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INDIA bloc 'very strong', BJP in panic after bypoll results: Kejriwal



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal

Photo credit / PTI

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after the INDIA bloc parties won four seats out of seven in the Assembly bypolls, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday, September 9, said the BJP is in panic as the opposition alliance is "very strong".

In a post on X, the Delhi chief minister shared a media report of the results of the bypolls and said, "INDIA alliance is very strong. This is the reason for the BJP's panic. This is the reason that the BJP wants to change the name of the country."

The by-election results for seven assembly seats in six states were declared on Friday with the BJP winning three seats and one each going to its rivals Congress, the JMM, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Samajwadi Party (SP).

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G-20 summit kicks off; leaders begin deliberations on pressing challenges facing globe

PM MODI APPEALS TO TURN TRUST DEFICIT TO CONFIDENCE



A video grab of PM Narendra Modi addressing the G20 Summit

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Amid deep divisions over the Ukraine war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged world leaders to turn the global trust deficit into confidence in each other and find new solutions to age-old challenges.

In his opening remarks at the G20 Leaders' Summit, Modi exuded confidence and said if the world could defeat Covid, it could also triumph over the trust deficit caused by the war.

"It is time for all of us to walk together for global good," Modi said while addressing the 'One Earth' session of the G20 Leaders' Summit attended by US President Joe Biden, Saudi Arabia

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Powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake strikes Morocco, killing nearly 600 people



State-run Al-Aoula television on Saturday showed multiple buildings collapsed near the epicenter of the earthquake

Screengrab

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): A powerful 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Morocco Friday night, killing nearly 600 people and damaging buildings in the historic city of Marrakech in what the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said was the strongest tremor to hit that part of the North African nation in more than a century.

The quake struck in Morocco's High Atlas mountain range shortly after 11 p.m. local time at the relatively shallow depth of 18.5 kilometers (11.4 miles), USGS said, with the epicenter located about 72 kilometers (44.7 miles) southwest of Marrakech, a city of some 840,000 people and a popular tourist destination.

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SGPC to set up press in US to print 'holy saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib



Sri Guru Granth Sahib

Photo credit / Tribune

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

AMRITSAR / NEW YORK (TIP): The SGPC executive committee has decided to establish a printing press at Tracy City in California, US, to publish the 'holy saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib. It will also set up a religious preaching center at Yuba City.

This was decided by a meeting of the SGPC executive committee chaired by SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami on Tuesday, September 5.

Sikhs in the US have welcomed the decision. Master Mohinder Singh, a founder President of Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Sikh Center in New York has welcomed the

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COMMENT

Remembering 9/11 Twenty-Two Years Later



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

On September 11, 2001, the world changed forever. Two decades later, the impact of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., still reverberates through our collective memory. The events of that fateful day, commonly referred to as 9/11, remain etched in our hearts and minds as a solemn reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of unity in the face of adversity.

The morning of September 11, 2001, began like any other day for millions of Americans. But as the day unfolded, it became clear that this was no ordinary day. At 8:46 AM, American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan. Less than 20 minutes later, United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower. Shock and disbelief spread like wildfire across the nation as the world watched in horror.

At 9:37 AM, the Pentagon, the symbol of American military might, was also targeted when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into its western side. The

attacks were orchestrated by the terrorist organization al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, and claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent people.

In the midst of chaos and despair, 9/11 brought out the best in America. Strangers helped one another, first responders rushed towards danger, and communities rallied together. Firefighters, police officers, and countless volunteers risked their lives to rescue survivors from the rubble. The heroic actions of these individuals became a testament to the resilience and courage of the American spirit.

The aftermath of 9/11 saw a remarkable display of unity. Political differences were set aside as the nation came together to heal. The phrase "United We Stand" took on new meaning as Americans from all walks of life demonstrated their solidarity and determination to overcome this tragedy. The world watched as the United States stood strong, vowing to rebuild and not be broken by the terrorists' actions.

The repercussions of 9/11 were not limited to the United States. The attacks

marked a turning point in global geopolitics, sparking the War on Terror and leading to U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. The world faced an increased threat of terrorism, and security measures were heightened at airports and public spaces across the globe. 9/11 served as a stark reminder of the need for international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

As we commemorate the twenty-second anniversary of 9/11, it is essential to remember and honor the victims of this tragic day. The names of those who perished in the attacks, as well as the brave first responders who sacrificed their lives to save others, should forever be etched in our hearts. Memorials such as the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City and the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, serve as poignant reminders of the lives lost and the resilience of a nation.

As we pause to remember the victims and the heroes of 9/11, may we find strength in our shared humanity and hope for a brighter, more peaceful future.

GUEST COMMENT

One nation, many elections: On the seven by-elections, their political signals

The bypolls across the country were decided by local factors

Bypolls in seven Assembly segments in six States across the country threw up mixed political signals. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won three and Opposition parties won four. There is no national pattern to be sought in these elections that answer widely different situations and calculations, but the polls do offer pointers to local shifts. In Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan lost the election to the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate. Mr. Chauhan represented a pattern of BJP expansion through defections and allurements. He was the sitting SP MLA who crossed over to the saffron party and sought re-election as a BJP MLA. The SP candidate was supported by the Congress, the CPI(M) and the CPI(ML)-Liberation, broadly the INDIA bloc of Opposition parties in the State. Uttar Pradesh is critical for the BJP's fortunes in 2024, and the Ghosi by-election had turned high profile after SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who had been keeping his head down for some time, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath both campaigned hard. The BJP also sought to reinforce its multi-caste Hindu coalition in the by-election, but it did not find favor with voters in the end. The BJP retained a seat in Uttarakhand, while it lost a sitting seat in West Bengal to the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha retained Dumri in Jharkhand.

Dhugguri in West Bengal witnessed a combination of INDIA bloc parties facing off against another constituent, while Puthuppally in Kerala had the parties in the combination fighting each other. In Dhugguri, the CPI(M) and the Congress jointly opposed a third INDIA partner TMC, and finished a distant third. The TMC is eager to prevent an alliance between the Congress and the CPI(M), both of which are confused and struggling to survive in West Bengal. In Kerala, fronts led by the CPI(M) and the Congress, clashed for the seat vacated by the death of Congress veteran Oommen Chandy. His son Chandy Oommen romped home comfortably. Though it had repeatedly framed the by-election as a test of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's governance, the Left's stakes in Puthuppally were not as high as they were in Boxanagar in Tripura which it lost for the first time since 1988 to the BJP. The BJP also retained Dhanpur in the State. The CPI(M) has alleged electoral malpractices and violence by the ruling BJP in Tripura. The outcomes were largely decided by local factors, but they also indicate the political winds in the respective regions. (The Hindu)

The India-US moment: Both looking to make G20 summit a success

The absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin from the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi has offered an opportunity to India and the US to not only hog the limelight but also drive the agenda of the high-profile multilateral event. With Joe Biden looking forward to his first visit to India as the US President, the two nations will be keen to showcase their growing ties and take their bilateral engagement to the next level. Though Biden has expressed disappointment over President Xi not attending the Delhi summit, he will be keen to make the most of the situation. Regarding the two prominent absentees, India has made it clear that the focus should be on the position taken by the countries on key issues, not on the 'levels of representation'.

Even as the G20 nations are set to hold discussions on globally relevant issues such as food security, debt restructuring and cooperation on climate change, the elephant in the room will obviously be the Russia-Ukraine war. Over the past year and a half, India has deftly walked a diplomatic tightrope on the raging conflict in eastern Europe. It goes to the credit of both New Delhi and Washington that they have not allowed their differences on this matter to impact their strong bilateral relationship.

Though China has stated that it is 'ready to work with all parties' to make the Delhi summit a success, it would be unreasonable to expect Beijing to toe the India-US line regarding consensus on the Leaders' Declaration - the joint statement that has often proved to be a contentious issue at G20 summits. The same would hold true for China's close ally Russia. Undoubtedly, India and America will remain wary of possible attempts by Beijing and Moscow to play spoilsport on the G20 platform. (Tribune, India)

How India Led the Way Toward a Human-Centered Future



BY NARENDRA MODI

"THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD ORDER IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD THAT CAME BEFORE IT. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE IMPORTANT CHANGES, AMONG OTHERS. FIRST, THERE IS A GROWING REALIZATION THAT WE NEED A SHIFT AWAY FROM A GDP-CENTRIC VIEW OF THE WORLD TO A HUMAN-CENTRIC ONE. SECOND, THE WORLD IS RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESILIENCE AND RELIABILITY IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS. THIRD, THERE HAS BEEN A COLLECTIVE CALL FOR BOOSTING MULTILATERALISM THROUGH THE REFORM OF GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS. OUR G20 PRESIDENCY HAS PLAYED THE ROLE OF CATALYST IN ALL THREE OF THESE SHIFTS."

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." These two words capture a deep philosophy. They mean, "The world is one family." It's an all-embracing outlook that encourages us to progress as one universal family, transcending borders, languages, and ideologies.

During India's G20 Presidency, this has translated into a call for human-centric progress. As One Earth, we are coming together to nurture our planet. As One Family, we support each other in the pursuit of growth. And we move together towards a shared future—One Future—which is an undeniable truth in these interconnected times.

The post-pandemic world order is very different from the world that came before it. There have been three important changes, among others. First, there is a growing realization that we need a shift away from a GDP-centric view of the world to a human-centric one. Second, the world is recognizing the importance of resilience and reliability in global supply chains. Third, there has been a

OUR G20 PRESIDENCY STRIVES TO BRIDGE DIVIDES, DISMANTLE BARRIERS, AND SOW SEEDS OF COLLABORATION THAT NOURISH A WORLD WHERE UNITY PREVAILS OVER DISCORD, WHERE SHARED DESTINY ECLIPSES ISOLATION. AS THE G20 PRESIDENT, WE HAD PLEDGED TO MAKE THE GLOBAL TABLE LARGER, ENSURING THAT EVERY VOICE IS HEARD AND EVERY COUNTRY CONTRIBUTES. I AM POSITIVE THAT WE HAVE MATCHED OUR PLEDGE WITH ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES.



Photo Credit / Unsplash

collective call for boosting multilateralism through the reform of global institutions. Our G20 Presidency has played the role of catalyst in all three of these shifts.

In December 2022, when we took over the Presidency from Indonesia, I had written that the G20 must catalyze a mindset shift. This was especially necessary in the context of mainstreaming the marginalized aspirations of developing countries, the Global South, and Africa.

The Voice of Global South Summit in January 2023, which witnessed participation from 125 countries, was one of the foremost initiatives under our Presidency. It was an important exercise to gather input and ideas from the Global South. Furthermore, our Presidency has not only seen the largest-ever participation from African countries but has also pushed for the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

An interconnected world means our challenges across domains are interlinked. This is the midway year of the 2030 Agenda, and many are noting with great concern that the progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is off track. The G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs will spearhead the future direction of the G20 towards implementing SDGs.

In India, living in harmony with nature has been a norm since ancient times, and we have been contributing our share toward climate action even in modern times. Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of

development, and climate action must be a complementary pursuit. Ambitions for climate action must be matched with actions on climate finance and transfer of technology.

We believe there is a need to move away from a purely restrictive attitude of what should not be done to a more constructive attitude focusing on what can be done to fight climate change. The Chennai High-Level Principles for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy focus on keeping our oceans healthy. A global ecosystem for clean and green hydrogen will emerge from our presidency, along with a Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre. In 2015, we launched the International Solar Alliance. Now, through the Global Biofuels Alliance, we will support the world to enable energy transitions in tune with the benefits of a circular economy.

Democratizing climate action is the best way to impart momentum to the movement. Just as individuals make daily decisions based on their long-term health, they can make lifestyle decisions based on the impact on the planet's long-term health. Just as Yoga became a global mass movement for wellness, we have also nudged the world with Lifestyles for Sustainable Environment (LiFE).

Due to the impact of climate change, ensuring food and nutritional security will also be crucial. Millets, or Shree Anna, can help with this while also boosting climate-smart agriculture. In the International Year of Millets, we have taken millets to global palates. The Deccan High Level Principles on Food

Security and Nutrition is also helping in this direction.

Technology is transformative, but it also needs to be made inclusive. In the past, the benefits of technological advancements have not benefited all sections of society equally. India over the last few years has shown how technology can be leveraged to narrow inequalities, rather than widen them.

For example, the billions across the world who remain unbanked or lack digital identities can be financially included through digital public infrastructure (DPI). The solutions we have built using our DPI have now been recognized globally. Now, through the G20, we will help developing countries adapt, build, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

That India is the fastest-growing large economy is no accident. Our simple, scalable and sustainable solutions have empowered the vulnerable and the marginalized to lead our development story.

From space to sports, economy to entrepreneurship, Indian women have taken the lead in various sectors. They have shifted the narrative from the development of women to women-led development. Our G20 Presidency is working on bridging the gender digital divide, reducing labor force participation gaps and enabling a larger role for women in leadership and decision-making.

For India, the G20 Presidency is not merely a high-level diplomatic endeavor. As the Mother of Democracy and a model of diversity, we opened the doors of this experience to the world.

Today, accomplishing things at scale is a quality that is associated with India. The G20 Presidency is no exception. It has become a people-driven movement. Over 200 meetings will have been organized in 60 Indian cities across the length and breadth of our nation, hosting nearly 100,000 delegates from 125 countries by the end of our term. No Presidency has ever encompassed such a vast and diverse geographical expanse.

It is one thing to hear about India's demography, democracy, diversity and development from someone else. It is totally different to experience them firsthand. I am sure our G20 delegates would vouch for this.

Our G20 Presidency strives to bridge divides, dismantle barriers, and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world where unity prevails over discord, where shared destiny eclipses isolation. As the G20 President, we had pledged to make the global table larger, ensuring that every voice is heard and every country contributes. I am positive that we have matched our pledge with actions and outcomes.

(The author is the prime minister of India)

The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.

Indian American policy expert Vaishu Jawahar joins Waxman Strategies as director in health practice



Vaishu Jawahar, former Domestic Policy Coordinator to Vice President Kamala Harris, has joined Waxman Strategies, a public interest focused policy and communications firm, as a director in its health practice team.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American policy expert Vaishu Jawahar, former Domestic Policy Coordinator to Vice President Kamala Harris, has joined Waxman Strategies, a public interest focused policy and communications firm, as a director in its health practice team.

"Vaishu Jawahar is a valuable addition to our team as a Director in the Health Practice," said Claire McAndrew, Senior Vice President in the Health Practice, announcing her appointment with two other new hires - Jen Schultz and Jackson Thein.

Jawahar has experience in the executive and legislative branches, as well as advocacy, said the announcement noting, "Her contributions include work on implementing the White House Maternal Health Blueprint and the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health."

Her commitment to health care advocacy is evident from her work with the Committee to Protect Health Care, the Biden Campaign, and other impactful organizations, it said.

Jawahar brings a range of experience from the executive branch, legislative branch, and advocacy field, it said. Before Waxman Strategies, Jawahar worked at the White House and helped implement the Biden-Harris Blueprint to Address the Maternal Mortality Crisis and spearheaded equity-focused policy priorities, according to her official profile.

Prior to the Office of the Vice President, Jawahar interned with the White House Domestic Policy Council's Health and Veterans team, where she monitored the implementation of the National Strategy on Hunger, Health, and Nutrition and drafted memos and talking points for senior officials on subjects ranging from maternal health to FDA regulation.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam wins Singapore presidential election

SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): Registering a landslide victory in Singapore's presidential election, Tamil-origin economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam said his win is a vote of confidence in the city-state's future and vowed to build a 'future of optimism'.

Tharman received a resounding mandate with a whopping 70.4 per cent votes in a three-way contest to elect the city-state's ninth President on Friday.

"I pledge and it will be my duty to use the roles and responsibilities of the President to advance this future of optimism and solidarity among Singaporeans." Tharman said in his first remarks to the media after his win.

"Once again, let me just say that I am truly humbled, and I will honor the trust that Singaporeans have placed in me and respect all Singaporeans for the views they have expressed, including those who did not vote for me," Tharman said, as reported by The Straits Times.



Tamil-origin economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam has won Singapore's presidential election in a landslide victory

Tharman's rivals, Ng Kok Song and Tan Kin Lian, received 15.72 and 13.88 per cent of the vote, respectively.

Congratulating Tharman for winning by a 'decisive margin', Prime Minister

Lee Hsien Loong said the former senior minister would carry out his duties as president with distinction, having had a long and distinguished record of public service.

