonish your lover. Do not even delay significant events to show someone you care by giving them a present or making them experience something amazing; if you two get along, every week should count. You'll be in good condition. This week, you need to be vigilant and advised against drinking too much water.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says someone could try to influence your decisions and persuade you to make a choice on a different path, but you have to decide what feels best for you. This week, expenditures for your business are probably going to be high and earnings are probably going to be down, but don't worry-you'll soon be back on track. Now that you can, consider getting married. You should discuss it with your company's family this week. Becoming authentic rather than portraying a false character would be helpful. Take good care of yourself this week if you have problems with your blood glucose or hypertension. Try to stay away from sugary foods and go for a stroll.

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says you'll have many opportunities to take advantage of as well. You'll follow your emotions, and they'll help you make the right choices. In the first half of the week, your work will leave you appear depressed and worn out, your endeavors will be appreciated, and you will benefit from them. The income you thought you'd squandered by lending will be given back to you this week. A husband and wife must rebuild their marriage. This week, they ought to meet together. For couples, a date is on the agenda. Good mental and physical well-being are the foundation of your wellness; thus, you must maintain both while being informed regarding each.

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says this week, you're destined to display a lot of bravery. You'll take a few risky decisions. This week, unpleasant thoughts that have bothered you for a while will go. You will be employed for a lot greater than usual thanks to your job. They will glance up to you as an example among your coworkers. This week, be careful to steer clear of the stock market. You're frustrated because your romantic life is moving too slowly. This week, your spouse has scheduled a talk with you, and you need to participate actively in it. Due to your propensity for colds and coughs, use caution.

PISCES : Ganesha says you will utilize your skills and knowledge to the fullest extent this week. Anything you were a beginner at before, you'll acquire an expertise at. Your superiors will be aware of you. Also, you'll receive certain advantages. Resist overspending if you're in business since you won't be able to manage your money well. Your connection is about to develop. Both of you will be capable of seeing deeper into the prospective if you maintain your endurance and have faith in your relationship. Your wellness will be good, but you'll need to give the little ones and the aged in the family additional attention. This week don't let them rely on housekeepers or caregivers.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 2 TO OCTOBER 8 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

OCTOBER 2 : Ganesha says Open yourself up to the revitalizing power of rejuvenation. When the stars and planets come into proper alignment, it paves the path for novel insights and unexplored possibilities. Be willing to adapt to unanticipated changes and have faith that doing so will lead to personal development and progression. Your intuition is heightened, and as a result, you are able to handle challenging circumstances with poise and sage advice. Spend some time thinking about the things you want to do and the good things you want to happen in the days to come. Your endeavors are supported by the stars, which in turn inspires confidence and hope in you. As you embark on this new path, don't forget to show kindness to both yourself and the people around you.

OCTOBER 3 : Ganesha says the universe inspires you to indulge in your creative side today by encouraging you to do so. You should let your imagination go wild and investigate the hidden parts of your own universe. The conditions now are ideal for creative expression, introspection, and the development of new ideas. Your creative endeavors are

supported by the forces of the universe, which in turn provide you with knowledge and inspiration. Have faith in your one-of-a-kind perspective, and communicate it to the rest of the world. The associations you establish today have the potential to develop into more substantial relationships and productive partnerships in the future.

OCTOBER 4 : Ganesha says clarity and concentration will come to your mind today as the stars are in perfect alignment. Today is a good day for introspective contemplation and methodical preparation. Spend some time getting your thoughts organized and coming up with some goals for the future that are attainable. Your goals are supported by the cosmos, and it provides you with the willpower and tenacity you need to make them a reality. Don't forget to keep a healthy balance in all elements of your life, making sure that you're taking care of yourself and making progress in other areas of your life in addition to your professional accomplishments.

OCTOBER 5 : Ganesha says the forces of the heavens today highlight the significance of maintaining open lines of

communication. The ability to have a conversation that is both clear and empathetic is essential to successfully resolving issues and building stronger relationships. Maintain an open mind to the viewpoints of others and work on your ability to actively listen. You are blessed with empathy and understanding, which enables you to negotiate talks with elegance and respect. The cosmos smiles down upon you. You have the power to heal others and inspire others, so choose your words carefully.

OCTOBER 6 : Ganesha says the universe advises people to take care of themselves and rest today. Get away from the commotion for a while so that you can refresh not only your thoughts but also your body and your spirit. Participate in pursuits that will provide you with both pleasure and a sense of calm. You are bathed in the soft light of the stars, which brings forth feelings of calm and composure within you. Embrace the calm vibe that surrounds you and take it with you into the days that lie ahead.

OCTOBER 7 : Ganesha says the cosmic forces of today underscore the

significance of adaptation and flexibility in one's life. Because of the unpredictability of life, it is possible that unexpected changes will occur, and the universe will prepare you to confront these changes with bravery and optimism. Have faith in the divine design of the universe, and be aware that every event serves a purpose in your personal development and progression. Always try to keep a cheerful attitude and be open to new experiences; life is full of exciting opportunities.

OCTOBER 8 : Ganesha says at the end of the week, the heavenly bodies will align in a way that will bring harmony and balance into your life. It is a day for making amends, getting well, and coming together as one. Make amends with loved ones and reconnect with old friends. The success of your attempts to cultivate healthy, loving relationships is supported by the cosmos. Think back on the events of the past week and acknowledge the things you've picked up and how much you've grown as a result. Proceed with a spirit that is filled to the brim with love, appreciation, and excitement for the benefits that are still to come.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAHI ||



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Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, TO OCTOBER 5, 2023

29th September



1690 Sahibjadhha Baba Jujhar Singh Ji, son of Guru Gobind Singh, was born to Matta Jito. He fought valiantly in the Chamkaur battle and accepted shahidi in the battle of Chamkaur on Dec. 22, 1704.



1914 The Komagata Maru passengers were fired upon at Budge-Budge Ghat (Calcutta) without any provocation. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.