Indian American physician-author Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee on UK non-fiction prize longlist



Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee's 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human' has been longlisted for the prestigious Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Indian American physician-author Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee's 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human' has been longlisted for the prestigious Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction here on Wednesday, September 6.

The New York-based cancer physician and researcher, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Columbia University, will go up against 12 other authors from around the world for the annual GBP 50,000 prize, which aims to recognize and reward the best of non-fiction and is open to authors of any nationality.

Mukherjee's longlisted work has been described as at once panoramic and intimate and the author's "most spectacular book yet".

"The cell is the foundational unit of life. Its discovery reshaped our understanding of our bodies and brains as never before," note the judges with reference to the 53-year-old's latest work.

"This revolutionized medical practice in the past and, centuries on, holds ever-greater clinical promise for the future. Mukherjee provides the definitive account of this remarkable cellular story, authoritative yet at the same time personal. He has that rarest of scientific gifts - the ability to pull back the magical curtain of complexities to reveal, like cells themselves, the foundations of life," they said.

The longlist of 13 books was chosen by this year's judging panel, which includes the Literary Editor of 'The Financial Times' Frederick Studemann, who is also chair of the panel, along with award-winning author Andrea Wulf, theatre critic for 'The Guardian' Arifa Akbar, writer and historian Ruth Scurr, journalist and critic Tanjil Rashid, and Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Arts Andrew Haldane.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin slain cop Ronil Singh honored- Stretch of highway in California named after him

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): A stretch of a highway in California has been named after a 33-year-old Indian-origin police officer who was shot dead while conducting a traffic stop in 2018.



Dedicated to Ronil Singh from Newman Police Department, the "Corporal Ronil Singh Memorial Highway", which stands at Highway 33 and Stuh Road, was unveiled at a ceremony on September 2, a local newspaper reported.

Dedicated to Ronil Singh from Newman Police Department, the "Corporal Ronil Singh Memorial Highway", which stands at Highway 33 and Stuh Road, was unveiled at a ceremony on September 2, a local newspaper reported.

"Love you papa," Singh's son Arnav, who was just five months old when his father was killed, wrote on the back of the signboard.

He was present along with Mother Anamika and other family members and was joined by Singh's Newman Police Department colleagues and officials, including county Supervisor Chanche Condit, state Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil, US Representative John Duarte and Assemblyman Juan Alanis.

"Today, a promise that was made has finally been brought to life. The Newman community honored the late Corporal Singh for his dedication and commitment to putting his life on the line for the safety of others," Senator Alvarado-Gil wrote in a Facebook post, saying Singh will always be a hero.

A resolution for naming a portion of Highway 33 after Singh was passed by the Assembly Transportation Committee in September 2019.

Fiji-born Singh started his law enforcement career as a volunteer with the Modesto Police Department and then served as a cadet and animal service officer with the Turlock Police Department.

He was gunned down by a suspected drunk driver when he was working overtime on Christmas night in 2018.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Arjun Gupta to chair new Investment Capital Advisory Committee

SEPTEMBER 5 (TIP): Arjun Gupta, Indian American founder and chief believer at TeleSoft Partners, an Aspen, Colorado, -based special situations venture capital firm, has been appointed chair of a newly established Investment Capital Advisory Committee.

The 14-member committee will advise the US Small Business Administration (SBA) in the development of a more inclusive and accessible ecosystem for small businesses nationwide.

Consisting of members with diverse perspectives, experiences, and occupational backgrounds in and related to the US private investment industry, the committee has been formed to increase small businesses and startups' access to investment capital, according to an SBA press release.

"The launch of SBA's inaugural Investment Capital Advisory Committee with its distinguished membership will serve as a critical resource to the Biden-Harris Administration as we strengthen our policies and programs to foster a more inclusive investment ecosystem,"

said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman.

"ICAC's insights and recommendations will help the SBA expand access to investment capital, increase public awareness of SBA resources, and identify and fill capital gaps facing small businesses and the fund managers seeking to support them."

The committee's main objective is to promote, expand, and strengthen the ecosystem of private funds financing US small businesses and startups, to fund entrepreneurs and small business owners from traditionally underserved communities.

Gupta, a naturalized US citizen, founded TeleSoft Partners in 1996. TeleSoft was licensed by SBA for two SBICs covering 1997-2012. Gupta invests directly in portfolio companies and fund-of-funds investments, according to his official profile.

Over the last 25 years, he has invested directly or indirectly in over 250+ private technology companies, resulting in 150+ acquisitions and IPOs

(including 60+ unicorns).

Over this period, Gupta raised cumulative capital commitments of over \$1+ billion. He was on the Forbes Midas List of the Top 100 Venture Capital Investors in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Earlier in his career, Gupta was a strategy consultant for high-tech clients with McKinsey & Company and a software engineer and product specialist for Tektronix, Inc.

In 2001, Gupta launched a family foundation. The foundation or Arjun personally has supported numerous non-profit projects.

Gupta is a passionate outdoorsman. He was a Liaison Officer with the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and has climbed with six Himalayan expeditions to peaks over ~20,000 feet.

He was a member of the 100th Anniversary Ski Expeditions to the North Pole and to the South Pole. Arjun was elected a Fellow of the Explorer's Club (USA); a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society (UK), and FAO of the UN appointed Arjun a Mountain



Partnership Goodwill Ambassador.

Gupta received his MBA from Stanford University, MS and BS (Phi Beta Kappa) in Computer Science from Washington State University, and BA (Honors) in Economics from St Stephen's College (India).

Gupta is an Advanced Leadership Fellow (ALI) from Harvard University and a Henry Crown Fellow and Trustee of the Aspen Institute. He is a co-founder and former co-chair of YPO Aspen. Gupta is a naturalized US citizen and lives in Colorado.

Indian American businessman Puneet Ahluwalia running for Fairfax supervisor



"I'm running for Fairfax supervisor in the Dranesville district because we have real problems", said Puneet Ahluwalia, a first-generation Indian American businessman

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

FAIRFAX, VA (TIP): Puneet Ahluwalia, a first-generation Indian American businessman, is running for Fairfax County supervisor in Virginia to, as he says, "bring accountability, good governance and diversity of ideas to the supervisor board."

"We have a large number of Indian and Asian Americans residing and doing business in Fairfax County and they need representation," said Ahluwalia who has lived and raised a family in Fairfax with his wife Nadia.

"Puneet knows the struggles our families face because they're the same struggles he, his wife, and his children face," his campaign stated noting that Ahluwalia "wasn't born here, he chose to be an American."

Noting that there has been a serious spike in crime, he stressed "the need to hire 300+ police officers to ensure the safety and security of our communities."

Fairfax County schools SAT scores

had dropped 27 points with more emphasis on hiring administrators than teachers, Ahluwalia said.

Making "a commitment to make parents partners in their children's lives and education," he said the County "should hire and retain our hard-working teachers to ensure merit-based education to all our children."

He also vowed to identify waste and misuse of "our tax dollars to reduce property taxes.

"Our incomes have not doubled but our property taxes have in the last 10 years," Ahluwalia said. "The cost of living and increasing inflation is making it very hard on Fairfax County families.

"Local government elections are so important as these issues impact our daily lives," he stated.

"Puneet will bring sanity back to politics in Fairfax County. He'll work hard to restore integrity and honesty in county government. And he'll put our people first," according to a note on his website.

"Northern Virginia has become ground zero for an ideology-driven agenda that wants to re-create society, disempower families, and promote a narrative that puts a small group of elites in charge of your destiny," he said.

"Very often these days those of us who disagree with that ideology, are slurred with name calling," Ahluwalia said. "I believe that's a big part of the problem with politics these days. Narrow doctrine over thoughtful action."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Atlanta physician Dr. Indran Indrakrishnan honored with 2023 Public Service Award from American Tamil Medical Association



Dr. Indran B. Indrakrishnan has been honored with the 2023 Public Service Award by the American Tamil Medical Association

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

ATLANTA (TIP): The American Tamil Medical Association honored Dr. Indran B. Indrakrishnan of Atlanta with the 2023 Public Service Award during its Biennial Convention, held from August 18th to 21st, 2023, at the Trump International Resort Hotel in Florida.

The American Tamil Medical Association Awards Committee carefully selects distinguished physicians from North America who have made significant contributions to their communities' long-term well-being, extending beyond routine healthcare services. Professor Appu Rathinavel of the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research in Florida introduced Dr. Indrakrishnan, the 2023 Award recipient, on behalf of the Awards Committee on the convention's final day. Dr. Ashok Kumar, President of the American Tamil Medical Association, presented the award to Dr. Indrakrishnan, making him

the first physician from Georgia to receive this prestigious Public Service Award from the Tamil American Medical Association.

Within a year, Dr. Indrakrishnan received distinguished awards from three Tamil Organizations in North America. He previously earned the Tamil American Pioneer (TAP) award from the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA) in July 2023 in California. Additionally, the Tamil Information Center and Thamizhar Thahaval Magazine of Canada honored Dr. Indrakrishnan with the Lifetime Achievement Award in July 2022 at their annual event at Toronto City Hall, Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Indran B. Indrakrishnan is an adjunct professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and operates his private Gastroenterology practice in Georgia.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME: COVID 19, FLU SHOTS AND OTHER VACCINATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY SCHOOL YEAR

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals today reminded parents and guardians to schedule appointments for annual physicals, immunizations, vision and hearing, and other regular checkups. Public school starts on Thursday, September 7th. Appointments for pediatric and adolescent services are available at NYC Health + Hospitals locations citywide at little or no cost by calling 844-NYC-4NYC (844-692-4692).

"A healthy start to the new school year begins with a regular visit to a child's pediatrician," said Katherine Piwnica-Worms, MD, MHS, NYC Health + Hospitals Assistant Vice President of Pediatrics. "Having a regular doctor or visiting a pediatric group is essential not only at the beginning of the school year, but all year round. This will enable parents to get answers to health-related questions about their child, and to help their child address any emerging physical and mental health needs. Parents can call 844-NYC-4NYC now to schedule an appointment with a pediatrician."

NYC Health + Hospitals offers comprehensive pediatric and adolescent health services at little or no cost. Pediatric services include immunizations and annual flu shots, physicals, asthma and diabetes screenings, obesity prevention, nutrition counseling, dental services, mental health screenings and counseling. Adolescent services for those aged 12 and older include primary care, sexual and reproductive health services, LGBTQIA+ care, mental health and depression help, and sport physical and sports injury care.



NYC Health + Hospitals offers comprehensive pediatric and adolescent health services; Appointments are available citywide at little or no cost by calling 844-NYC-4NYC

AS CHILDREN RETURN BACK TO SCHOOL THIS WEEK, BELOW ARE ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY THIS SCHOOL YEAR AND BEYOND:

- Annual Physicals - Yearly physicals are important to ensure children are growing and developing properly.
- COVID-19 Readiness - Children aged 6 months and older should ideally get their first vaccine dose and be fully vaccinated before school or daycare starts.
- Flu Shots - Every child six months or older should get the flu shot once every year.
- Other Vaccinations - Vaccines are necessary to help protect children and others against disease. In New York City, all students must get their age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend childcare or school.
- Vision and Hearing Tests - Children should have their hearing and vision routinely tested with their

doctor from infancy through high school. Watch for signs of hearing or vision loss and talk to your child's doctor if you notice any changes.

- Nutrition - Parents can help kids make healthy food choices - even at school. Encourage them to eat plenty of fruit and vegetables. When eating bread or pasta, choose 100% whole grain products. Encourage them to choose water, not juice or soda.
- Routines - Consistent routines help keep children alert and productive during the school year and can be a life-saver when it comes to avoiding problems at bedtime. Afterschool routines should include consistent after school activity and homework schedules, TV time, dinner schedules, and bedtime routines.
- Sleep - Adequate sleep helps keep kids focused each day at school and is important for their health.

ABOUT NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS

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

Remove Names of Elected Officials from County-Owned Signs and Properties: Legislator Lafazan



Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (D - Woodbury) has introduced a resolution for removal of names of elected officials from County-Owned Signs and Properties

SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

MINEOLA, N.Y. (TIP): Names of elected officials would be permanently removed from County signs and properties under a proposed resolution that was introduced on Monday, Aug. 21 by Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (D - Woodbury).

Under Legislator Lafazan's proposal,

the County would be required to remove the names of current County officials from signs and property, including but not limited to portable "showmobile" stages, within 60 days of enactment. Thereafter, the names of current and future County officials will no longer be placed on County-owned signs or properties. The only exception to the rule would permit the posting of an official's name on County signs only if it is for honorary purposes, such as a ceremonial renaming of a park or street in the official's memory.

The goal, Legislator Lafazan said, is to redirect taxpayer resources to more worthwhile endeavors by eliminating the need to produce and update hundreds of signs every two years or sooner based upon whom is elected to County office.

"There is simply no justification for wasting taxpayer dollars and the labor of Nassau County's skilled workforce to perpetuate such a brazen form of taxpayer-funded self-promotion," Legislator Lafazan said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

4 Indian Americans among 5 held for illegally processing over USD 600 million through unlicensed money transmitting businesses

SEPTEMBER 08, 2023

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Five men, including four Indian Americans, have been arrested on charges of illegally processing more than USD 600 million through unlicensed money-transmitting businesses, an attorney said.

US Attorney Philip R. Sellinger said the four Indian Americans were Raj Vaidya (26), Rakesh Vaidya (51), Shrey Vaidya (23), and Neel Patel (26), all residents of Edison, New Jersey.

The fifth person is Youssef Janfar, (57) from Great Neck, New York, the attorney said. They were arrested on Thursday, September 7.

According to court documents, Raj Vaidya, Rakesh Vaidya, Shrey Vaidya, and Neel Patel operated numerous purported diamond, gold, and jewelry companies in New York City's Diamond District since 2019.

Federal prosecutors said Janfar also operated companies in the Diamond District, including the Rodeo of New York.

They used these and other entities as fronts for illegal financial transactions of hundreds of millions of dollars for



Image for representation only

customers. It included converting cash to checks or wire transfers in exchange for substantial fees, the prosecutors said.

At times, the accused moved millions of dollars in cash in a day. None of their companies were registered as money transmitting businesses with New York, New Jersey, or the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the court papers said.

The charge of operating and aiding and abetting the operation of an illegal money-transmitting business carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of USD 250,000, or twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offence or of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offence, whichever is greatest.

Indian American Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar distributes school supplies in South Queens

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP) : Indian American Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar hosted two major "Back to School" distributions at her office where she gave away over 1,000 backpacks and thousands of school supplies to the children of South Queens, New York.

Rajkumar, who represents District 38 in the New York State Assembly, secured private donors from outside her district to fund the distribution, bringing an abundance of high-quality backpacks and full sets of school supplies for the children of South Queens on September 5, according to a press release.

At the events, hundreds of children and their families came to the Assemblywoman's office to receive backpacks, each containing a full set of school supplies including rulers, notebooks, glue sticks, folders, scissors, pens, crayons, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and pouch bags.

Rajkumar has made education a priority throughout her tenure, the release stated. A regular fixture at school graduations across her district where she serves as commencement speaker, she also appears on the first day of school to greet each child as they walk in.

She hosts a summer reading challenge every summer encouraging kids to read.



Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar hosted two major "Back to School" distributions at her office where she gave away over 1,000 backpacks and thousands of school supplies to the children of South Queens, New York.

She regularly visits classrooms in the district as a guest speaker and serves as the keynote speaker for the Queens Young Debaters tournament.

Focusing on making the education system work for all diverse communities, Rajkumar this year led and won the historic fight to make Diwali a School Holiday in New York City's public schools, the release noted.

A diverse coalition of community groups in the district volunteered on the day of the school supply distribution to

make the event a success.

These included the Ozone Park Residents Block Association, the Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol, the Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park Lions Club, Queens Community Board 9, the Woodhaven BID, Glendale Kiwanis, the Bangladeshi American Society, United American Hindu Leadership Council, the New York Nepalese Help Post, the Ridgewood 123 Kiwanis, Kiwanis Club of Ozone Park-Woodhaven and the US Nepal Climbers Association.

"Education is the reason I am here," Rajkumar said. "As the daughter of immigrants from India who came to this country with little, it was education that threw open the doors of opportunity for me."


"Now, I am committed to ensuring all the children in my district have those same opportunities I had," she said. "That is why I put everything in to making sure the children of District 38 are excited and prepared for the new school year."

"Our area has never had this kind of incredible representation. I did not even know who my Assembly member was until Assemblywoman Rajkumar," said Juana Chavez, a local resident.