1981 Dal Khalsa workers hijacked an Indian Airliner to Lahore. An Indian Airlines Jetliner (Boeing 737) flying to Lahore with 117 persons aboard was hijacked by 5 members Dal Khalsa under the leadership of Gajinder Singh. They demanded the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalae, then in judicial custody following the murder of Jagat Narainm a Hindu newspaper proprietor of Jallandhar. The release of all persons detained in connection with the Khalistan movement, a ransom of 5 lakh dollars, and

compensation of Rs. 100,000 per family for GurSikhs killed on 20th September at Chowk Mehta after the arrest of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

The next day Pakistani commandos effected the arrest of the Dal Khalsa workers. Hijackers identified were:- Gajinder Singh, Satnam Singh of Poanta Sahib, Jasbir Singh of Ropar, Tejinderpal Singh of Jallandar, and Karam Singh of Jammu.



1984 Giani Zail Singh's excommunication notice withdrawn. Giani Zail Singh's notice of excommunication from Guru Khalsa Panth was withdrawn. After the Operation Bluestar, the five Jathedars, comprising highest council of Sikhs, decided to serve notice of excommunication to Giani Zail Singh.

30th September

1632 Guru Tegh Bahadur married Gujari Ji, daughter of Bhai Lal Chabd of Kartarpur, Jalandhar.

1612 Baba Sri Chand dies at the age of 118. Baba SRI CHAND, the eldest son of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was born on Bhadoo Sidhi 9th sanmat 1551 to matta Sulakhni in Sultanpur. He lived in Barath village, near Dehra Nanak, Baba Sri Chand never married and later started the Udasi sect (one among the NanakPanthi sects). Though there several visible sects associated with NanakPanth today, the three main sects include, Udasi, Saehajdhari, and Sikhs (including Nihang, Nirmalae, and Kukae) [ref. Mahan Kosh]. Baba Sri Chand passed away on 15th Assu samnat 1668 at the age of 118.

1711 Bahadur Shah gave control fo Amritsar region to Ajit Singh, the adopted son of Matta Sundar Kaur. However, he started pusing his ego and sought his worship. As a result Matta Sundar Kaur Ji asked him to return immediately to Delhi.

1922 Kishan Singh Gargaj addresses a letter to the Secretary of SGPC asking him to give up the policy of non-violence at Guru Ka Bagh.

1922 Meeting at Rajowal to plan the murder of Arjan Singh Patwari, alleged to be responsible for the arrest of Master Mota Singh.

1953 Akali Dal decided to launch an agitation to undo discrimination against the Sikh backward classes.

1981 Restriction imposed on Kirpan on Indian Airline flights.

1st October

1778 The mosque that was constructed on site of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara was destroyed by the Sikhs.

1873 Sri Guru Singh Sabha was first founded and its inaugural meeting at Manji Sahib, Amritsar.

1961 Master Tara Singh broke his fast. Master Tara Singh broke his fast that started on Aug. 15, 1961 to protest against the discriminatory attitude of the government of India in not forming a Punjabi Speaking State demanded by the Sikhs. Prime Ministers offer to appoint a commision of inquiry to look into the matter, prevailed upon Master Tara Singh to break his fast.

1984 Indian Forces handed over the control Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahiban after Operation Bluestar. Giani Zail Singh, as President of India, flew

back to Amritsar on this day and handed over the control of Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahibans. Jathedar Santa Singh Nihang Singh's Jatha ensured the departure of Indian forces from the complex.

2nd October

1926 First meeting of General Members of SGPC held. The first meeting of General Members elected under guidance of Gurudwara Act of 1925, was held to elect their office bearers. It was at this meeting the name Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) was approved through a resolution and adopted unanimously. Baba Kharak Singh elected President and Master Tara Singh became Vice President.

1986 Sardar Karmjit Singh Sunam was arrested for attacking Rajiv Gandhi at Raj Ghat.

3rd October

1710 Sikh uprising in Jalandar Doab came to a successful frution, when they drove out the forces of Faudjar Shams Khan from Rahon.

4th October



1708 Guru Gobind Singh appointed Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) as the Jathedar of the Panth and attached to him five leading Sikhs. These Sikhs were to provide the corporate leadership to the Khalsa. The Guru handed him a seal, five arrows from his quiver and the nishan sahib, flag pole. Baba Gurbakhash Singh accompanied by about 25 Sikhs left for the Punjab on this day, to punish the Subedar of Sirhind, and uproot the oppressive Mughal rule.

1708 Guru Gobind Singh stabbed by Jamshed Khan, a hired assassin.

1930 Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh released from imprisonment. He was arrested on May 9, 1915 for participating in an unsuccessful attempt to attack Ferozpur Fort on November 27, 1914.

5th October

1708 SPIRITUAL guruship passed to Sri Guru Adi Granth while CORPORATE guruship transfered to Guru Khalsa Panth. Mata Sahib Devan was given the title of being the "MOTHER OF KHALSA"

1983 6 Hindu passengers murdered near Dhilwa. As a result, the Punjab government was suspended and President's direct rule imposed overPunjab.

Pitru Paksha has a special significance in Hinduism. On the days of Shradh, in Hinduism, our ancestors are remembered and their gratitude is expressed. In Hindu religion, if the Pitrus is satisfied, then he blesses his family, due to which happiness, opulence and peace remain in the family.

In Hindu religion, one must do Shradh rites and Pind Daan of one's ancestors. There is a tradition of performing Shradh and tarpan of loved ones on Pitru Paksha. There is also a tradition of performing Shradh on Pitru Paksha. Shradh means reverence. When the Pitru Paksha begins, reverence for the ancestors is expressed. Blessings of ancestors are obtained in Pitru Paksha.