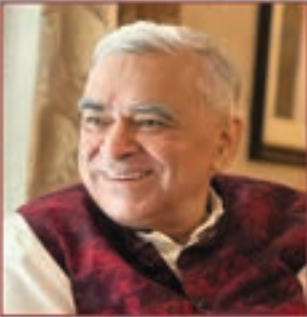
"She looks out for all of us, and our children's education, by delivering the supplies and help we need. Thanks to her, my son will be ready for school."

"The Assemblywoman is always in the community helping us. She has so much energy that I wonder how she does it all. She helps us with so many things," said Claudette Gosta, another mother.

"She did a free medical clinic, food distributions, rain barrels, mammograms, and a rock concert. Now she is helping us with backpacks and other supplies so that my children have everything for the school year."




How to Live Holistically With Kashmir Shaivism
Discourse & Meditation
by Shri Virendra Qazi
September 10, 2023 (Sunday)
2.30-4.30 pm, followed by Prasad
At Arya Samaj of Long Island
319 Jerusalem Avenue,
Hicksville 11801 NY



Shri Virendra Qazi
World's Top Expert & Practitioner
Of Kashmir Shaiva Darshan

*"You are the Sky, You are the earth.
You are the day, the very air, the night.
You are the grain-offering, sandal paste,
flowers and water too.
You are everything, O Lord.
So what can we offer You?"*
--Shaiv mystic Lalleshwari

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For an expanse of blue, with air so clean

ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES (SEPTEMBER 7), THERE IS URGENT NEED TO ADDRESS RISKS POSED BY POLLUTION

"The world is not just grappling with climate change, but also with another silent killer - air pollution. Global health statistics reveal a disturbing scenario with lung cancer claiming 10 million deaths worldwide in 2020, as stated in the World Health Organization (WHO) factsheet published in 2023. This could soar by another 3.2 million by 2050 according to a report, 'Mapping of global, regional and national incidence, mortality and mortality-to-incidence ratio of lung cancer in 2020 and 2050', by the Indian National Institute of Health. South Asia, home to two billion people, is also home to nine of the world's 10 most polluted cities, including Delhi, where the air quality continues to pose a perilous long-term threat putting its inhabitants at risk each day. While policy measures have led to statistical improvements in the Air Quality Index (AQI), the health risks associated with Delhi's polluted air persist. Delhi is knocked to its knees every winter facing hazardous levels of air pollution."

According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the earth has entered the era of global boiling. Scorching heatwaves, devastating floods and erratic weather patterns are stark reminders for an urgent need to address the triple-planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

The world is not just grappling with climate change, but also with another silent killer - air pollution. Global health statistics reveal a disturbing scenario



'Acknowledging the existence of air pollution remains the primary step towards solutions'

Photo credit / Unsplash

with lung cancer claiming 10 million deaths worldwide in 2020, as stated in the World Health Organization (WHO) factsheet published in 2023. This could soar by another 3.2 million by 2050 according to a report, 'Mapping of global, regional and national incidence, mortality and mortality-to-incidence ratio of lung cancer in 2020 and 2050', by the Indian National Institute of Health. South Asia, home to two billion people, is also home to nine of the world's 10 most polluted cities, including Delhi, where the air quality continues to pose a perilous long-term threat putting its inhabitants at risk each day. While policy measures have led to statistical improvements in the Air Quality Index (AQI), the health risks associated with Delhi's polluted air persist. Delhi is knocked to its knees every winter facing hazardous levels of air pollution.

Lung cancer, cardiovascular disorders, respiratory ailments, and mental health issues continue to destroy lives. Delhi's air, a lethal mix of SO₂ (sulphur dioxide) and NO_x (nitrogen oxides), along with high particulate matter concentrations (2.5 or even 10µg/m³), carbon monoxide and ozone, deprive over 30 million residents of their human right to breathe clean air.

The air pollution toll is troublesome especially for immunocompromised individuals, pregnant women, children, and the elderly. As per a Lancet Report, 1.67 million pollution-related deaths were attributed to air pollution in India in 2019, accounting for a staggering 17.8% of the total deaths in the country.

Efforts to combat this crisis are already being made. State governments, research institutions, and NGOs are pioneering solutions such as the PUSA Decomposer, developed by the Indian

Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), employing biotechnology to address agricultural pollution. State-level policies such as GRAP 3 (Graded Rapid Action Plan), monitoring air quality in hotspots, and establishing Green War Rooms, have shown some potential. Many innovative startups involving young entrepreneurs are turning agricultural waste into valuable products.

VIALE SOLUTIONS

Acknowledging the existence of air pollution remains the primary step towards solutions. Next comes a debate on viable solutions and actions, many of which are already known. Eventually, these best practices need to be implemented. Without implementation, the best laid out plans will not lead to any improvement. Globally, cities such as Ljubljana (Slovenia), Accra (Ghana), Seville (Spain), Bogota (Colombia), Medellin (Colombia), epitomize the power of prioritizing human health and environmental sustainability. Car-free zones, green spaces, smart urban designs, electrified public transportation, nature-based solutions, and innovative biotechnology demonstrate positive results. China's shift to clean energy and e-mobility after battling severe pollution, Indonesia's project on 'Carbon Efficient Farming' assessing biomass to reduce CO₂ emissions, Thailand and Vietnam undertaking measures to reduce open straw burning, are all gleams of hope.

UNESCO's initiatives to combat air pollution include implementing an internal carbon tax on all flight tickets, and investing in emission reduction measures. The World Air Quality Project allows residents to make informed



BY BENNO BOER, SRISHTI KUMAR, NEHA MIDHA

Youngsters around the world are taking charge of environmental advocacy, running marathons, and tracking real time data of air quality, creating environmental awareness. But the absence of a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for 'Clean Air to Breathe' indicates a lack of global attention.

decisions by real time Air Quality data. In collaboration with UNEP, environmentally conscious practices have been introduced such as digital working via the 'Virtual Meetings' project. Clean-Air-For-Schools is spreading education among all for clean air. Other laudable activities include switching to electric vehicles, replacing lighting systems to greener LED arrangements, implementing solar powered offices, protecting historical sites by developing strategies to curb air pollution, and effective green solutions (urban forests, parks, green corridors).

Youngsters around the world are taking charge of environmental advocacy, running marathons, and tracking real time data of air quality, creating environmental awareness. But the absence of a specific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for 'Clean Air to Breathe' indicates a lack of global attention.

However, in 2019, laying emphasis on the interest of the international community for clean air, and the need to improve air quality, the UN General Assembly decided to designate September 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies. Nevertheless, clean air remains a long stride in many mega-cities and other places. We hope that a concerted action to systematically improve the air quality including in Delhi will receive priority attention. The problem has been caused by people, so it should be people who will find and apply solutions, supported by innovative adequate air quality policies and action plans. As we inhale the consequences of our actions, the ultimate question beckons: are we the torchbearers of change for the future of our planet or will we be silent bystanders who let pollution script a tragic ending?

(Benno Boer is the Chief of the Natural Sciences Unit, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Neha Midha is the National Programme Officer, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Srishti Kumar is a UNESCO Natural Sciences Intern. UNESCO is a member of Team UN in India, together helping deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals)

Dog whistle for caste mobilization

In Tamil Nadu's backward-caste electoral politics, Sanatan Dharma is a phrase to abuse Brahmins

"So, Periyar's politics suited the upsurge of backward-caste pride and empowerment, as it turned electorally insignificant Brahmins into a racial 'other'. The Congress had a considerable number of Brahmin leaders, and in all probability, it was to attack the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi that Periyar turned Sanatan Dharma into a catchphrase of abuse. His pro-British leanings were evident in his opposition to the freedom movement and his refusal to accept freedom in 1947. It was this pro-British, anti-Brahmin politics that laid the intellectual framework for Tamil secessionism, which has cost the nation the lives of many, including that of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi - the LTTE leadership of Sri Lanka always relied on the extremist Dravidar Kazhagam cadre for intellectual succor on the mainland."

Sanatan Dharma means eternal values. Then, why should the DMK leadership have any quarrel with everlasting virtues, leave alone abuse it in the vilest possible terms by equating them with deadly diseases? Herein lies the dog whistle of the so-called Dravidian politics. In Tamil Nadu's backward-caste electoral politics - otherwise known as Dravidian ideology, which has no currency in other South Indian states - Sanatan Dharma is a code word or phrase to abuse and demean Brahmins.

If Periyar used the attack against Sanatan Dharma to delegitimize Congress, the tactic is being used by the Stalins to paint the BJP as a Brahminical enterprise out to disempower TN's backward castes.

For the backward-caste politicians of Tamil Nadu and their voters, Sanatan Dharma symbolizes Brahminical



Hypocrisy: It was only last month that the Tamil Nadu CM's wife Durga Stalin (right) offered a gold crown to the deity of the famous Guruvayoor Krishna temple in Kerala.

Photo courtesy of Malayala Manorama

hegemony, ritualism, superstition and feudal overlordship of the Brahmins. Just as a Hindutva politician may use the dog whistle of the Muslim 'other', the backward-caste politicians of Tamil Nadu use Sanatan Dharma to whip up anti-Brahmin sentiments and mobilize their own caste brethren. In fact, EV Ramasamy Naicker - famous as Periyar - had packaged hatred for Brahmins into an ideology, terming the platform Dravidar Kazhagam.

Intriguingly, both RSS and Dravidar Kazhagam were formed in the same year, 1925, and both have been accused by their detractors of being British stooges. Periyar, when he was the Madras Presidency Congress Committee chief, had an epiphany to fight the Brahmins instead of the British and joined hands with the pro-British Justice Party, led interestingly by a Nair (for Periyar, all non-Brahmins were oppressed, however big landlords they were). Then, Dravidian politicians are mostly from the middle castes, though technically categorized as backward or most backward castes. Most of those who claim Chola and Pandya lineage are now beneficiaries of backward-caste quotas in Tamil Nadu.

So, Periyar's politics suited the upsurge of backward-caste pride and empowerment, as it turned electorally insignificant Brahmins into a racial 'other'. The Congress had a considerable number of Brahmin leaders, and in all probability, it was to attack the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi that Periyar turned Sanatan Dharma into a catchphrase of abuse. His pro-British leanings were evident in his opposition to the freedom movement and his refusal to accept freedom in 1947. It was this pro-British, anti-Brahmin politics that laid the intellectual framework for Tamil secessionism, which has cost the nation the lives of many, including that of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi - the LTTE leadership of Sri Lanka always

relied on the extremist Dravidar Kazhagam cadre for intellectual succor on the mainland.

All this would have been fine had it not been for the inherent hypocrisy. Now, the Brahmins are a defeated, minuscule minority in Tamil Nadu, fleeing their homeland in search of prosperity. The old Brahmin hegemony over temples and the community at large is a thing of the past. And the sweetest irony is that the Dravidian cadres are great believers and temple-goers. Since Sanatan Dharma is for them only a term of racial abuse against Brahmins, the DMK voters do not see a dichotomy in their contempt for Brahminism and their belief in Hinduism or temples.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin's son Udhayanidhi Stalin, thus, can afford to read out a written speech seeking the 'eradication' of Sanatan Dharma because it is now being equated with the politics of Hindutva and the Sangh Parivar, thereby very significantly drawing a parallel between Brahminism and the BJP, delegitimizing the Hindutva party as an organization that perpetuates Brahminical hierarchy in society. If Periyar used the attack against Sanatan Dharma to delegitimize the Congress, the tactic is being used by the Stalins to paint the BJP as a Brahminical enterprise out to disempower the backward castes of Tamil Nadu.

This is politics of caste hatred nuanced as electoral messaging which the speaker and the listener understand. And it doesn't mean anything more than that. For, it was only last month that Durga Stalin, Udhayanidhi's mother, offered a gold crown to the deity of the famous Guruvayoor Krishna temple in Kerala, where daily prayers are done according to Vedic rituals. Only the most devout make the trip to Guruvayoor or an astrologer ought to prescribe it as a remedy for some dosha. Either way, Durga wouldn't have made this expensive gift had it not been to seek



BY RAJESH
RAMACHANDRAN

At the national level, the Stalins' attack on Sanatan Dharma has embarrassed the INDIA coalition no end. And therein lies the irony of Indian politics - what is a dog whistle for caste mobilization in one state can turn into a communal own-goal alarm in another. When all is said and done, here is a request to these great progressive leaders - please don't stigmatize diseases like HIV and leprosy by turning them into metaphors of hatred.

Lord Krishna's blessings for her husband and son.

Worse hypocrisy is to explain Sanatan Dharma in terms of casteism and untouchability. For, terrible caste discrimination exists in established TN Christian churches and even in village tea shops, where the two-tumbler system prevailed for long - one for forward/backward castes and the other for the Dalits. Why, even Periyar is accused of not having visited the site of the massacre of 44 Dalits at Keezhvenmani in 1968.

A Dalit activist-writer has quoted Periyar's magazine Viduthalai, in which he is alleged to have spoken thus about Keezhvenmani: "The Communists are pretending to help you. They give promises of a pay hike and a better life. But a wage hike is not possible through political agitations. It is only possible from the market value of the commodities. Instead of teaching you (Dalits) how to live peacefully with the wages you get, they want to create riots in the state and they want to get the DMK government disturbed."

The landlord of Keezhvenmani, prime accused Gopalakrishna Naidu, belonged to Periyar's caste. Not surprisingly, the DMK government till today is in the dock for having made the police mute spectators to the massacre and then later letting Naidu get acquitted after an appeal. So, the DMK's anti-caste talk should be tempered with the understanding of anti-Dalit atrocities, just as all talk of Dravidian rationalism should be counterpoised with the donation of a gold crown to Lord Krishna by the first family.

At the national level, the Stalins' attack on Sanatan Dharma has embarrassed the INDIA coalition no end. And therein lies the irony of Indian politics - what is a dog whistle for caste mobilization in one state can turn into a communal own-goal alarm in another. When all is said and done, here is a request to these great progressive leaders - please don't stigmatize diseases like HIV and leprosy by turning them into metaphors of hatred.

(The author is editor-in-chief of Tribune group of publications)

One Nation, One Election: An idea fated to fail



BY PARSA
VENKATESHWAR
RAO JR

"THE IDEA OF 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THERE SHOULD BE COUNTRYWIDE ELECTIONS TO THE STATE ASSEMBLIES AND THE LOK SABHA ONCE IN FIVE YEARS. IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THE FACT THAT PARTY POSITIONS AT THE CENTRE AND IN THE STATES WOULD FLUCTUATE, AND THERE COULD BE MID-TERM ELECTIONS ANYTIME. THERE WAS A MID-TERM ELECTION IN KERALA IN 1960 AFTER THE COMMUNIST PARTY GOVERNMENT, WHICH CAME INTO POWER IN 1957, WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY THE CONGRESS. AND THERE WAS A MID-TERM ELECTION IN BIHAR IN 1969, AND AGAIN IN 1972. SIMILARLY, WEST BENGAL HAD GONE THROUGH THREE ELECTIONS IN QUICK SUCCESSION - 1967, 1969 AND 1971. THE INSTABILITY CAME ABOUT BECAUSE NO PARTY COULD GET A MAJORITY AND THE ELECTIONS HAD TO BE HELD TILL THE DECISIVE VOTE CAME. THAT IS THE WAY DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS."



The people at large are likely to throw out the idea - if not now, then most probably in the future.

A countrywide election to the state Assemblies and the Lok Sabha was held every five years from 1951-52 to 1967. The cycle was disrupted when Indira Gandhi called an election in 1971, a year earlier than it was due, even as most of the states had their elections in 1972. The Lok Sabha election, which was due in 1976, took place in 1977 because of the Emergency. There were elections to the Lok Sabha in 1980 because the Morarji Desai-led Janata Party government fell in 1979, and Chaudhary Charan Singh, who had subsequently assumed charge as PM, could not prove his government's majority.

The idea of 'one nation, one election' does not allow for the fact that party positions at the Centre and in the states would fluctuate, and there could be mid-term elections anytime.

In 1989, the VP Singh-led National Front formed the government, but it fell in 1990; Chandra Shekhar, too, had a short-lived tenure as Prime Minister. There were elections in the summer of 1991. Later, there were back-to-back elections in 1998 and 1999. The United Front government of IK Gujral was brought down by the Congress in 1998, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) formed the government, which lasted just a year as Jayalalithaa's AIADMK withdrew support. In October 1999, the NDA came back to power under Vajpayee. It was at this time that election fatigue set in and there was talk that Parliament must have a fixed tenure. It was an idea mooted by the BJP.