According to Hinduism, the souls of three preceding generations of one's ancestors reside in Pitru-loka, the region between heaven and earth. The region is governed by Yama, the god of death, who carries the soul of a dying person from the earth to Pitru-loka. When the person of the next generation dies, the first generation goes to heaven and is reunited with the Lord, so the offering of Shradh is not given. Thus, only three generations in Pitru-loka are given the shraadh rites, in which Yama plays an important role. According to the sacred Hindu epics, at the beginning of Pitru Paksha, the Sun enters Virgo. With this moment, it is believed that the souls leave Pitru-loka and stay in the homes of their descendants for a month until the Sun enters the next zodiac sign - Scorpio - and there is a full moon. Hindus are expected to appease the ancestors in the first half of the dark fortnight.

Story Related to Shradh

Traditionally pitru paksha or shraddh is a custom that is followed by the Hindus on a regular basis. It is said that if you fail to offer water and food to the ancestors in the pitru paksha then in the afterlife you will also remain without food and water.

We all know of the king Karna from Mahabharata. He was the son of sun god. During his life he was considered to be very deeply involved in charity. He could not say no to anyone. When he died and went to heaven the gods would give him food made of gold. Karna asked the gods that he was such a famous king and would do so much charity then why was he given food made of gold. The king of the gods Indra told him that this was so as Karna in his life was only donating gold and gems.

He never offered food and water to the poor and neither to his ancestors. King Karna realised his mistake and he wanted to correct the same. The gods decided that Karna will be allowed to get back to earth for sixteen days and feed the poor and the needy. This would help him to get rid of the problem.

These sixteen days when king Karna was on Earth were called the pitru paksha. These days are considered very inauspicious and even today no new activity or a good task is done on these days. The Hindus offer prayers and food to the ancestors in this time. This ensures that the pitru dosha is done away with. It also ensures that the entire family is blessed. The pitru paksha is followed only by the male members of the family.

Avoid New Activity During This Period

If you are planning to start any new activity then please avoid this period as it is not a good time. The manner and way in which pitru paksha rituals are performed differs from region to region.

On the shradh day many people keep fast for the ancestors to rest in peace. Many people do not cut their hair during the pitru paksha as it is considered a bad omen. Many people have different names for the pitru paksha. We are mentioning them so that you do not get confused to hear the other terms. These are:

- Tarpanam
- Sola shradha
- Shradham

Why Please Ancestors?

You may ask why you should please the ancestors or whether there is life after death? If they are dead then why should we bother about them? Well when your ancestors are not resting in peace you too will not be able to be in peace. You will often face some problem or the other. There will be disputes in the family. Women will not be able to bear children. The family members will be meeting with unforeseen accidents and the list

Pitru Paksha: Fortnight of the ancestors



Important information

Pitru Paksha 2023

Shradh Start Date : Friday, 29 September 2023

Shradh End Date : Saturday, 14 October 2023

will just go on.

When the ancestors are resting in peace you can see that your home and family will be prospering. Just because the ancestors are dead we should not forget them. They should be prayed to and offered food and water. If the deceased do not have a son then the immediate family members can also do the shradha puja. This puja also cleans the sinful deeds of the deceased soul and ensures that they rest in peace.

The person who is performing the shradha puja during the pitru paksha must do it with complete dedication and with whole heart. You could also do it under guidance of a learned priest.

You must keep handy the list of your ancestors who have left for their heavenly abode. Try to keep the names of at least the previous seven generations. The puja must be offered to both the men as well as the women. After the puja food must be offered to the ancestors. We will deal in more details with the shradha puja done in pitru paksha in our next article.

Significance In Modern Day Concept

We always try to present all information and knowledge with relevance to changing society and the modern age as well. For those who have faith, the above should be more than enough reason to follow pitru paksha but for others there are reasons too, some of them being outlined as follows:

- The society is becoming extremely materialistic and things like giving something to someone without a reasons, like food and clothing are getting scarce. Hence the celebration of pitru paksha should act to somehow awaken these habits in people.

- Even if you do not think that the people who have left for their heavenly abode do not need anything, still the actual things you are offering are to the poor and the needy so in a way you are helping them out
- It is always good to remain connected with the past and the ancestors and not completely forget them. This time at least acts as a special fortnight where you can do so and try and learn something about your ancestors and possibly draw a leaf from the book of their lives.
- Apart from the ancestors who have departed, this also symbolizes taking care of the elders which is very important in modern day society where the aged people are not getting proper care and get isolated

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"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"
"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."



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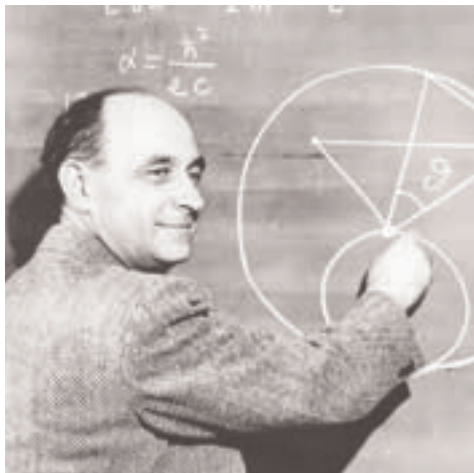
History This Week

SEP 29 TO OCT 05

SEPTEMBER 29

September 29, 1829 - Britain's "bobbies" made their first public appearance. Greater London's Metropolitan Police force was established by an act of Parliament at the request of Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, after whom they were nicknamed. The force later became known as Scotland Yard, the site of their first headquarters.

September 29-30, 1941 - Nazis killed 33,771 Jews during the Babi Yar massacre near Kiev.



Birthdays - Nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) was born in Rome. While teaching at the University of Chicago, he developed a method of causing nuclear fission, producing a chain reaction releasing explosive nuclear energy which led to the development of the Atomic bombs.

SEPTEMBER 30



September 30, 1938 - British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England declaring there would be "peace in our time," after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler. The Pact ceded the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland to the Nazis. Chamberlain claimed the agreement meant peace, however, Hitler seized all of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.

September 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *East of Eden* and *Giant*, he remains one of the most influential actors.

September 30, 1966 - Nazi war

criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.

Birthdays - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *In Cold Blood*.

OCTOBER 1



October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 1, 1938 - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. In an effort to avoid war, the leaders of Britain and France had agreed to cede the German-speaking area to Hitler, who later broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.

October 1, 1946 - Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

October 1, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

October 1, 1979 - After 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama.

Birthdays - Virtuoso pianist Vladimir Horowitz (1904-1989) was born in Berdichev, Russia. He made his American debut in 1928 with the New York Philharmonic and became a U.S. citizen in 1944. In 1986, after a self-imposed absence of 60 years, he performed a concert in his native Russia.

OCTOBER 2

October 2, 1935 - Mussolini's Italian troops invaded Abyssinia, beginning an occupation lasting until 1941.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing discrimination and the death penalty, and for championing free speech and civil liberties.

October 2, 1968 - California's Redwood National Park was established. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet (120 meters) during a lifetime that can span 2,000 years.

October 2, 1975 - Japanese Emperor Hirohito made his first-ever visit to the White House.

Birthdays - Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas (Mahatma)



Gandhi (1869-1948) was born in Porbandar, India. He achieved worldwide fame for his devout lifestyle and nonviolent resistance which ended British rule over India. He was assassinated by a religious fanatic in the garden of his home in New Delhi on January 30, 1948.

Birthdays - American statesman Cordell Hull (1871-1955) was born in Pickett County, Tennessee. He served in both houses of Congress, as Secretary of State, and was instrumental in the establishment of the United Nations.

OCTOBER 3



October 3, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

October 3, 1929 - Yugoslavia became the official name of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

October 3, 1932 - Iraq gained independence from Britain and joined the League of Nations.

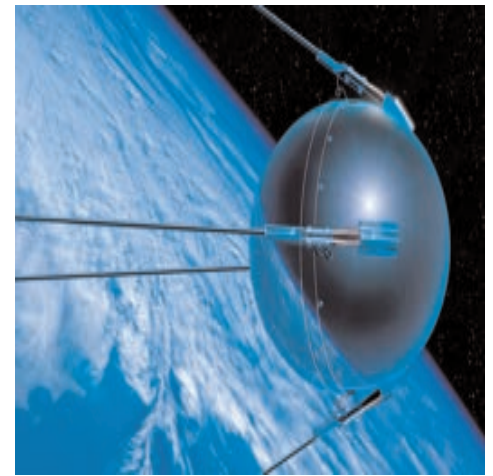
October 3, 1974 - Frank Robinson was hired by the Cleveland Indians as baseball's first African American major league manager.

October 3, 1990 - After 45 years of Cold War division, East and West Germany were reunited as the Federal Republic of Germany.

OCTOBER 4

October 4, 1943 - The Island of Corsica

became the first French territory in Europe freed from Nazi control as Free French troops liberated the city of Bastia.



October 4, 1957 - The Space Age began as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days. The remarkable accomplishment by Soviet Russia sent a shockwave through the American political leadership resulting in U.S. efforts to be the first on the moon.

October 4, 1965 - Pope Paul VI became the first Pope to visit the U.S. and the first to address the United Nations.

October 4, 1993 - Russian tank-soldiers loyal to President Boris Yeltsin shelled the Russian White House, crushing a hard-line Communist rebellion. Yeltsin then fired Vice-president Alexander Rutskoi and jailed other opposition leaders.

Birthdays - St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) was born in Assisi, Umbria, Italy (as Giovanni Francesco Bernardone). He renounced his family's wealth and founded the Friars Minor (Franciscan Order).

Birthdays - Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893) the 19th U.S. President was born in Delaware, Ohio. He served from March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1881. He was a Republican best known for his much-quoted statement, "He serves his party best who serves his country best."

OCTOBER 5



October 5, 1938 - Czech President Dr. Eduard Benes resigned and fled abroad amid threats from Adolf Hitler.

October 5, 1964 - The largest mass escape since the construction of the Berlin Wall occurred as 57 East German refugees escaped to West Berlin after tunneling beneath the wall.

October 5, 1986 - Former U.S. Marine Eugene Hasenfus was captured by Nicaraguan Sandinistas after a plane carrying arms for the Nicaraguan rebels (Contras) was shot down over Nicaragua. This marked the beginning of the "Iran-Contra" controversy resulting in Congressional hearings.

Mahabaleshwar: Hill station in the Western Ghats

Enter Mahabaleshwar and you're welcomed with a sight of the soaring peaks and breathtaking valleys. The cool crisp mountain air makes this hill station a great escape from humdrum of Mumbai's daily life. Catch a boat at the lake or simply spend the afternoon gorging on strawberries. Here's a list of must-do Mahabaleshwar experiences.

VENNA LAKE

Surrounded by tall trees and greenery, the Venna Lake in Mahabaleshwar is one of the most popular tourist attractions in town. Paddle your way across the lake and enjoy the sight of lush greenery enveloping the waters. Along the banks of the lake are different street food stalls where you can grab a bite. Watching the sun set into the waters while sitting on a boat is the best way to spend your evening here.

MAHABALESHWAR

Translating to mean 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there's lots you can do here to keep entertained. All parts of the hill station are accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you're feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor's residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.

MAPRO GARDENS

For a sight (and taste!) of juicy, positively divine berries visit Mapro Gardens, situated en route to Panchgani. Not only are various jams and preserves manufactured and sold here, but you can also treat yourself to fresh salads and juices. The Gardens also host the annual Strawberry Festival where you can get your hands on some farm-fresh strawberries.

Traversing through lesser known trails is best when you're perched up on a horse or camel. If you're one for literally taking the reins of your adventure, then this should definitely be on your list. Most hotels provide guests easy access to horse rides. Camels and horses are in abundance at Echo Point in Mahabaleshwar and can

be booked for short or long rides.