The idea of 'one nation, one election' is based on the premise that there should be countrywide elections to the state Assemblies and the Lok Sabha once in five years. It does not allow for the fact that party positions at the Centre and in the states would fluctuate, and there could be mid-term elections anytime. There was a mid-term election in Kerala in 1960 after the Communist Party government, which came into power in

1957, was brought down by the Congress. And there was a mid-term election in Bihar in 1969, and again in 1972. Similarly, West Bengal had gone through three elections in quick succession - 1967, 1969 and 1971. The instability came about because no party could get a majority and the elections had to be held till the decisive vote came. That is the way democracy functions.

The idea of a fixed tenure - and 'one nation, one election' does not work if this is not the case - needs a lot of changes in the party system. In France, several governments rise and fall as coalitions change and the majority fluctuates. That is one way, a messy way. But the French are making it work. They do not go for an election once the government loses majority or is defeated on a legislative measure.

Then there is the example of the United States. The House of Representatives, with its two-year term, works because in the two-party system a few members cross over from the minority side to vote for the passage of laws. There is no anti-defection law and members of the Opposition who vote for the ruling party are not expelled.

And the same principle of compromise and cross-voting across the aisle works in the Senate with its six-year term. So, in these two systems, the fixed tenure is the rule, but conventions and traditions have been evolved to deal with the legislative business. The British system, like the Indian one, works on the majority principle. Once the party loses majority, elections are called.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on the BJP idea of a fixed tenure for Parliament so that a change in the party positions in Parliament does not necessitate an election before five years are over.

So, the BJP has not really worked out the idea of 'one nation, one election'. And the ideologues who support the idea have no clue as to how to deal with the nitty-gritty to make it doable. The Prime Minister and his supporters believe that

The Prime Minister's tendency to simplify complex issues is at the root of the problem. He wants to eliminate complexity and uncertainty. That is indeed the way of authoritarianism and it comes in the garb of utopianism - an orderly republic with once-in-five-years elections across the country, and no hiccups in the process. If there are hurdles, they will be removed in the favor of those who are in power. So, the dance of democracy or the play of democracy, which we have been celebrating for the past several decades, is under threat.

there is a need to eliminate political confusion. They fail to realize that it is the people of the country who are holding back from giving any one party an absolute majority.

The new system would require that one of the parties will have to have an assured majority, and one of the ways of doing it is to have a run-off, where a candidate has to get a minimum of 50 per cent of the vote. So, there would be run-offs for all Assembly and Lok Sabha seats. People will be forced to cast their vote for a person whom they do not approve of because they have to choose between two candidates and not more. In France, the run-off is only for the President's post.

It is indeed a debatable issue. There has to be a widespread debate and the people must have a say in the matter - perhaps through a referendum. Or the Modi government should fight the 2024 General Election on the plank of 'one nation, one election'. But the government has to present before the people a detailed plan for implementing the idea.

The Prime Minister's tendency to simplify complex issues is at the root of the problem. He wants to eliminate complexity and uncertainty. That is indeed the way of authoritarianism and it comes in the garb of utopianism - an orderly republic with once-in-five-years elections across the country, and no hiccups in the process. If there are hurdles, they will be removed in the favor of those who are in power. So, the dance of democracy or the play of democracy, which we have been celebrating for the past several decades, is under threat.

PM Modi wants an ordered and orderly democracy. And that is what the middle class wants, too. However, the people at large are likely to throw out the idea - if not now, then most probably in the future.

(The author is a senior journalist)



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9/11: The deadliest terrorist attacks in American history

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. On September 11, 2001, 2,977 people were killed in the deadliest terrorist attacks in American history. The moment shocked the nation. Two planes, hijacked by Islamic jihadists vowing death to all Americans, plowed into both towers at the World Trade Center in New York.

On September 11, 2001, terrorists linked to the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda—founded by Osama bin Laden—hijacked four commercial passenger airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York City. Within a few hours, both of the twin towers collapsed into rubble, demolishing a large section of lower Manhattan. A third plane hit the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The passengers and crew of the fourth plane fought back, and the plane was downed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Almost 3,000 people were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, including the 19 al Qaeda terrorists. The shocking events of September 11 were televised globally and left much of the world reeling in horror. The administration of President George W. Bush responded by declaring a “war on terrorism,” including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and the invasion of Afghanistan.

World Trade Center

On September 11, 2001, at 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airlines Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors.

As the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767—United Airlines Flight 175—appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center and sliced into the south tower near the 60th floor.

The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and onto the streets below. It immediately became clear that America was under attack.

The hijackers were Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and several other Arab nations. Reportedly financed by the al Qaeda terrorist organization of Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden, they were allegedly acting in retaliation for America’s support of Israel, its involvement in the Persian Gulf War and its continued military presence in the Middle East.

Some of the terrorists had lived in the United States for more than a year and had taken flying lessons at American commercial flight schools. Others had slipped into the country in the months before September 11 and acted as the “muscle” in the operation.

Where Did the 9/11 Planes Take Off From?

The 19 terrorists smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports—Logan International Airport in Boston, Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. and Newark International Airport in New Jersey—and boarded four early-morning flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming ordinary passenger jets into guided missiles.



Smoke and flames erupting from the twin towers of New York City's World Trade Center after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001; both towers subsequently collapsed. (AP)

Pentagon Attack

As millions watched the events unfolding in New York, American Airlines Flight 77 circled over downtown Washington, D.C., before crashing into the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters at 9:45 a.m.

Jet fuel from the Boeing 757 caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building, which is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense.

All told, 125 military personnel and civilians were killed in the Pentagon, along with all 64 people aboard the airliner.

Twin Towers Collapse

Less than 15 minutes after the terrorists struck the nerve center of the U.S. military, the horror in New York took a catastrophic turn when the south tower of the World Trade Center collapsed in a massive cloud of dust and smoke.

The structural steel of the skyscraper, built to withstand winds in excess of 200 miles per hour and a large conventional fire, could not withstand the tremendous heat generated by the burning jet fuel.

At 10:30 a.m., the north building of the twin towers collapsed. Only 18 people in the World Trade Center towers at the time of the collapse survived. Most were



with a group of FDNY firefighters in the North Tower's Stairwell B, which remained intact. One woman survived after the stairs she was rushing down disintegrated around her. Almost 10,000 others were treated for injuries, many severe.

Flight 93

Meanwhile, a fourth California-bound plane—United Flight 93—was hijacked about 40 minutes after leaving Newark

Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. Because the plane had been delayed in taking off, passengers on board learned of events in New York and Washington via cell phone and Airfone calls to the ground.

Knowing that the aircraft was not returning to an airport as the hijackers claimed, a group of passengers and flight attendants planned an insurrection.

One of the passengers, Thomas Burnett, Jr., told his wife over the phone

that "I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it. I love you, honey." Another passenger—Todd Beamer—was heard saying "Are you guys ready? Let's roll" over an open line.

Sandy Bradshaw, a flight attendant, called her husband and explained that she had slipped into a galley and was filling pitchers with boiling water. Her last words to him were "Everyone's running to first class. I've got to go. Bye."

The passengers fought the four hijackers and are suspected to have attacked the cockpit with a fire extinguisher. The plane then flipped over and sped toward the ground at upwards of 500 miles per hour, crashing in a rural field near Shanksville in western Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m.

All 44 people aboard were killed. Its intended target is not known, but theories include the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David

Timeline: How the attacks unfolded

September 11, 2001

- 5:45 AM – Mohamed Atta and Abdul Aziz al-Omari, two of the intended hijackers, pass through security at the Portland International Jetport in Maine. They board a commuter flight to Boston Logan International Airport, they then board American Airlines Flight 11.
- 7:59 AM – Flight 11 takes off from Boston, headed for Los Angeles, California. There are 76 passengers, 11 crew members, and 5 hijackers on board.
- 8:15 AM – United Airlines Flight 175 takes off from Boston, also headed for Los Angeles. There are 51 passengers, 9 crew members, and 5 hijackers on board.
- 8:19 AM – A flight attendant on Flight 11, Betty Ann Ong, alerts ground personnel that a hijacking is underway and that the cockpit is unreachable.
- 8:20 AM – American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Dulles, outside of Washington, DC, headed for Los Angeles. There are 53 passengers, 6 crew members, and 5 hijackers on board.
- 8:24 AM – Mohamed Atta, a hijacker on Flight 11, unintentionally alerts air controllers in Boston to the attack. He meant to press the button that allowed him to talk to the passengers on his flight.
- 8:37 AM – After hearing the broadcast from Atta on Flight 11, Boston air traffic control alerts the US Air Force's Northeast Defense Sector, who then mobilize the Air National Guard to follow the plane.
- 8:42 AM – United Flight 93 takes off from Newark, New Jersey, after a delay due to routine traffic. It was headed for San Francisco, California. There are 33 passengers, 7 crew members, and 4 hijackers are on board.
- 8:46 AM – Flight 11 crashes into the World

- Trade Center's North Tower. All passengers aboard are instantly killed, and employees of the WTC are trapped above the 91st floor.
- 9:03 AM – Flight 175 crashes into the WTC's South Tower. All passengers aboard are killed instantly and so are an unknown number of people in the tower.
- 9:05 AM – President George W. Bush, in an elementary school classroom in Florida, is informed about the hit on the second tower. His chief of staff, Andrew Card, whispers the chilling news into the president's ear. Bush later wrote about his response: "I made the decision not to jump up immediately and leave the classroom. I didn't want to rattle the kids. I wanted to project a sense of calm... I had been in enough crises to know that the first thing the leader has to do is to project calm."
- 9:28 AM – Hijackers attack on Flight 93.
- 9:37 AM – Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon. All passengers aboard are instantly killed and so are 125 civilian and military personnel in the building.
- 9:45 AM – US airspace is shut down under Operation Yellow Ribbon. All civilian aircraft are ordered to land at the nearest airport.
- 9:55 AM – Air Force One with President George W. Bush aboard takes off from Florida.
- 9:57 AM – Passengers aboard Flight 93 begin to run up toward the cockpit. Jarrah, the pilot, begins to roll the plane back and forth in an attempt to destabilize the revolt.
- 9:59 AM – The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.
- 10:02 AM – Flight 93 plows into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Although its ultimate target is unknown, it was likely heading for either the White House or the US Capitol.
- 10:18 AM – President Bush authorizes any non-grounded planes to be shot down. At that time,



all four hijacked planes had already crashed but the president's team was operating under the impression that Flight 93 was still in the air.

- 10:28 AM – The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.
- 10:53 AM – Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld orders the US military to move to a higher state of alert, going to DEFCON 3.
- 11:45 AM – Air Force 1 lands at Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, Louisiana.
- 12:15 PM – Airspace in the United States is completely free of all commercial and private flights.
- 1:30 PM – Air Force 1 leaves Barksdale.
- 2:30 PM – Rudy Giuliani, the mayor of New York City, visits the fallen Twin Towers of the World Trade Center at what becomes known as Ground Zero.
- 3:00 PM – Air Force 1 lands at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, and President Bush is immediately taken to a secure bunker that is capable of withstanding a nuclear attack.
- 4:30 PM – Air Force 1 leaves Offutt and heads back toward Andrews Air Force base near Washington, DC.
- 5:30 PM – Building 7 of the World Trade Center collapses.
- 8:30 PM – President Bush addresses the nation.



presidential retreat in Maryland or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.

How Many People Died in the 9/11 Attacks?

A total of 2,996 people were killed in the 9/11 attacks, including the 19 terrorist hijackers aboard the four airplanes. Citizens of 78 countries died in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

At the World Trade Center, 2,763 died after the two planes slammed into the twin towers. That figure includes 343 firefighters and paramedics, 23 New York City police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers who were struggling to complete an evacuation of the buildings and save the office workers trapped on higher floors.

At the Pentagon, 189 people were killed, including 64 on American Airlines Flight 77, the airliner that struck the building. On Flight 93, 44 people died when the plane crash-landed in Pennsylvania.

America Responds to the Attacks

At 7 p.m., President George W. Bush, who was in Florida at the time of the attacks and had spent the day being shuttled around the country because of security concerns, returned to the White House.

At 9 p.m., he delivered a televised address from the Oval Office, declaring, "Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

In a reference to the eventual U.S. military response he declared, "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

Operation Enduring Freedom, the American-led international effort to oust the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and destroy Osama bin Laden's terrorist network based there, began on October 7. Within two months, U.S. forces had effectively removed the Taliban from operational power, but the war continued, as U.S. and coalition forces attempted to defeat a Taliban insurgency campaign based in neighboring Pakistan.

Osama bin Laden, the mastermind behind the September 11th attacks, remained at large until May 2, 2011, when he was finally tracked down and killed by U.S. forces at a hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan. In June 2011, then-President

Barack Obama announced the beginning of large-scale troop withdrawals from Afghanistan; it took until August 2021 for all U.S. forces to withdraw.

Department of Homeland Security Created

In the wake of security fears raised by 9/11 and the mailing of letters containing anthrax that killed two and infected 17, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 created the Department of Homeland Security. It was signed into law by President George W. Bush on November 25, 2002. Today, the Department of Homeland Security is a cabinet responsible for preventing terror attacks, border security, immigrations and customs and disaster relief and prevention.

The act was followed two days later by the formation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States. The bipartisan "9/11 Commission," as it came to be known, was charged with investigating the events that lead up to September 11th. The 9/11 Commission Report was released on July 22, 2004. It named Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind behind 9/11, "the principal architect of the 9/11 attacks."

Mohammed led propaganda operations for al Qaeda from 1999-2001. He was captured on March 1, 2003 by the Central Intelligence Agency and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and interrogated before being imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay detention camp with four other accused terrorists charged with 9/11-related war crimes. The use of torture, including waterboarding, during Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's interrogation has received international attention. In August 2019, a U.S. military court judge in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba set a trial date for Mohammed and the other four men charged with plotting the 9/11 terrorist attacks to begin in 2021; it was later postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Economic Impact of 9/11

The 9/11 attacks had an immediate negative effect on the U.S. economy. Many Wall Street institutions, including the New York Stock Exchange, were evacuated during the attacks. On the first day of trading after the attacks, the market fell 7.1 percent, or 684 points. New York City's economy alone lost 143,000 jobs a month and \$2.8 billion wages in the first three months. The heaviest losses were in finance and air transportation, which accounted for 60 percent of lost jobs. The estimated cost of the World



Trade Center damage is \$60 billion. The cost to clean the debris at Ground Zero was \$750 million.

Victim Compensation Fund

Thousands of first responders and people working and living in lower Manhattan near Ground Zero were exposed to toxic fumes and particles emanating from the towers as they burned and fell. By 2018, 10,000 people were diagnosed with 9/11-related cancer.

From 2001 to 2004, over \$7 billion dollars in compensation was given to families of the 9/11 victims and the 2,680 people injured in the attacks. Funding was renewed on January 2, 2011, when

President Barack Obama signed The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act into law. Named for James Zadroga, a New York City Police officer who died of respiratory disease he contracted after rescuing people from the rubble at Ground Zero, the law continued health monitoring and compensation for 9/11 first responders and survivors.

In 2015, funding for the treatment of 9/11-related illness was renewed for five more years at a total of \$7.4 billion. The Victim Compensation Fund was set to stop accepting claims in December 2020.

On July 29, 2019, then-President Trump signed a law authorizing support for the



September 11 Victim Compensation Fund through 2092. Previously, administrators had cut benefits by up to 70 percent as the \$7.4 billion fund depleted. Vocal lobbyists for the fund included Jon Stewart, 9/11 first responder John Feal and retired New York Police Department detective and 9/11 responder Luis Alvarez, who died of cancer 18 days after testifying before Congress.

Anniversary and Memorial

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved naming September 11 “Patriot Day” to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In 2009, Congress named September 11 a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The first memorials to September 11 came in the immediate wake of the attacks, with candlelight vigils and flower tributes at U.S. embassies around the world. In Great Britain, Queen Elizabeth sang the American national anthem during the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Rio de Janeiro put up billboards showing the city’s Christ the Redeemer statue embracing the New York City skyline.

For the first anniversary of the attacks in New York City in 2002, two bright columns of light were shot up into the sky from where the Twin Towers once stood. The “Tribute in Light” then became an annual installation run by the Municipal Art Society of New York. On clear nights, the beams are visible from over 60 miles away.

A World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition was held to select an appropriate permanent memorial to the victims of 9/11. The winning design by Michael Arad, “Reflecting Absence,” now sits outside the museum in an eight-acre park. It consists of two reflecting pools with waterfalls rushing down where the Twin Towers once rose into the sky.