SHOPPING AT MAHABALESHWAR

Canned jams and preserves, freshly plucked strawberries and honey is what shopping in Mahabaleshwar consists of. Town Bazaar, Imperial Stores and Mapro are the places to go to if you're looking to buy any of these things. Strawberries and Raspberries are available in abundance everywhere and you can pick up honey from government sponsored bee farms.

CONNAUGHT PEAK

Initially known as Mount Olympia, this peak was renamed the Connaught Peak, after the Duke of Connaught visited this spot and literally fell in love with its beauty. The second highest peak in Mahabaleshwar, it offers trekkers great views and thrilling adventures. So strap on your bags and get ready to walk through the valleys of Mahabaleshwar. The Pratapgad Fort, Venna Lake and the Krishna Valley are clearly visible from here, and will steal your breath away with their distant magnificence.

PRATAPGARH FORT

Walk up to the Pratapgarh Fort and you will ascend to the highest point of the Mahabaleshwar hill. The historical battle between Chatrapati Shivaji and Afzal Khan was fought here and this is a great pit-stop for history buffs. The fort lies 24 kms west of Mahabaleshwar and is divided into two sections, namely the lower fort and the upper fort. There is a beautiful trekking route that surrounds the fort and will lead you to the top of the hill in about an hour.



contd from page 1

EAM Jaishankar, US Secretary...

Also exchanged notes on global developments. Laid the groundwork of our 2+2 meeting very soon," he posted on X on Friday, September 29.

The two top diplomats "discussed a full range of issues, including key outcomes of India's G20 presidency, and the creation of India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and its potential to generate transparent, sustainable, and high-standard infrastructure investments," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said.

"The Secretary and the External Affairs Minister also emphasized the continued importance of cooperation ahead of the upcoming 2+2 Dialogue, in particular in the areas of defense, space, and clean energy," Miller said in a statement after the meeting. New Delhi will host the fifth edition of India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, Jaishankar announced on Thursday. Although he did not reveal the dates of the meeting, it is learnt that the ministerial dialogue would be held in the first half of November.

The US delegation would be represented by Blinken along with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will lead the Indian delegation.

"I actually look forward to seeing you in Delhi for the 2+2," Jaishankar told Blinken, as the latter welcomed him at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department for the meeting.

The last 2+2 ministerial was held in Washington DC on April 11. Started during the previous Trump administration, the first 2+2 ministerial was held in New Delhi on September 6, 2018.

"Focused discussion on India-US collaboration on critical and emerging tech and creating resilient supply chains at discussion convened by @USISPFForum," Jaishankar said in another post on social media platform X.

"Glad to know that India is the major talking point in corporate boardrooms. Our collaboration offers more possibilities with each passing day," he said.

The two sides remained tight-lipped about the direct or indirect implications of the diplomatic row between India and Canada over the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia early this year.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has alleged that the Indian government was behind the killing of Nijjar on June 18. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. India has rejected Canada's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

Secretary Blinken refused to respond to reporters' questions about the row.

"It's a pleasure to welcome my friend and colleague, Foreign Minister Jaishankar, here to the State Department, back to Washington. We've had very good discussions over the last weeks - of course at the G20, in New York at the General Assembly - and I'm looking forward to pursuing them this afternoon," Blinken said welcoming Jaishankar at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department.

Both the top diplomats were smiling and in a cheerful mood as they appeared before the media at the Treaty Room of the State Department for a photo-op ahead of their bilateral meeting on Thursday.

"Good to be back here, and we, of course, had the prime minister here this summer. We thank the US for all the support at the G20 summit," Jaishankar said in his brief remarks. Soon thereafter, the two leaders headed for the bilateral meeting.

Jaishankar, who arrived here from New York on Wednesday after addressing the 78th General Assembly session of the United Nations on Tuesday, held a series of meetings with top Biden administration officials on Thursday.

He started the day with a visit to the White House for a meeting with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. The White House did not issue a readout of the meeting.

"Recognized the tremendous progress in our bilateral relationship this year and discussed taking it forward," the minister posted on X.

After a meeting with representatives of the think tanks from Washington DC, Jaishankar met US Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

"Spoke about our expanding trade and economic relationship and its broader significance," he wrote on X.

"Today I met with" Jaishankar "to discuss the positive momentum of the U.S.-India trade relationship, and opportunities to collaborate on WTO reform and IPEF negotiations," Tai said.

Jaishankar described his meetings with the think tanks as an open and productive conversation.

"Discussed transformations underway around the world and India's growing role," he said. (Source: PTI)

A Shutdown looms as McCarthy's...

The White House and Democrats rejected the Republican approach as too extreme. The vote was 198-232, with 21 hard-right Republicans voting to sink the package. The Democrats voted against it.

The bill's complete failure a day before Saturday's deadline to fund the government leaves few options to prevent a shutdown that will furlough federal workers, keep the military working without pay and disrupt programs and services for millions of Americans.

A clearly agitated Mr. McCarthy left the House chamber. "It's not the end yet; I've got other ideas," he told reporters.

The outcome puts Mr. McCarthy's speakership in serious jeopardy with almost no political leverage to lead the House at a critical moment that has pushed the government into crisis.

Even the failed plan, an extraordinary concession to immediately slash spending by one-third for many agencies, was not enough to satisfy the hard right flank that has upturned his speakership.

Republican leaders planned to convene behind closed doors late Friday to assess next steps.

The federal government is heading straight into a shutdown after midnight Saturday that would leave 2 million military troops without pay, furlough federal workers and disrupt government services and programs that Americans rely on from coast to coast. Congress has been unable to fund the agencies or pass a temporary bill to keep offices open.

The Senate was pushing ahead Friday with its own plan favored by Republicans and Democrats to keep the government open while also bolstering Ukraine aid and U.S. disaster accounts. But that won't matter with the House in political chaos.

The White House has brushed aside Mr. McCarthy's overtures to meet with President Joe Biden after the speaker walked away from the debt deal they brokered earlier this year that set budget levels.

"Extreme House Republicans are now tripling down on their demands to eviscerate programs millions of hardworking families count on," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Ms. Jean-Pierre said, "The path forward to fund the government has been laid out by the Senate with bipartisan support - House Republicans just need to take it."

Catering to his hard-right flank, Mr. McCarthy had returned to the spending limits the conservatives demanded back in January as part of the deal-making to help him become the House speaker.

His package would not have cut the Defense, Veterans or Homeland Security departments but would have slashed almost all other agencies by up to 30% - steep hits to a vast array of programs, services and departments Americans routinely depend on.

It also added strict new border security provisions that would kickstart building the wall at the southern border with Mexico, among other measures. Additionally, the package would have set up a bipartisan debt commission to address the nation's mounting debt load.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**Owner of Adani Power's Largest...**

The company is based out of Mauritius. It was formed by Trustlink International Ltd, a financial-services firm with ties to the Adani family, WSJ had reported.

The records accessed by the Indian Express, saying that the controlling shareholder of Opal Investment Pvt. Ltd is a 'single person company' takes the SEBI investigation one step further.

Opal Investment Pvt. Ltd is one of the 13 overseas funds under the SEBI scanner. The markets regulator identified one Zenith Commodities General Trading LLC as the controlling shareholder in Opal. One Adel Hassan Ahmed Alali of UAE is its beneficial owner, IE reported.

In July 2020, Adel also became a director of Opal Investments (Mauritius) and is recorded with the address of Trustlink International, a corporate service provider, the newspaper reported.

The one-man setup in Dubai owns and controls Opal Investment's APL shares worth over Rs 8,000 crore at the present market value.

In its Adani report earlier this year, Hindenburg Research had claimed that Opal Investment had no website, "no employees on LinkedIn" and no marketing materials or records that "any of its principals have presented at any investment conferences." It further added that "Opal's investment portfolio has zero diversification" and consisted "solely of Adani Power shares."

A web of 'related' connections

As mentioned earlier, after the Mauritius fund was linked to Adani, Opal Investment dropped its corporate agent Trustlink International and built a website on May 26, 2023. On its Home and About pages, opalinvest.net says that Opal Investment Pvt. Ltd was incorporated in Mauritius on October 4, 2005 and has been granted a Category 1, Global Business License by the Financial Services Commission, Mauritius.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein...**

priorities important to her state - including environmental protection, reproductive rights and gun control - but was also known as a pragmatic lawmaker who reached out to Republicans and sought middle ground. She was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1969 and became its first female president in 1978, the same year Mayor George Moscone was gunned down alongside Supervisor Harvey Milk at City Hall by Dan White, a disgruntled former supervisor. Feinstein found Milk's body.

After Moscone's death, Feinstein became San Francisco's first female mayor. In the Senate, she was one of California's first two female senators, the first woman to head the Senate Intelligence Committee and the first woman to serve as the Judiciary committee's top Democrat. Although Feinstein was not always embraced by the feminist movement, her experiences colored her outlook through her five decades in politics.

"I recognize that women have had to fight for everything they have gotten, every right," she told The Associated Press in 2005, as the Judiciary Committee prepared to hold hearings on President George W. Bush's nomination of John Roberts to replace Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court.

"So, I must tell you, I try to look out for women's rights. I also try to solve problems as I perceive them, with legislation, and reaching out where I can, and working across the aisle," she said.

Her tendency for bipartisanship helped her notch legislative wins throughout her career. But it also proved to be a liability in her later years in Congress, as her state became more liberal and as the Senate and the electorate became increasingly polarized.

A fierce debater who did not suffer fools, the California senator was long known for her verbal zingers and sharp comebacks when challenged on the issues about which she was most fervent.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

ASIAN GAMES 2023					
RANK	TEAMS				TOTAL
1	CHINA	91	51	26	168
2	SOUTH KOREA	24	23	39	86
3	JAPAN	18	30	30	78
4	UZBEKISTAN	6	10	15	31
5	HONG KONG	5	12	15	32
6	INDIA	8	11	11	30

Agarwalla trots into Indian dressage history



Anush Agarwalla

Two days after he helped India win a landmark dressage team gold, Anush Agarwalla scripted history by winning the country's first individual medal in dressage at the

Tonglu Equestrian Centre on Thursday, September 28. Astride his nine-year-old stallion Estro, the Kolkata rider took bronze to mark a seminal moment in India's equestrian history.

"I am still coming to terms with it. The team gold is yet to sink in and this bronze is truly special. This is what I had always wished for and visualised," Agarwalla said. The 24-year-old is based in Borchen, Germany where he trains under 2004 Olympic champion Hubertus Schmidt. Agarwalla took up equestrian aged eight when his parents enrolled him in Kolkata's Tollygunge Club. "Actually, my parents wanted the club membership and rules stated that at least one member of the family ought to play a sport at the club. So, I was enrolled in equestrian classes there." Three years on, he started making weekend trips to Delhi to train but soon realised it wasn't yielding tangible results. In 2017, he shifted to Germany to train under Schmidt. "That was a big, life-changing decision. There were times when I felt I was not good enough, but somehow I persisted. All that has paid dividends," he said. Agarwalla's day began with a text to his mother, "Today is going to be special".

Source: HT

Ravichandran Ashwin replaces injured Axar Patel in India's World Cup squad

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India have predictably named veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as a replacement for injured spin bowling all-rounder Axar Patel in their 15-member squad for the upcoming ODI World Cup, ICC announced on Thursday, September 28. Axar had sustained a quadriceps tear and is not expected to recover anytime soon, forcing the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee to name the 37-year-old Ashwin, who took four wickets in the two ODIs in the recently concluded series against Australia, in the squad.