The names of all 2,983 victims are engraved on the 152 bronze panels surrounding the pools, arranged by where individuals were on the day of the attacks, so coworkers and people on the same flight are memorialized together. The site was opened to the public on September 11, 2011, to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. The National September 11 Memorial & Museum followed, opening on the original World Trade Center site in May 2014. The Freedom Tower, also on the original World Trade Center site, opened in November 2014.

Although to many Americans 9/11 seemed like a random act of terror, the

roots of the event had been developing for years. A combination of factors that coalesced in the late 1990s led the catastrophic event. These factors included regional conditions in the Middle East that motivated the perpetrators, as well as intelligence lapses and failures that left the United States vulnerable.

Osama Bin Laden was relatively unknown in the United States before 9/11, even as he was amassing popularity, followers, and fame in the Middle East during the 1990s. In 1988, he was one of the founders of al Qaeda, a militant Islamic terrorist organization that organized and carried out the 9/11 attacks. Bin Laden called for indiscriminate killing of all Americans who, he claimed, were “the worst thieves in the world today” (9/11 Report, page 47). It was the perfect historical moment for that rallying cry.

Throughout the 20th century, a wave of secular, nationalist revolutions swept through the Middle East, taking root in Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, and other countries. While these movements were wash in promising ideology, the new regimes quickly became autocratic and suppressed dissent. Their critics turned to violent revolution to express their dissatisfaction with the secular governments.

At the same time, social malaise, especially among young men who were struggling to find decent jobs and start their own families in corrupt oil states, provided easy targets for radicalization. Bin Laden’s message that America was the “head of the snake” and the root of all society’s problems resonated well with the discontent.

By the mid-1990s, Bin Laden was the head of al Qaeda, a multifaceted and highly developed terrorist network carrying out attack after attack on Americans in the Middle East. It was a new type of terrorism to which the US intelligence agencies struggled to adapt. Much of the intelligence community had not even imaged the specific type of hijacking and terrorism carried out on 9/11. They were preparing for threats such as the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and bombing in 2000 of the USS Cole.

Much of the intelligence community’s focus was on reactive law enforcement activity rather than proactive countering of terrorism. A telling quote from the 9/11 commission report focuses on the lack of a proactive response: “The process was meant, by its nature, to mark for the public as the events finished – case solved, justice done. It was not



designed to ask if the events might be harbingers of worse to come. Nor did it allow for aggregating and analyzing facts to see if they could provide clues to terrorist tactics more generally – methods of entry and finance, and mode of operation inside the United States” (Commission Report, p. 73).

Bin Laden had amassed substantial power due to conditions in the Middle East as well as his charismatic leadership, and the US intelligence community was underprepared for a 9/11 style attack. In the aftermath of 9/11, these two factors continued to affect US policy in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq.

The aftermath

The emotional distress caused by the attacks—particularly the collapse of the twin towers, New York City’s most visible landmark—was overwhelming. Unlike the relatively isolated site of the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, to which the September 11 events were soon compared, the World Trade Center lay at the heart of one of the world’s largest cities. Hundreds of thousands of people witnessed the attacks firsthand (many onlookers photographed events or recorded them with video cameras), and millions watched the tragedy unfold live on television. In the days that followed September 11, the footage of the attacks was replayed in the media countless times, as were the scenes of throngs of people, stricken with grief, gathering at “Ground Zero”—as the site where the towers once stood came to be commonly known—some with photos of

missing loved ones, seeking some hint of their fate.

Moreover, world markets were badly shaken. The towers were at the heart of New York’s financial district, and damage to Lower Manhattan’s infrastructure, combined with fears of stock market panic, kept New York markets closed for four trading days. Markets afterward suffered record losses. The attacks also stranded tens of thousands of people throughout the United States, as U.S. airspace remained closed for commercial aviation until September 13, and normal service, with more rigid security measures, did not resume for several days.

The hunt for bin Laden

In September 2001 President Bush announced that he wanted Osama bin Laden captured—dead or alive—and a \$25 million bounty was eventually issued for information leading to the killing or capture of bin Laden. Bin Laden evaded capture, however, including in December 2001, when he was tracked by U.S. forces to the mountains of Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden’s trail subsequently went cold, and he was thought to be living somewhere in the Afghanistan-Pakistan tribal regions.

U.S. intelligence eventually located him in Pakistan, living in the garrison city of Abbottabad, and in the early morning hours of May 2, 2011, on orders from U.S. Pres. Barack Obama, a small team of U.S. Navy SEALs assaulted his compound and shot and killed the al-Qaeda leader.

Source: Miller Center and History.com

Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji

Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji takes place on the 15th day (New Moon) of Bhadon, the sixth month of the Punjabi calendar, which occurs in August or September in the Western calendar.

Guru Granth Sahib Ji is unique among the great texts of the world. It is considered to be the supreme spiritual

authority and head of Sikhism rather than any living person. It is also the only book of its kind that not only contains the works of its religious founders but also the writings of people of their faith. The living Guru of the Sikhs, the book is kept with great reverence by the Sikhs and is treated with the utmost respect. The Guru Granth Sahibji is a compilation of many hymns, poems, Shabad and other writings from several different scholars, including the Sikh Gurus and other saints.

Guru Granth Sahib ji has 1,430 pages, and each copy is identical. It contains words spoken by the Gurus. It is known as Gurbani, which means 'from the mouth of the Guru'. It is considered the word of God. It is written in Gurmukhi.

History of Guru Granth Sahib ji

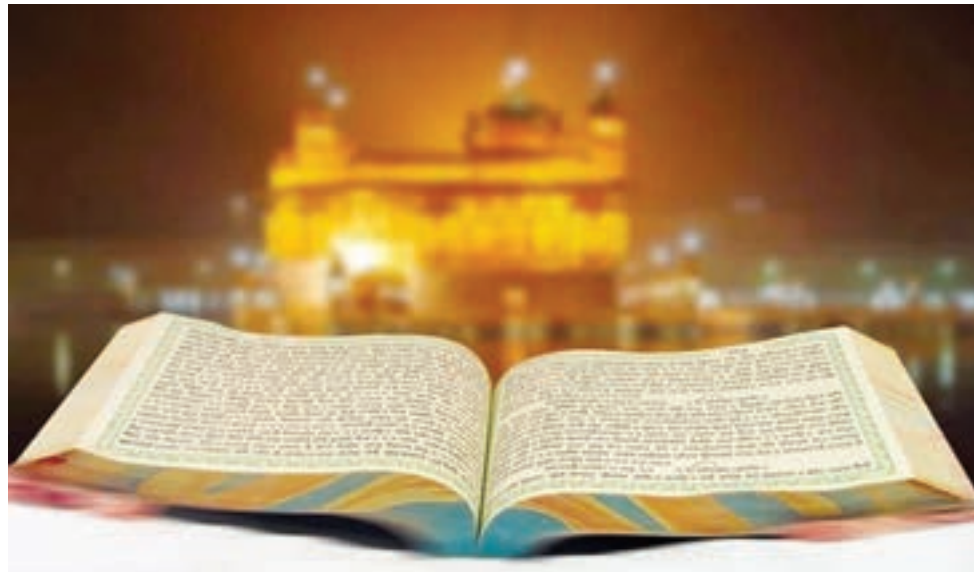
Guru Arjan Dev ji, the fifth Sikh Guru compiled the original version of Guru Granth Sahib ji. Guru Arjan Dev ji felt that the Sikhs needed authentic compilation of the hymns of their gurus. Thus Guru Arjan Dev ji started the collection of original verses of all the Gurus. He sent reliable Sikhs like Bhai Piara ji, Bhai Gurdas ji and Baba Buddha ji across the country in search of original manuscripts. Guru Arjan Dev ji travelled to Goindwal, Khadur and Kartarpur to visit the families of the previous Gurus. Guru Arjan Dev ji collected original manuscripts of the Gurus from Mohan ji (son of Guru Amar Das ji), Datu ji (son of Guru Angad ji) as well as Sri Chand ji (son of Guru Nanak ji).

Compilation and Contents of the Guru Granth Sahib

Many of Guru Nanak ji's hymns and prayers were preserved and compiled by Guru Angad ji and Guru Arjan Dev refuse to expunge the so-called offensive text or pay the fine. Guru Arjan Dev ji was against making alterations in the hymns as required by Jahangir and instead preferred a martyr's death. This led to his execution. The Adi Granth was completed in 1604 and installed in the Golden Temple.

In 1708, Adi Granth became Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, the Eternal Guru of Sikhs as was declared by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. After Guru Gobind Singh ji's martyrdom in 1708, Baba Deep Singh ji and Bhai Mani Singh ji prepared many copies of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji for distribution. The original version of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib can be found at Nanded, a city in Maharashtra state.

Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji which presides over in other gurdwaras are copies of this edition. The first Shabad of the Guru Granth Sahib ji is the "Mool Mantra". This is a statement of



recognition for Sikhism. This underlines the belief in one God. The first line of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji is "Ik Onkar". It literally means 'there is only one God'.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji raised Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji to the status of a permanent Guru and conferred it the title of "Guru of the Sikhs" in 1708. Declaring the Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji to be the next Guru after him, Guru Gobind Singh ji commanded the Sikhs to regard the Guru Granth Sahib ji as their next and everlasting Guru.

He said, "Sab Sikhian ko hukamhai Guru Manyo Granth" meaning thereby that all Sikhs are commanded to regard the Granth as a Guru.

Guru Gobind Singh ji commanded the Sikhs in the following words

- Agya Bhai Akal Ki Tabhi Chalayo Panth. (Under orders of the Immortal Being, the Panth was created)
- Sabh Sikhian Ko Hukam Hai Guru Manyo Granth. (All the Sikhs are enjoined to accept the Granth as their Guru)
- Guru Granth Ji Manyo Pargat Guran Ki Deh. (Consider the Guru Granth as embodiment of the Gurus)
- Jo Prabhu Ko Milbo Chahe Khoj Shabad Mein Le. (Those who want to meet God, can find Him in its hymns)
- Raj Karega Khalsa Aqi Rahei Na

Koe, (The pure shall rule, and impure will be no more)

- Khwar Hoe Sabh Milange Bache Sharan Jo Hoe. (Those separated will unite and all the devotees shall be saved)

Facts about Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji

- Total words – 398697
- Most often repeated word is "Hari" – 9288 times
- No punctuation marks have been used

Authors / contributors:

- Six Sikh Gurus, first Five Gurus (Guru Nanak dev Ji, Guru Angad dev Ji, Guru Amar Das ji, Guru Ram Das ji, Guru Arjan Dev ji) and ninth Guru (Guru Tegh Bhadur Ji)
- Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji includes sermons of Guru Nanak Dev Ji (974 Shabad and Shloka), Guru Angad Dev Ji (62 Shloka), Guru Amardas Ji (907 Shabad and Shloka), Guru Ram Das Ji (679 Shabad and Shloka), Guru Arjan Dev Ji (2218 Shabad and Shloka) and Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (115 Shabad and Shloka).
- Three Sikhs (Bhai Satta ji, Bhai Balwand ji and Bhai Sundar ji)
- 17 Bhattas: The Bhattas were a group of musicians who lived in the sixteenth century. All of them were scholars, poets and singers. (Bhat Kal, Bhat Kalsehar, Bhat Tal, Bhat Jalup, Bhat Jal, Bhat Kirat, Bhat Sal, Bhat Bahil,

Bhat Nal, Bhat Bhikha, Bhat Jalan, Bhat Kas, Bhat Gend, Bhat Sevak, Bhat Mathra, Bhat Bal and Bhat Harbans)

- 15 Bhagats (Kabir, Namdev, Ravidas, Sheikh Farid, Trilochan, Dhanna, Beni, Sheikh Bhikan, Jaidev, Surdas, Parmanand, Pipa, Ramanand, Sadhna and Sain)

Prayers

Nitnem

It is the collection of hymns of different Gurus to be read daily by the common people at least three times a day. Nitnem usually includes Panj Bania and sometimes includes Rehiras Sahib and Kirtan Sohilla (for the night). The morning and the evening prayers should be followed by a set of prayers known as Ardas. The five Banis or the Panj Bania are Japji Sahib- appears at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib

Jaap Sahib

Morning prayers of the Sikh which was composed by tenth Guru Gobind Singh and is found at the start of Sikh scripture Dasam Granth. It is the praise of God and includes names of various Gods in different languages. It is composed of 199 verses and is the first Bani of Dasam Granth.

Tav- Prasad Savaiye

It is a short composition that contains around 10 stanzas and is present on pages 13 to 15 of Dasam Granth.

Chaupai Sahib

Also referred as Banti Chaupai is a hymn by Guru Gobind Singh

Anand Sahib

It is the collection of hymns written by Guru Amar das Ji who was the third Guru in Sikhism. It is available from page 917-922 in Guru Granth Sahib. It is chanted at all the religious ceremonies of the Sikhs

Rehras Sahib

It is the evening prayer of Sikhs which is a part of Gurbani (Hymns in the central text of Guru Granth Sahib). It contains hymns of four different Gurus Guru Nanak, Guru Amardas, Guru Ramdas, Guru Arjan Dev, and Guru Gobind Singh Ji. It gives energy to the mind and body after the day-long hard work. It is in a way to thank God for completing the day with no hassles. Rehras contains hymns from So Dar and So Purakh, Chaupai Sahib, Anand Sahib, and Mundhavani. Chaupal Sahib is taken from Dasam Granth.

Kirtan Sohila

It is the night prayers chanted by all Sikhs before they go to bed. It is composed of five hymns or Shabd. The five hymns are contributed by Guru Nanak, Guru Ram das, and Guru Arjan. The first three hymns were uttered by Guru Nanak, the fourth by Guru Ram Das, and the fifth by Guru Arjan Dev.

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Biden, Modi vow to deepen defense ties, explore new domains; India gets backing for UNSC seat



PM Modi with US President Joe Biden in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden vowed to extend bilateral ties in newer domains and expressed appreciation for the substantial progress underway to implement the wide-ranging decisions taken by them at their last interaction less than three months back in June.

In a joint statement issued at the end of their meeting at the PM's Office on Friday, September 8, they resolved to deepen and diversify the India-US defence partnership through expanded cooperation in new and emerging domains such as space and AI, and accelerated defence industrial collaboration.

Here to attend the G20 Summit, Biden lauded India's presidency and said it demonstrated how the G20 as a forum was delivering important outcomes. He also congratulated PM Modi, the scientists and engineers on Chandrayaan-3's historic landing in the south polar region of moon, as well as the successful launch of India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1.

India and the US will now mount a joint effort to the International

Space Station next year and are continuing efforts to finalise a strategic framework for human space flight cooperation by the end of this year. The joint statement skirted the Ukraine conflict although US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has accompanied Biden and will be pressing for more countries to join in sanctions against Russia. But they said the relationship was strengthened by the "shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, inclusion, pluralism, and equal opportunities for all citizens".

The joint statement had little political content with the most important being that Biden will visit India next year for the Quad Leaders' Summit and the leaders' backing for freedom of navigation.

Biden also reaffirmed his support for a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council and welcomed India's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent seat in 2028-29.

Turning to technology partnerships, which formed the bulk of the joint statement, the two leaders felt it was playing a "defining role" in their strategic ties especially through the NSAs-led Initiative on Critical and

Emerging Technology (iCET).

They were also satisfied over the building of resilient global semiconductor supply chains and noted that Microchip Tech will invest about \$300 million and Advanced Micro Device \$400 million in India, while Micron, LAM Research, and Applied Materials are implementing the announcements made during PM Modi's State Visit to the US in June.

A substantial part of the joint statement covered the defence industrial ecosystems and touched on US Congressional Notification approving tech transfer and manufacturing of GE jet engines in India, a second Master Ship Repair Agreement, Letter of Request from the Ministry of Defence to procure 31 highly advanced drones and intensified talks on next generation small modular reactor technologies.

The two leaders also welcomed the growing bilateral cooperation in cancer research, prevention, control, and management, and looked forward to the launch of the India-US Cancer Dialogue in November. It will be preceded by the US-India Health Dialogue in October.

India, US, UAE, Saudi, Europe to launch unprecedented infra project: US official

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India, the US, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Europe are set to unveil an unprecedented and groundbreaking infrastructure initiative of a railway and shipping corridor that will enhance commerce, energy and digital connectivity on Saturday, September 9, on the sidelines of the G20 summit, US principal deputy national security advisor Jon Finer has said.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, September 9 morning, Finer said that the project will fill a major infrastructure gap and will be "high-standards, transparent, sustainable, non-coercive" and based on the demand signal from the region instead of being an imposition, drawing an indirect but sharp contrast with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

BRI is widely criticised for locking countries into unsustainable debts, being non-

transparent, coercive, and compromising standards.