"Axar Patel has failed to recover in time for the World Cup after sustaining a left quadriceps strain during India's Asia Cup Super Four encounter against Bangladesh. The spin-bowling all-rounder missed the final of the Asia Cup as a result," ICC stated in a media release.

"Veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been named his replacement, who was impressive on his return to ODI cricket in the recently concluded series against Australia where he picked up four wickets in two games," the release further stated.

The writing was there on the wall when Axar failed to recover on time for the third ODI against Australia in Rajkot. Ashwin travelled with the Indian team to Guwahati where they will play the first warm-up game against England on Saturday, September 30.

India World Cup squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, R Ashwin, Surya Kumar Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

Source: PTI

ASIAN GAMES

Sift steals show as Indian shooters dominate

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Faridkot girl Sift Kaur Samra ended India's wait for an individual gold medal at the Asian Games with a world record score of 469.6 in the women's 3-Positions Rifle final event as the country dominated the shooting ranges on Wednesday, September 27, by claiming seven medals.

"I have been told that I won the first individual gold for India today. Coaches also told me that this was a first medal in my discipline after many years," Sift told The Tribune over phone from Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre shooting ranges on Wednesday. Sift relegated the reigning world champion Zhang Qiongyue to the second place by a margin of 7.3 points.

In fact, it was double delight for India as Ashi Chouksey won the individual bronze medal with a total of 451.9 points in the 60-Shot final.

Earlier, Sift, Akshi combined with Manini Kaushik with a total aggregate score of 1,764 points from the qualification round to win a team silver.

Chinese trio of Zhang, Xia Siyu and Han Jiayu who tallied 1,773 points only bettered it. In the women's 25M pistol competition, young Esha Singh won a silver medal, while Manu Bhaker finished fifth with yet another malfunction of her weapon. Esha scored 34 points to finish second behind China's Liu Rui who garnered 38 points. Korea's Yang Jiin finished third. They alongside Rhythm Sangwan bagged the team gold with 1,759 points.

The day ended with good news from the shotgun ranges, where Anant Jeet Singh Naruka won individual silver. Kuwait's Abdullah Rashidi broke all 60 targets to win the gold medal and equalling the world record. Naruka, who was in the joint lead until the



Gold medallist Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra and bronze medallist Ashi Chouksey

(Image Source: PTI)

India bags fifth gold in shooting; women's team strikes silver

Medals continued to rain for India in the shooting arena here with the country clinching a gold in men's 50m rifle three-positions team event with a world record, while the Esha Singh-led women's 10m air pistol trio bagged a silver at the Asian Games on Friday, September 29.

The men's 50m rifle 3-positions team, comprising the young trio of Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (591), Swapnil Kusale (591) and Akhil Sheoran (587), overcame the Chinese challenge with ease with a score of 1,769 to take the top podium finish, while the hosts were a clear six points adrift with 1,763 points.

South Korea was a distant third with 1,748 points. Aishwary and Swapnil shot superbly to make the individual finals as well and are placed first and second after the qualification round.

Akhil, despite finishing fifth with 587 in qualification, will miss out on the eight-team finals as only two shooters per country are allowed in the individual medal round.

India has so far amassed 15 medals at the shooting range, of which five are gold.

Source: PTI


first 14 targets, failed to break targets number 43 and 46. He had to settle for the second place finish. Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiya took the bronze with 46 hits.

The Indian skeet team comprising Naruka, Gurjoat Khangura and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa totalled 355 to finish behind China and Qatar.

Source: TNS

India's squad for Cricket World Cup 2023





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SPEND AN AFTERNOON WITH ITZHAK PERLMAN?



Itzhak Perlman

Photo / Courtesy itzhakperlman.com

BY MABEL PAIS

Itzhak Perlman has established himself as a cultural icon and world's reigning violin virtuoso, a status rarely offered to a classical musician. A household name in classical music, his performances include everything from 'Schindler's List' to 'Sesame Street,' and to even the inauguration of President Obama.

'An Afternoon with Itzhak Perlman' is a multimedia program hosted by Perlman that leads the audience through his life with personal photos, clips, and music. Accompanied by longtime friend and collaborator, pianist Rohan De Silva, Perlman shines as he shares the compelling story of a young boy who became a household name. The event takes place on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 3 pm.

Watch *Itzhak play* - <https://youtu.be/RSMxdPzKX>

EARLY LIFE

Born in Israel in 1945, Mr. Perlman completed his initial training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. An early recipient of an America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship, he came to New York and soon was propelled to national recognition with an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1958. Following his studies at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay, he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964, which led to a burgeoning worldwide career. Since then, Itzhak Perlman has established himself as a cultural icon and household name in classical music.

"One of the most important elements of teaching, conducting and performing, all three, is listening."

TEACHER

Most recently, Perlman launched an exclusive series of classes with Masterclass.com, the premier online education company that enables access to the world's most brilliant minds including Gordon Ramsay, Wolfgang Puck, Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Helen Mirren, Jodie Foster and Serena Williams, as the company's only classical-music presentation. Available exclusively at

masterclass.com/ip, Perlman's class offers students an intimate and inspirational approach to the world of violin where he covers fundamental techniques, practice strategies, and ways to build a richer sound.

CONDUCTOR

Mr. Perlman has further delighted audiences through his frequent appearances on the conductor's podium. He has performed as conductor with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Dallas, Houston, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Montreal, and Toronto, as well as at the Ravinia and Tanglewood festivals. Internationally, Mr. Perlman has conducted the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, and the Israel Philharmonic.

SPEAKER

Further to his engagements as violinist and conductor, Mr. Perlman is increasingly making more appearances as a speaker. Recent speaking engagements include appearances in Texas at Lamar University, South Dakota with the John Vucurevich Foundation, and in Washington D.C. for the Marriott Foundation. In November 2018, he joined Alan Alda for a conversation on the stage of New York's 92nd Street Y.

"Just imagine yourself in a wheelchair: Go through the building. If there's a place you can't go in, it's not accessible."