Finer said that the initiative fits in with the Joe Biden administration's larger strategy in West Asia.

Laying out the strategic case for the project, he said that there was first a "value proposition" of a corridor linking three regions of the world as it would enhance prosperity.

Second, it filled a broader infrastructure gap in low and middle-income countries, with the US doing what it can with partners and allies to fill the gap. Third, he said that for the Middle East, "which has been a net exporter of turbulence and insecurity," the project was a major opportunity in line with the American efforts to "reduce the temperature and enhance connectivity".

While the project has not been implemented under the I2U2 framework (which includes India, Israel, UAE, and US), most

likely because the efforts at normalisation between Israel and Saudi are still a work in progress, officials believe that Israel will be an obvious partner in the project if and when there are formal diplomatic ties between Tel Aviv and Riyadh. On a question on Israel's participation, Finer said he will let countries speak for themselves.

"We have an approach focused on turning the temperature down, de-escalating conflicts underway in the region, and incentivising stability and connectivity in the region. The railway and shipping project is wholly in line with that," Finer said.

Asked about the contrast with BRI, Finer claimed that while he understood the appeal of that narrative, the US saw the infra project as a "positive affirmative agenda" that had appeal in countries.

Source: HT

'Bharat' in official documents at summit venue

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The first glimpses of the government using the name "Bharat" instead of "India" to designate officials tasked with G20 summit duties were available at the venue's International Media Centre on Friday.

Officials carried passes marked "Bharat-Official" to designate them as part of the government delegation handling responsibilities at the main Bharat Mandapam complex, which will host 41 global leaders starting Saturday and International Media Centre located nearby at the same venue. Mirror images of car parking stickers issued to government officials also bore the name "Bharat", further indicating that a change of country's name from India to Bharat could well be in the offing in the upcoming special session of Parliament.

The latest evidence on printing of "Bharat" on official documents follows "President of Bharat" Murmu's dinner invites to G20 leaders and description "PM of Bharat" in Modi's document for ASEAN visit to Indonesia.



Stage set for 2 days of tough parleys

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With negotiations on a draft leaders' declaration for the G20 Summit going down to the wire on Friday because of differences over the Ukraine conflict and other issues, people familiar with the matter said expectations were growing that a final push by the leaders would be needed to break the impasse.

The sherpas, or personal envoys of the G20 leaders, were unable to agree on a compromise text to refer to Russia's invasion of Ukraine at a meeting held at a resort at Manesar near the Indian capital despite discussions being extended by a day, people from four G20 member states said on condition of anonymity.

There were also differences on other issues, such as phasing out or phasing down of fossil fuels and debt restructuring, but the people said these were expected to be ironed out by the time the two-day G20 Summit gets underway on Saturday.

"There are a few other issues but they aren't insurmountable. A lot of ideas are being thrown around and these issues are likely to be sorted out. But things are still stuck on the issue of Ukraine," one of the people cited above said.

The people said the negotiations could require the intervention of leaders of G20 states to break the logjam over text to refer to the Ukraine crisis, just as had happened at last year's summit in Indonesia.

Both Russia and China have so far refused to accept the text used in the joint communique at last year's G20 Summit to refer to the Ukraine conflict. Russia has argued the situation on the ground has changed, while China has insisted that the G20 is an economic forum that shouldn't take up geopolitical issues.

Two officials from G20 member states said another major sticking point in the negotiations was the "obstructionist" role being played by China, especially in blocking initiatives proposed by India and its partners such as the US.

"Russia is largely isolated but China is obstructing a lot of things," one of the



The 27-feet-tall 'Nataraja' statue made of 'Ashtadhatu' is installed at the Bharat Mandapam where the G20 summit is being held on Sept. 9 and 10, 2023.(PTI)

officials said.

Among the formulas discussed to address the impasse over the Ukraine crisis was the possibility of issuing two statements – one a consensus document with all the issues the G20 states had agreed on and another that referred only to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. However, this proposal was not favoured by several G7 member states, the people said.

A senior Japanese government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was still unclear in what format the situation in Ukraine would be incorporated in the draft leaders' declaration but the G7 members want the issue to be included.

"Japan wants to see a reference to a principled position upholding a free and

open international order based on international law, especially the UN Charter and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. This shouldn't be a problem as the G20 members are also UN members. We hope the statement will have the fundamental concept that all countries adhere to," the Japanese official said.

The negotiations for a "consensus expression" of the Ukraine crisis are "really tough" and a final push could be needed from the G20 leaders to arrive at a principled position, the Japanese official added.

The people made it clear that there was no getting around a discussion on the Ukraine issue on the grounds that it is a geopolitical issue – something that China has been pushing for.

"We must discuss Ukraine as it affects lots of issues, including the hike in the prices of food and energy. The root cause is the blatant violation of international law. We can't fall back from the Bali text," the Japanese official said.

India has so far refrained from publicly criticising Russia's invasion of Ukraine or voting on resolutions at the UN denouncing Moscow's actions. The Indian leadership has consistently called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Russia remains a key partner and major supplier of military hardware and energy for India, which has had to engage in a delicate balancing act amid its growing strategic partnership with the US. *Source: HT*

G20 agrees to grant permanent membership to African Union

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Ahead of the G20 Summit, the member nations of the group have agreed to grant permanent membership to the African Union, a continental body of 55 member states, Bloomberg agency news reported. With this, the African Union has earned the same status as the European Union.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had written a letter to the G20 nations in which he proposed that the African Union be given full, permanent membership of the bloc at the upcoming summit in New Delhi. Countries like Germany, Brazil, and Canada have also expressed their support for African Union membership to the G20.



At present, the G20 group comprises 19 countries and the European Union.

Besides, the G20 this year has also invited nine non-member countries, including Bangladesh, Singapore, Spain, and Nigeria, and international organisations such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, the World Bank, and the IMF on the 9 and 10 September Summit.



PM in a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina.



Deputy PM of Oman Sayyid Asaad arrives at Palam Airforce Airport, in New Delhi on September 8, 2023.



Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak and the First Lady of the United Kingdom Akshata Murty arrive for the G20 summit.



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau.

Battle of Saragarhi: The greatest last stand in history

The Battle of Saragarhi has been rated as one of the 10 most historic battles of the world. On September 12, 1897, 21 Sikh soldiers in the fort of Saragarhi faced an estimated 15,000 Afghan tribesmen who wanted to control Saragarhi. The 21 brave soldiers did not surrender but fought the attackers, and lost their lives. Anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi falls on September 12.

The Battle of Saragarhi, one of the greatest last stands in history that was fought on September 12, 1897, by 21 Sikh soldiers of the British India Army against 15,000 Afghans in the Samana Valley of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which was then part of India. During this battle, all the 21 soldiers of 36 Sikh Regiment fought till their last breath against the Afghan hordes with unprecedented courage and unparalleled valour and went down as superheroes. Here's the story of the Saragarhi's legendary battle.

Where is Saragarhi?

Saragarhi was a small village in the Kohat district along with the Samana range (modern-day Pakistan). The British succeeded in gaining control over the Khyber Pakhtunwa region, although they were prone to attacks from rebellious Pashtuns. Saragarhi served as a communication post between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gullistan which served as headquarters for the British Indian army in the North-Western region, as these two forts were not visible to each other despite being a few miles apart.

Between August 27 to September 11, 1897, the Pashtuns tried to attack these British strongholds but their efforts were continuously thwarted by the 36th Sikh regiment under the command of Col. Haughton. Communication between Saragarhi and Fort Lockhart took place over heliograph. On September 12, 1897, 15,000 Pashtuns attacked Saragarhi in order to break communication between the two forts. The Battle of Saragarhi is considered to be one of the greatest last stands in history. Where 21 soldiers of the 36 Sikh Regiment fought an army of over 15,000 Afghans and killed more than 600 of them before perishing to enemy bullets. The 36 Sikh Regiment leader Ishar Singh managed to kill over 20 enemies in this epic battle.

Most Epic Battle Of All Time

This battle is epic because these 21 soldiers sacrificed their lives for their country and managed to hold back 15,000 men for an entire day until reinforcements arrived. The efforts of 36th Sikh Regiment soldiers never went unnoticed when the news received a standing ovation at the British Parliament in London. A commemorative tablet was put stating the names of the 21 men, after recognising their efforts. Post the battle, Col. Haughton narrated the heart-wrenching story of the battle to the top brass of the British Indian Army. As a result, all 21 soldiers were awarded the prestigious Indian Order of Merit Class III award. It was also for the first time in history, that each and every member of the unit won the gallantry awards for a single battle.

Remembrance and legacy

Khalsa Bahadur is an epic poem written by Chuhar Singh describing the chivalry and sacrifice of Sikh soldiers at the Battle of



The ruins of Saragarhi.



36th Sikhs, various ranks, 1896. On the left, holding his sword is an officer. He has a badge on his turban. Next is a Havildar with three stripes on his arm, then a Sepoy in winter dress and three good conduct stripes. On the right is a bugler. These last three other ranks do not wear a badge like the officer, but all four have a quoit circling their turbans. All four also wear boots instead of the sandals or shoes that so many of the infantrymen wore.



The Saragarhi Memorial Gurdwara in Ferozepur, Punjab, is a tribute to the Sikh soldiers who sacrificed their lives at Saragarhi. The memorial Gurdwara, was built by the army in 1904 with stones from the Saragarhi post and has the names of the 21 Sikh soldiers inscribed on its walls.

Saragarhi. The poem is 55 pages long in the Punjabi language.

In remembrance of these 21 warriors, the British built two gurdwaras, one in

Amritsar near the Golden Temple and another in Ferozepur Cantonment, which was in the district where these men hailed from.



The Saragarhi Monument

Events and aspects of the battle

- On the fateful morning of 12th September 1897, the Pathans of the Orakzai and Afridi tribes attacked the Saragarhi post.
- They were more than 15,000 in number.
- They demanded the surrender of the 21 soldiers of the 36 Sikh Regiment guarding the post.
- Havaldar Ishar Singh refused to give up on this demand and decided to fight till their last breath.
- The Sikh soldiers had bolt-action rifles to fight. Sikh Gurmukh Singh sent signals to the commanding officer of this regiment Colonel Haughton that they were under attack and needed reinforcement.
- Colonel Haughton, at Fort Lockhart, expressed his inability to send troops for help since the post was cut off from the Fort as tribals surrounded it.
- The men at the Saragarhi post were outnumbered by a ratio of 1:500. They also had limited ammunition, with approximately 400 rounds for each soldier.
- The battle started around 9 AM and lasted till evening. The Sikh soldiers fought bravely and killed more than 600 enemies.
- The last surviving Sikh soldier was Sepoy Gurmukh Singh, who killed around 40 attacking tribals. He finally laid his life.
- The Afghan tribesmen destroyed the Saragarhi post. After this, they tried to capture Fort Gulistan but failed since reinforcements had already arrived at the Fort.

Even today, 12th September is celebrated as the Saragarhi Day in honor of the sacrifices made by those 21 brave soldiers and it's observed as the Sikh military commemoration day. Three gurdwaras - Saragarhi, Ferozepur and Amritsar have been made to commemorate their sacrifice.



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Vivek Ramaswamy says he will pardon all peaceful January 6 protesters



Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has vowed that he will pardon all peaceful January 6 protesters if he gets elected as the next US president in 2024.

SEPTEMBER 07, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has vowed that he will pardon all peaceful January 6 protesters if he gets elected as the next US president in 2024.

The 38-year-old Indian American entrepreneur has gained traction after he denounced the US Justice Department for its "political persecution" of non-violent protesters at the Republican primary presidential debate last month.

America now has a two-tiered justice system: Antifa and BLM rioters roam free while peaceful January 6 protesters are imprisoned without bail. Biden's Department of Injustice' has executed over 1,000 arrests for nonviolent offenses related to January 6, casting a dark shadow over Lady Justice and the foundational principles of our legal system, he said in a statement.

To unify this country, I commit as president to pardon all Americans who were targets of politicized federal prosecutions and those denied due process. This includes all peaceful, nonviolent January 6 protesters who were denied their constitutional due process rights," he said on Wednesday.

The January 6 riot saw more than 2,000 people enter the US Capitol as lawmakers certified the results of the 2020 election, in which President Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump.

The mob stormed the Capitol following a speech from Trump, who was speaking at a rally not far from the Capitol grounds. In his speech, Trump claimed election fraud and called on then-Vice-President Mike Pence to overturn the results.

The riot led to the biggest police investigation in US history with hundreds of people accused of criminal offenses.

Ramaswamy said he will end the weaponization of police power in America and noted that every Republican candidate must be clear on hard issues.

He said on Sunday that while he expects to become the party's nominee for the November 2024 US elections, he will vote for Trump if the former president secures the nomination.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Top retired generals Naravane, Clarke join USISPF advisory board

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Two top retired generals - General (rtd) Manoj Mukund Naravane and General (rtd) Richard Clarke - have joined the advisory board of the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).

General (rtd) Naravane most recently served as the 28th Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army and General (rtd) Clarke is the former commander of US Special Operations Command.

USISPF also announced that Peter Marrs, president of Dell Technologies for the Asia-Pacific and Japan region, has joined the Board of Directors.

It is an honor and a privilege to have been invited to the Board of USISPF, a forum that has steered US-India relations. There is immense scope for further enhancing this partnership and I look forward to being part of this effort," Naravane said.

Clarke said he had the privilege of travelling to and studying in India during his time in the military and while in the National War College.

Now retired, I hope to continue to foster a security relationship with one of



General (rtd) Naravane most recently served as the 28th Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army and General (rtd) Clarke is the former commander of US Special Operations Command.



the most important strategic partners for the US in this century, he said.

The additions of Peter Marrs, General Naravane, and General Clarke epitomize the importance and synergy of critical and emerging technology, especially in the defense domain, said USISPF president and CEO Mukesh Aghi.

The success of the state visit and the joint statement from both Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden accentuated the importance of the iCET and collaboration in space.

"Leaders from the private sector and former distinguished military officials exemplify USISPF's holistic approach to understanding the commercial and geostrategic aspects of the partnership," he said.

(Source: PTI)

US wants G20 to help reshape multilateral development banks like IMF and World Bank



White House National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communication John Kirby said on Wednesday, September 6, the US will make it clear during President Joe Biden's visit to India that it remains committed to the G20 as a critical forum for all the major economies of the world to come together for global problem-solving.

banks like the IMF, like the World Bank," Kirby told foreign reporters at a news conference here on Wednesday.

"We know that these institutions are some of the most effective tools for mobilizing transparent and high-quality investment in developing countries. And that's why the United States has championed the major effort that is currently underway to evolve these institutions so that they're up for the challenges of tomorrow," he said.

Kirby said Biden asked the US Congress last month for additional funds that would have the impact of helping increase World Bank financing by more than USD 25 billion, and the US is working with its partners to see if they can pursue similar contributions.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

IRS reminds gig workers, self-employed and others of Sept. 15 third quarter estimated tax payment deadline

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service is reminding taxpayers who pay estimated taxes that the deadline to submit their third quarter payment is Sept. 15, 2023.

Taxpayers not subject to withholding may need to make quarterly estimated tax payments. Taxpayers such as gig workers, sole proprietors, retirees, partners and S corporation shareholders generally must make estimated tax payments if they expect to have a tax liability of \$1,000 or more when they file their return.

A GENERAL RULE OF THUMB IS THAT TAXPAYERS SHOULD MAKE ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS IF THEY EXPECT:

To owe at least \$1,000 in taxes for 2023 after subtracting their withholding and tax credits.

Their withholding and tax credits to be less than the smaller of:

90% of the tax to be shown on their 2023 tax return or
100% of the tax shown on their complete 12-month 2022 tax return.

MORE TAXPAYERS WILL RECEIVE 1099-KS FOR 2023

Taxpayers who were paid over \$600 by payment apps and online marketplaces or received any amount by payment cards could receive a Form 1099-K, Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions, starting January 2024, for payments received in 2023. This includes anyone with a side hustle, sole proprietors, and anyone selling goods and services online. It's important to remember that taxpayers should report their income, unless it's excluded by law, regardless of whether they receive a Form 1099-K or any other third-party reporting document.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Judge rejects Mark Meadows' bid to move Georgia election interference case to federal court

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A federal judge on Friday, September 8, rejected former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows' bid to move his Georgia criminal case to federal court, a significant setback for Meadows and a troubling sign for former President Donald Trump, CNN has reported.

US District Judge Steve Jones found that the allegations against Meadows contained in the Fulton County district attorney's indictment on election subversion charges were largely "related to political activities" and not to Meadows' role as White House chief of staff.

"The evidence before the Court overwhelmingly suggests that Meadows was not acting in his scope of executive branch duties during most of the Overt Acts alleged," wrote Jones, a Barack Obama appointee.

The Friday ruling has significant implications for the former president and his 18 co-defendants in the Fulton County district attorney's sprawling racketeering case, though the judge said the ruling did not apply to the other defendants. Meadows was the first of five defendants who already filed motions to move the case to federal court - and Trump is expected to do so, too.

Meadows unsuccessfully argued that his case, now playing out in Georgia state court, should be moved because the allegations in the indictment were connected to his official duties as White House chief of staff. His lawyers wanted the case in federal court so they could try to get it dismissed altogether, invoking



US District Judge Steve Jones on Friday, September 8, rejected former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows' bid to move his Georgia criminal case to federal court.
File photo

federal immunity extended to certain individuals who are prosecuted or sued for conduct tied to their US government roles.

The judge's decision could set the tone for the other defendants also trying to move their cases. It's an ominous sign for the defendants who are hoping to invoke the same federal immunity protections.

The judge explicitly stated in his ruling that he is not offering any opinion about Fulton County's underlying

criminal case against Meadows, who has pleaded not guilty.

Jones wrote in the decision that Meadows had not met even the "quite low" threshold for removal to federal court, because his activities for the Trump campaign were outside the scope of his federal role as White House chief of staff.

"The Court finds that the color of the Office of the White House Chief of Staff did not include working with or working for the Trump campaign, except for simply coordinating the President's schedule, traveling with the President to his campaign events, and redirecting communications to the campaign," Jones wrote. "Thus, consistent with his testimony and the federal statutes and regulations, engaging in political activities is exceeds the outer limits of the Office of the White House Chief of Staff."

The Hatch Act, which prohibits federal officials from engaging in political activity as part of their official duties, was "helpful in defining the outer limits of the scope of the White House Chief of Staff's authority," the judge said.

"These prohibitions on executive branch employees (including the White House Chief of Staff) reinforce the Court's conclusion that Meadows has not shown how his actions relate to the scope of his federal executive branch office. Federal officer removal is thereby inapposite," the judge wrote in the decision.

Meadows on Friday swiftly appealed the ruling to the US 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nikki Haley only Republican presidential aspirant who can defeat President Joe Biden: CNN poll

SEPTEMBER 08, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Nikki Haley is the only Republican presidential aspirant who can defeat President Joe Biden in the November 2024 polls, a CNN poll has revealed.

More than half a dozen Republican leaders, including two Indian Americans - Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy -- are seeking to be the party's presidential nominee. The race is currently being led by former president Donald Trump who is far ahead of others.

Releasing the results of its latest presidential polls, CNN said, "Hypothetical matchups... suggest there would be no clear leader should Biden face one of the other major GOP contenders, with one notable exception: Biden runs behind former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley."

In an early gauge of a hypothetical Biden-Trump rematch, CNN's poll finds that registered voters are currently split between Trump (47 per cent) and Biden (46 per cent), with the demographic contours that defined the 2020 race still prominent.

Biden is about even with Ron DeSantis (47 per cent each), Mike Pence (46 per cent Pence, 44 per cent Biden), Tim Scott (46 per cent Scott, 44 per cent Biden), Vivek Ramaswamy (46 per cent Biden, 45 per cent Ramaswamy), and Chris Christie (44 per cent Christie, 42 per cent Biden).

"Haley stands as the only GOP candidate to hold a lead over Biden, with 49 per cent to Biden's 43 per cent in a hypothetical match between the two," CNN reported.

That difference is driven at least in part by a broader support for Haley than for other Republicans among White voters with college degrees. She holds 51 per cent of that group, compared to 48 per cent or less for other Republicans tested in the poll, the news channel said.



A CNN poll has revealed that Nikki Haley is the only Republican presidential aspirant who can defeat President Joe Biden in the November 2024 polls

The Haley campaign welcomed the polls saying, "This poll confirms what many Democrats and Republicans are saying: Democrats are terrified of running against Nikki Haley."

"When you ask President Joe Biden who they're really worried about, you'll hear one name. 'If they nominate Nikki Haley, we're in trouble,' said a senior Democratic strategist close to the Biden campaign.

The Hill said those results are good news for Haley, a former United Nations ambassador under President Trump who is looking to build on a strong performance in the first GOP presidential debate late last month to challenge her former boss for the Republican nomination.

(Source: PTI)

FBI busts gang involved in armed robbery of Indian jewelry stores in US

SEPTEMBER 07, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The FBI has busted a violent crime ring and arrested over a dozen of its members for engaging in a series of armed robberies of Indian jewelry stores and showrooms in several US States.

Between January 2022 and January 2023, the members of this gang, based out of Washington DC, targeted several Indian and South Asian jewelry stores across the East Coast, including New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida and Pennsylvania.

A total of 16 members of the gang have been arrested so far, with eight of them being apprehended this week.

"This indictment alleges a conspiracy to engage in a violent armed robbery spree involving commercial establishments throughout the Eastern Seaboard," said US Attorney Matthew M. Graves.

One defendant is also charged with conspiracy to commit carjacking as part of the spree, and others are charged with laundering the proceeds from the robberies, he said "With an increasing number of robbery schemes that cross state lines, collaborative operations like this one are critical to holding accountable those who threaten the safety of our communities," he said.

"It is devastating that firearm-related violence such as the crimes committed throughout this investigation has become so prevalent within our communities," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Craig Kailimai.

The defendants targeted small businesses along the East Coast, stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry from hardworking families, said Assistant FBI Director in Charge David Sundberg. (Source: PTI)



No need to mix religion, politics: Congress chief on DMK leader's remarks

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday, September 8, said religion and politics were different things and shouldn't be mixed.

Kharge's comment came amid a political controversy over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks about Sanatan Dharma recently.

The Congress president was speaking to reporters after attending the Chhattisgarh Government's 'Bharose ka Sammelan' event at Thekwa in Rajnandgaon district.

Udhayanidhi, Tamil Nadu minister and son of Chief Minister MK Stalin, had derided Sanatan Dharma for its alleged divisiveness and lack of equality and had called for its eradication on the lines of diseases like malaria, dengue and Covid.

Asked about Udhayanidhi's remark, Kharge said, "I haven't come here to speak about anyone's religion. I have come to participate in a programme meant for the poor. Religion and politics are different things and there is no need to mix the two. I don't want a debate on this."

He hit out at the Centre saying while his party was engaged in uniting Bharat (India), the BJP was trying to break it.

"We have formed an alliance, INDIA, for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and now, the BJP is saying the country's name India should be changed to Bharat. There is both India and Bharat in the Constitution itself. Then why are they triggering a dispute over it?" Kharge said.

Shivaji's iconic 'Wagh Nakh' to be brought back from UK

Maharashtra cultural affairs minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on Friday reiterated that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's iconic 'wagh nakh', an iron weapon used to kill Bijapur sultanate's general Afzal Khan in 1659 will likely be brought back to India from the United Kingdom in November.

He also said efforts were also on to bring the famed 'Jagdamba' sword of the 17th century Maratha warrior king from a London museum.

The minister is set to travel to the UK this month to sign an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to get the 'wagh nakh' back to India. "In the first phase we are bringing the wagh nakh. It should be brought here in November and we are signing an MoU for that. Our effort is to bring it on the day when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj disembowelled Afzal Khan," he said.

Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu arrested in corruption case

NANDYALA (TIP)

Former chief minister and Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu was arrested in connection with an alleged Rs 371 crore Skill Development scam in an early morning police operation here on Saturday which involved officers knocking on the door of the caravan in which he was sleeping.

The former CM was arrested by the CID around 6 am from a marriage hall (outside which his caravan was parked) at Gnanapuram in Nandyala town, police said.

In a notice served to Naidu, the Deputy Superintendent of Police of the CID's Economic Offences Wing (EOW), M Dhanunjayudu, said, "It is to inform you that you have been arrested... at 6 am at R K Function Hall, Gnanapuram, H/o Moolasagaram, Nandyala town and it is a non-bailable offence."

The former Andhra Pradesh chief minister has been arrested under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 465 (forgery) of the IPC, according to the notice.

The Andhra Pradesh CID has also invoked the Prevention of Corruption Act against him. The notice was served under Section 50 (1) (2) of the CrPC.

At a recent meeting in Rayadurgam,



Former chief minister and Telugu Desam Party chief Chandrababu Naidu.

Anantapur district, Naidu hinted that he could be attacked or arrested soon.

Meanwhile, TDP's official X handle, shared dramatic videos of police swooping in on Naidu's bus to arrest him. The video showed TDP leaders arguing with police officials.

After addressing a women's gathering at Banaganapalli in Kurnool district under 'Babu Surety - Bhavishyathuku Guarantee' outreach programme, Naidu retired in his caravan at Nandyala to be woken up by police in the small hours of Saturday for his arrest.

Police were seen knocking Naidu's caravan door to wake him up in the run-up to his arrest. Further visuals showed the TDP chief discussing with officials while seated in the marriage hall.

Before arresting him, in the video shared by TDP, Naidu was seen demanding the police to provide him the FIR copy.

"How could you arrest me without having my name in the FIR? Without providing the material. You have to give me all the information," demanded Naidu.

Another TDP leader sitting beside Naidu demanded the police to show the prima facie cause for arresting the opposition leader.

However, the police official observed that this was a two-year-old case, referring to the alleged Skill Development Scam involving the misappropriation of Rs 371 crore.

TV visuals suggest that there are protests by the TDP cadre at some places in the state.

Government Adviser S Ramakrishna Reddy told media that the police need not give notice before arrest in economic offences. Even if there is no mention of the accused name in the FIR, he added.

Source: PTI

ASI granted 8 more weeks to complete Gyanvapi survey

VARANASI (TIP)

A Varanasi court on Friday issued an order granting four more weeks to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to complete the scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex and submit its report.

A copy of the court order was uploaded late Friday evening.

Earlier, government counsel Rajesh Mishra had said that eight more weeks were provided by the court to the ASI for completing its survey work.

District Judge A K Vishvesh dismissed the mosque management committee's objection and provided the additional time to the ASI, Mishra said.

The ASI is carrying out a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises, next to Kashi Vishwanath temple here, to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The survey began after the Allahabad High Court upheld a Varanasi district court order and ruled that the step is "necessary in the interest of justice" and will benefit both the Hindu and Muslim sides.



Advocate of the Hindu side Madan Mohan Yadav said the court had earlier given time till September 4 to survey the Gyanvapi complex except the Wazoo khana and submit its report. As the survey work was not complete, the advocate of the Archaeological Survey of India had sought additional time of eight weeks to complete the survey work.

During the last hearing, the Muslim side had presented its objection and said the ASI team was not authorised to survey the premises by removing debris or garbage.

The Muslim side alleged that ASI is digging in the basement as well as other places of the Gyanvapi complex without permission and accumulating debris on the western wall of the structure, which may pose a risk of collapse of the structure.

Secretary of Intezamia committee Mohd Yaseen said they would give their reaction to the latest judgment only after seeing the order.

The ASI survey work resumed on August 4. The Varanasi court, the same day, also granted the ASI an additional month to complete the survey, extending its original deadline from August 4 to September 4.

The mosque side also went to the Supreme Court against the Allahabad HC's order. The apex court had on August 4 refused to stay the Allahabad High Court order on an ASI survey.

In its order the bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, however, asked the Archaeological Survey of India not to carry out any invasive act during the survey. This ruled out any excavations, which the Varanasi court had said can be conducted, if necessary.

Source: PTI



BJP workers celebrate the victory of party candidate Tafajjal Hossain in the Boxanagar assembly bypoll, at Sonamura in Sepahijala district of Tripura, Friday, September 8, 2023.

PTI Photo

Mixed score in bypolls, Opposition secures 4, BJP 3

The results of seven Assembly bypolls across six states announced on Friday, September 8, signalled a mixed bag for rival camps with the ruling BJP at the Centre winning three seats and opposition Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress taking one each.

The CPM emerged the top loser with the Congress-led UDF defeating it in Kerala's Puthuppally and the BJP wresting Tripura's Boxanagar from it. Overall, the BJP retained two of the three seats it earlier held (Dhanpur in Tripura; Bageshwar in Uttarakhand) and bagged Boxanagar from the CPM.

The INDIA parties either fought or defeated one another in West Bengal, Kerala and Uttarakhand. In Bengal, INDIA partners Congress and CPM allied against the TMC, which bagged the Dhuppuri segment from the BJP by a margin of around 4,300 votes.

In Kerala, the Congress-led opposition UDF candidate Chandy Oomen trounced the CPM-led LDF's Jack Thomas by over 37,000 votes. In the INDIA bloc, the Congress and CPM are allies. Again in Uttarakhand, the BJP retained Bageshwar by a narrow margin of 2,400 votes with the Congress and SP both in the fray. INDIA parties won comfortably in two seats where they put up a united show. These include Jharkhand's Dumri which the JMM retained by a margin of over 17,000 votes, defeating NDA ally All Jharkhand Students' Union. In Uttar Pradesh's Ghosi, united opposition candidate Sudhakar Singh beat the BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan. This bypoll was necessitated because Chauhan, a sitting SP MLA, crossed over to the BJP.

INDIA alliance however could not deter the BJP from bagging the minority-dominated Boxanagar from the CPM in Tripura, where saffron nominee Tafajjal Hossain won by a margin of over 30,000 votes against the united opposition-backed CPM's Mizan Hossain.

While Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav both declared today's results a thumbs up for the INDIA bloc, BJP's Sambit Patra (in charge for the Northeast) said the results signalled the end of the road for communists.

PM Modi says 'India fully supports ASEAN centrality' in big message to China

JAKARTA (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, September 7, said that ASEAN is a "central pillar of India's 'Act East' policy" and emphasized the group's role in India's "Indo-Pacific strategy". PM Modi also underlined India's full support for ASEAN centrality and called for ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific as he met leaders of the 10-member bloc at the ASEAN-India summit in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta.

The Prime Minister's remarks assume significance amid growing concerns among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) over China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea, an important trade corridor in which several member-nations have claims that conflict with Beijing's. The term 'ASEAN centrality' calls for the dominant Southeast Asian platform to overcome common challenges and engage with external powers.

PM Modi's strong remarks came a day after China warned against a 'new Cold War' in ASEAN.

"Need of the hour is an Indo-Pacific where international law applies equally to all countries," PM Modi said at the 20th ASEAN-India Summit.

He further said, "Current global scenario is surrounded by difficult circumstances and uncertainties" and told the ASEAN leaders that "terrorism, extremism, and geopolitical conflicts are big challenges for all of us".

"We also share common values, such as democracy, secularism, and respect for human rights. Along with shared values, regional unity, peace, prosperity and mutual trust in a multipolar world also



PM Narendra Modi with other ASEAN leaders in Jakarta.

bind us together," PM Modi said.

He called for "multilateralism and rules-based international order" and said they are "important to face various global challenges".

Prime Minister also highlighted that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the bilateral bloc has injected new dynamism into the relations.

"ASEAN matters because here everyone's voice is heard and ASEAN is epicentre of growth because ASEAN plays an important role in global growth," Prime Minister added.

Sharing a group photograph of ASEAN leaders on X, PM Modi wrote, "The ASEAN-India Summit is testament to our shared vision and collaboration for a better future. We look forward to working together in futuristic sectors which will

enhance human progress."

CHINA'S 'COLD WAR' REMARK

PM Modi declaration of full support for the ASEAN centrality assumes strategic importance as concern about China's increasingly assertive activity in the South China Sea, a vital trade route where several ASEAN members have claims that conflict with China, was high on agenda of the Jakarta summit.

On Wednesday, addressing the summit, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said it is important to avoid a "new Cold War" when dealing with conflicts between countries. He said, countries needed to "appropriately handle differences and disputes".

"At present, it is very important to oppose taking sides, bloc confrontation and a new Cold War," Chinese Premier said.

2 killed, Major among 50 hurt in Manipur violence

IMPHAL (TIP)

Two persons were killed and 50 others, including an Army Major, were injured in fresh violence in Manipur on Friday, September 8, when hundreds of people from the majority community attempted to storm tribal villages, officials said.

In the morning, a gunfight erupted at Molnoi village near Pallel in Tengnoupal district between the security forces and armed persons who attempted to resort to arson and violence in the village.