FILM

An award-winning documentary on Mr. Perlman, titled "Itzhak", premiered in October 2017 as the opening film of the 25th Annual Hamptons International Film Festival. It was released theatrically in over 100 cinemas nationwide in March 2018, with international releases that followed in Summer 2018. Directed by filmmaker Alison Chernick, the enchanting documentary details the virtuoso's own struggles as a polio survivor and Jewish émigré and is a reminder why art is vital to



Itzhak & Toby Perlman with Perlman Music Program (PMP) students of Juilliard School, NYC

Photo / Courtesy itzhakperlman.com

life. For more information, visit itzhakthefilm.com. In 2018, the film made its debut on PBS' American Masters in a broadcast throughout the United States.

MENTOR

Over the past two decades, Mr. Perlman has become actively involved in music education, using this opportunity to encourage gifted young string players. Alongside his wife Toby, his close involvement in the Perlman Music Program has been a particularly rewarding experience, and he has taught full-time at the Program each summer since its founding in 1993. Mr. Perlman currently holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair at the Juilliard School.

AWARDS & HONORS

Numerous publications and institutions have paid tribute to Itzhak Perlman for the unique place he occupies in the artistic and humanitarian fabric of our times. Harvard, Yale, Brandeis, Roosevelt, Yeshiva and Hebrew universities are among the institutions that have awarded him honorary degrees. He was awarded an honorary doctorate and a centennial medal on the occasion of Juilliard's 100th commencement ceremony in 2005. Itzhak Perlman's presence on stage, on camera, and in personal appearances of all kinds speaks eloquently on behalf of the disabled, and his devotion to their cause is an integral part of his life.

From 1964 to 2021, Perlman has received numerous distinguished awards including GRAMMYS, EMMYS, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama, the National Medal of Arts from President Clinton and many more.

Learn more about Perlman at itzhakperlman.com.

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

Arun Ganguly Launches AD Foundation



Arun Ganguly



Arun Ganguly the New York based financier is to announce the launch of the AD Foundation. The Arup and Dolly Ganguly is private family foundation solely backed by Arun Ganguly himself in remembrance of his parents.

Arup Kumar Ganguly passed away at age of 64 in September 2003. In marking the 20th year of his death, the AD foundation will be launched to build schools in rural Kolkata, a passion of his late father, who believed in strong education, and it will also give to charities of orphans, a passion of his mother.

Arup Ganguly immigrated to the US in 1964 after studying at Jadavpur University and the Technical University of Berlin. He joined IBM in 1967 as a Senior Engineer. Arup went on to leading the OEM Division at IBM.

Dolly Ganguly married Arup in 1967 and the two lived a major part of their life in the Bay Area.

The Ganguly family was a pioneer in investing; they were one of the largest real estate syndicators, owning property through Silicon Valley.

Arup and Dolly's passion was giving, they helped people buy their first homes, and were always helping people

in the Indian community.

Arup will continue the family legacy.

Everyone from his assistant to his peers call him "AG". 46 years old Ganguly is an individual who many fear and some consider affectionate. For more than 25 years he has been a man quietly advising prominent financiers, venture capitalists, CEOs of fortune 500 companies and individuals worldwide. He is one of the most connected human beings on the planet and he has the respect of his peers. Many like to talk about him negatively, but he has one of the toughest jobs in the world convincing people to back people he works with. Whether it's working with a leader of SPAC's to advising some of the world's wealthiest family offices or advising the head of a prominent venture, AG gets the job done.

His work ethic is unlike any other, starting at 4 am every morning and ending at the wee hours of the evening. He works every time zone and travels more than 280 a year. His ethic in working has even made his partners work harder.

Ganguly comes from strong family roots his parents Arup and Dolly Ganguly both now deceased came from



Kolkata, his father a former IBM Executive was a prominent Silicon Valley businessman in 80-90's the family was one of the largest owners of properties in the Bay Area and he was angel investor. His mother Dolly worked with her husband in the valley business.

Growing up in Silicon Valley gave him early access to meet some of the top investors in the Valley and Ganguly himself was an entrepreneur early on. Though he didn't think he was going to initially be in business, he wanted to be in politics. His parents were early backers of former President Clinton and Ganguly grew up wanting to make a difference. So, while in high school he joined the Santa Clara County Youth Commission which he eventually chaired under the leadership of Supervisor Mike Honda (later Congressman Honda). Ganguly had a passion to make the United States go tobacco free, so he launched the Student Coalition against Tobacco (SCAT). His foundation allowed San Jose to be the first city in the United States to go tobacco free and eventually his campaign led to the 1997 Olympic Games in Atlanta being tobacco free. Ganguly was a fighter from day one of his career and because of him the

United States now has tobacco ads.

After graduating from college in Washington DC, Ganguly worked with Lazard Technology Partners and eventually became actively raising money for technology companies in the Northeastern Part of the United States. His success caught the attention of Carlyle Co-Founder who he went on to work for.

It was during this period Ganguly built his extensive relationships in the Middle East and he eventually founded two merchant banks, Graystone Capital and Atreus Advisors with Paul Pelosi, Jr.

Over the last 10 years Ganguly has been quietly working in building two new platform firms which have invested in block chain, life sciences and the tech sectors.

Ganguly quietly advises firms and individuals worldwide, but a lot has changed for him, his best friend his mother Dolly passed away 2022 and Ganguly remains focused on building a lasting legacy.

Ganguly would not comment on who his clients are, but he will say they are high profile groups.

(Advertorial)



Late Arup and Dolly Ganguly



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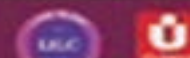
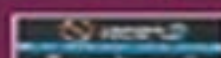
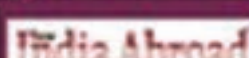
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- * 30 thousand + on children



Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at www.eyefoundationofamerica.org
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The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः । Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah.
सर्वे सन्तु नरामयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
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