As the news of the gunfight spread, large groups of Meitei community members, including Meira Paibis and Arambai Tenggol militiamen dressed in commando uniforms, attempted to break through security check-posts and move towards Pallel. Security personnel attempted to stop the mob to ensure peace and stability in Pallel, where the situation has been tense for a few days. Being blocked by the forces, some armed persons who were dressed in police uniforms and part of the mob opened fire, resulting in gunshot injuries to an Army Major. The officer was evacuated



Protesters gather during a rally along a street in Phougakchao Ikhai bazaar of Bishnupur district, some 50 km from Manipur capital Imphal on September 6, 2023. | Photo Credit: AFP

to a military hospital in Leimakhong by a helicopter. Three other police personnel were also injured in the incident.

In a calibrated response, the forces used minimum force to disperse the mob, officials said. More than 45 women were injured after security men lobbed teargas shells to defuse the situation. The morning gunfight led to one death, the officials said. Also, a 48-year-old man was killed in the

crossfire.

Earlier on September 6, local groups defied prohibitory restrictions and tried to remove army barricades in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Wednesday, sparking clashes that left over 40 injured according to news agency PTI, hours after the administration clamped curfew in five Valley districts to stave off violence.

The clashes were reported from Phougakchao Ikhai bazaar, 52 km south of Imphal, along the Imphal-Churachandpur route, after the crowd gathered in response to a call by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), a Meitei civil society organisation, to remove security barricades at Phougakchao Ikhai village.

COCOMI has sought the removal of the barricades from Meitei-inhabited areas in Phougakchao Ikhai village up to Torbung, another Meitei-inhabited village, along the border of Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts. The groups says this is needed for the resettlement of community members who have been displaced in the ongoing ethnic violence that has lasted four months.

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023, TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

08 SEPTEMBER

1926 Bhumendra Hazarika was born.
1933 Asha Bhosle, who has sung more than 12 thousand songs in 20 languages, was born today.



1320 Ghazi Malik (Gaiasudin Tughlaq) became the Sultan of Delhi.

1962 China infiltrated India's eastern border.

1965 India opened 2 additional fronts against Pakistan.

1966 UNESCO celebrated World Literacy Day for the first time by the United Nations Department of Education and Cultural.

2006 Serial blasts took place in Malegaon, Maharashtra, in which around 37 people were killed and more than 100 people were injured.

1966 To make people aware of education, UNESCO started celebrating "Literacy Day".

1967 For the first time since independence, the party which was running the government at the Center faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

2000 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee slammed Pakistan during a speech in Hindi during the United Nations Peace Summit.

2008 The Supreme Court granted bail to the main accused and share broker Ketan Parikh and other accused in the Canfina Mutual Fund scam case.

09 SEPTEMBER

2012 The Indian Space Agency placed the heaviest foreign satellite in orbit.



1974 Captain Vikram Batra, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born on 9 September. He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.

1949 Hindi was adopted as the national language in India.

1915 The struggle between the famous Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Sanyal and the British at Kaptewara in Orissa.

1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.

1999 Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Arch Sugiyama of Japan won the mixed doubles title of US Open.

2009 Ministry of Railways announced to introduce biometric identification system for its employees on the lines of Ministry of Home Affairs

1907 Director Mahbub Khan, the leading producer of Indian cinema history, was born.

10 September

1966 Indian Parliament approved the creation of the state of Punjab and Haryana.



1887 Govind Vallabh Pant, the famous freedom fighter of India and the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was born at a place called Khot in Almora district.

1915 Revolutionary Jatindra Nath Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin died in a hospital in Balasore.

1976 Indian Airlines Boeing 737 aircraft hijacked from Lahore.

1923 Popular Bengal novelist Sukumar Rai died.

1935 Establishment of Doon School.

1966 The Parliament approved the formation of Punjab and Haryana.

1996 Approved by 158 votes in the United Nations General Assembly Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 3, three countries including India opposed the treaty.

2009 Jet Airways management and its pilots agreed to a comprehensive agreement.

1892 Nationalist, Hindi Savvy and Aryasamaji Bhavani Dayal Sanyasi was born on 10 September.

1915 Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Mukherjee died on 10 September

11 SEPTEMBER



1895 Birth of freedom fighter, social activist and famous Gandhian leader Vinoba Bhave.

1906 Mahatma Gandhi named the first non-violence movement in South Africa as 'Satyagraha'.

1961 World Wildlife Fund was established.

1965 During the Indo-Pakistan War, the Indian Army captured the city of Burki near South East Lahore.

1996 First time elected a female president in Commonwealth Parliamentary Union

2006 Eminent Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen demanded Indian citizenship.

1911 Birth of cricketer Lala Amarnath, who scored India's first century in international cricket.

2009 Moninder Singh Pandher, an accused in the Nithari case, was acquitted by the High Court of Allahabad in one of the 19 cases in the Ripa Haldar case. The Supreme Court stayed the construction of the Kanshi Ram memorial site.

1906 Mahatma Gandhi started the coinage Satyagraha to mark the non-violence movement in

South Africa.

12 SEPTEMBER

1931 Mahatma Gandhi arrived in London to attend the Round Table Conference.

1966 Indian swimmer Mihir Sen swam across the Dardanless Strait.

2008 Sahara India Investment Corporation closed its non-banking financial business.

1912 The birth of Feroze Gandhi, a famous freedom fighter and influential member of the Lok Sabha.

1922 Renowned litterateur Chandradhar Sharma Guleri passed away.

2009 The Indian women's team defeated America 3-1 in the final round at the World Chess Championship, finishing seventh.

13 SEPTEMBER

1947 Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru suggested mutual transfer of 40 lakh Hindus and Muslims.

1929 Jatin Das died after 63 days of hunger strike in Lahore jail.

1971 The World Hockey Association was formed.

1977 The first diesel automobile was introduced by General Motors.

2000 India's top chess player Vishwanathan Anand won the first FIDE Chess World Cup in Shenyang.

2008 Four bomb blasts occurred one after another at three places in Delhi, killing 30 people and injuring more than 130.

1948 Deputy Prime Minister Vallabhbhai Patel ordered the army to enter Hyderabad and take action and integrate it with the Indian Union.

2006 The first summit of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Organization) begins in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.

2009 ISRO-NASA's campaign to find ice on the moon failed.

2009 Charles Dias of Kochi was nominated as the representative of the Anglo Indian community in the Lok Sabha.

1845 Indian Cotton Congress President Henry Cotton was born.

1926 India's revolutionary woman Nagendra Bala was born.

1929 India's famous revolutionary Jatindranath Das died.

14 SEPTEMBER

1949 The Legislative Assembly gave Hindi the status of the official language of India.

1803 British general Lord Lake captured Delhi during the Second Anglo-Maratha War.

1949 The Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as the official language of India. Since 1953, 14 September is celebrated every year throughout India as Hindi Day.

1947 The famous poet Chandra Kunwar Bertwal died as Kalidas of Hindi.

2009 India won the Compaq Cup of the tri-series by defeating Sri Lanka by 46 runs.

1923 Birth of eminent serialist and former Union Law Minister Ram Jethmalani.



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GOODALL INSPIRES IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN CONNECTION WITH NATURAL WORLD

BY MABEL PAIS

~Blurbs~

Scientist. Activist. Storyteller. Icon.

"Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference." - Dr. Jane Goodall

World-renowned ethologist and activist Dr. Jane Goodall, for one night only, will take the stage at the Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226), speaking about her work and life and Reasons for Hope, answering audience questions on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. Doors Open at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and UN Messenger of Peace, is a world-renowned ethologist and activist inspiring greater understanding and action on behalf of the natural world.

Jane is a global icon spreading hope and turning it into meaningful positive impact to create a better world for people, other animals, and the planet we share.

Watch this short video - Jane Goodall: Hero - Tribute to Dr. Goodall for her 80th birthday in 2014 - youtu.be/Vq5dKqNw92o

Dr. Jane Goodall's Message for International Day for Biological Diversity May 2023 -

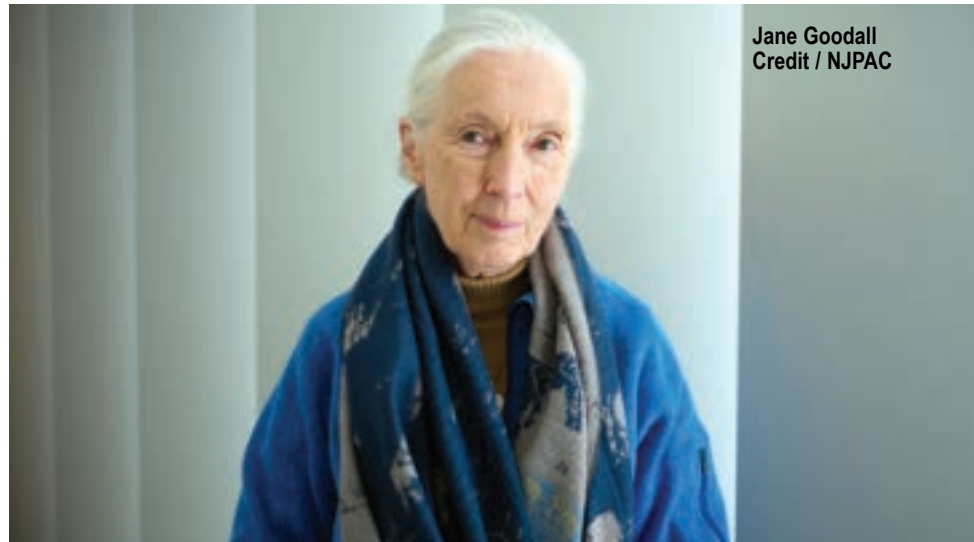
Dr. Goodall shares a message about the importance of every individual being as part of the vast tapestry of life on Earth. As we face the existential crises of our time, the Climate Crisis and biodiversity loss, it is more important than ever that we look at the individual as much as we look to the species. Every one of us has the power to make a difference for global wildlife every single day-what will you do today? #BiodiversityDay2023 #Biodiversity #TakeAction #Science youtu.be/vUGEefGswWE

Dr. Jane Goodall: Reasons for Hope - speaks at NYU, Abu Dhabi youtube.com/watch?v=uD46VvwRbcg

LEADING THE WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING CHIMPANZEE FIELD RESEARCH

Dr. Goodall is known for groundbreaking studies of wild chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania, which forever changed our understanding of our relationship to the rest of the animal kingdom. This transformative research continues today as the longest running wild chimpanzee study in the world. Jane's work builds on scientific innovations, growing a lifetime of advocacy including trailblazing efforts through her international organization, the Jane Goodall Institute which advances community-led conservation, animal welfare, science, and youth empowerment through JGI's Roots & Shoots program.

JGI's research continues the world's longest-running field research on chimpanzees, which Dr. Goodall began



Jane Goodall
Credit / NJPAC



Jane Goodall's 'Roots and Shoots' Youth

Credit / janegoodall.org



Jane Goodall, Hopecast

Credit / janegoodall.org

in Gombe in 1960. Today, the work at Gombe expands on the largest scientific knowledge base on chimpanzees, serving primatologists around the world. This research provides ever-new insight into the daily lives of chimpanzees, and has developed a deep knowledge of the lives and behavior of over 200 chimps since Jane's early work in it is over 55 years of study. The research plays a unique role in understanding our closest living relatives, providing essential information for the conservation of

chimpanzees and contributing to a myriad of other scientific discoveries that benefit humans and chimpanzees alike.

Today, Jane continues to connect with worldwide audiences, despite the challenges of the pandemic, through 'Virtual Jane' including remote lectures, recordings, and her podcast, the "Jane Goodall Hopecast." In 2021, Jane was the recipient of the Templeton Prize, and her newest book, "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times," was published.

JANE GOODALL

Jane Goodall was born on April 3, 1934, in London, England. From earliest childhood, she was fascinated by animals and the Africa she discovered in the storybooks of Tarzan and Dr. Doolittle. In 1957, she traveled to the Kenyan farm of a friend's parents and met the famed anthropologist and paleontologist Dr. Louis Leakey. In 1960, at his invitation, she began her landmark study in Gombe Tanzania of chimpanzee behavior in the wild-immersing herself in their habitat as a neighbor rather than a distant observer.

Her field research at what was then called Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve - most notably, her discovery that chimpanzees make and use tools - revolutionized the world of primatology and redefined the relationship between humans and animals. In 1977, Dr. Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) to advance her vision and work around the world and for generations to come.

JGI continues the field research at Gombe and builds on Dr. Goodall's innovative approach to conservation, which recognizes the central role that people play in the well-being of animals and the environment.

In 1991, she founded 'Roots & Shoots,' a global program that guides young people in nearly 100 countries in becoming conservation activists and leaders in their daily lives. Today, Dr. Goodall travels the world, speaking about the threats facing chimpanzees, environmental crises and her reasons for hope. In her books and speeches, she emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the collective power of individual action. Dr. Goodall is a UN Messenger of Peace and Dame Commander of the British Empire. To learn more about Jane Goodall and her work, visit janegoodall.org.

TICKETS

For tickets to see Jane Goodall for a talk and Q&A, visit Ticketmaster.com.

AGES & ADVISORIES

No children under 5 allowed.

KINGS THEATRE

The historic Kings Theatre is one of New York's premier performing arts venues. Providing a destination for large-scale popular entertainment and serving as a resource for local arts groups and community organizations, the City-owned Theatre will be a cultural and economic cornerstone of the Flatbush community and add a major fixture to Brooklyn's vibrant cultural landscape. The Kings Theatre is a state-of-the-art facility with over 3,000 seats-the largest of its kind in Brooklyn. Learn more at kingstheatre.com.

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

CIFF WELCOMES YOU TO ITS 19TH EDITION OF DOC FILMS

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening SHORTS

NEHAL VYAS'S *Amma Ki Katha*
ROOPA GOGINENI'S *Suddenly TV*
And many more

The Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) happens in person with the slate of feature and short films for its 19th edition, taking place September 14-17 at venues in Camden and Rockland, Maine, and online from September 18-25 for audiences across the US. YETI®, MSNBC Films, and RandomGood Foundation returning as Headlining Sponsors, and joined this year by deNovo Initiative and longtime sponsor National Geographic Documentary Films.

"As the development and distribution of independent documentary films become increasingly more difficult, we believe this program is a reminder of the incredible value of documentary film as a singularly powerful art form and its extraordinary ability to resonate with audiences," says Ben Fowlie, Executive and Artistic Director of the Points North Institute, and Founder of the Camden International Film Festival. "Through 60 different film experiences, we explore the beautiful relationship between content and form, examining the power of the image, engaging with the potential of the archive, and immersing ourselves in the personal stories that help us to reflect, reimagine, and relate to one another. Cinema is a beacon, and we are grateful to the filmmakers who have made these works and shared these stories."

2023 CAMDEN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL LIST FEATURES

APOLONIA, APOLONIA
Lea Glob | Denmark
THE ARC OF OBLIVION
Ian Cheney | USA
BETWEEN REVOLUTIONS
Vlad Petri | Romania, Croatia, Qatar
Iran | US Premiere
BEYOND UTOPIA
Madeleine Gavin | USA, Korea, Laos, Thailand
EL CASTILLO
Martin Benchimol | Argentina, France | US Premiere
THE CONTESTANT
Clair Titley | UK | US Premiere
DEFIANT
Karim Amer | Ukraine, UK, USA | US Premiere
EASTERN FRONT
Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarenko | Latvia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, USA | US
FAUNA
Pau Faus | Spain | US Premiere
A GOLDEN LIFE
Boubacar Sangare | Burkina Faso, Benin, France | North American Premiere
GRASSHOPPER REPUBLIC
Daniel McCabe | USA | US Premiere
A HAWK AS BIG AS A HORSE

Sasha Kulak | France | North American Premiere



In *Restless Dreams: The Music of Paul Simon*

Credit / pointsnorthinstitute.org/ciff

IN RESTLESS DREAMS: THE MUSIC OF PAUL SIMON

Alex Gibney | USA | US Premiere
IN THE SHADOW OF LIGHT
Ignacia Merino Bustos, Isabel Reyes Bustos | Chile | North American Premiere

JOONAM
Sierra Urich | USA
KNIT'S ISLAND
Ekiem Barbier, Guilhem Causse, Quentin L'helgoualc'h | France | North American Premiere

THE LADY BIRD DIARIES
Dawn Porter | USA
THE LAST YEAR OF DARKNESS
Ben Mullinkosson | China, USA
MACHTAT
Sonia Ben Slama | Tunisia, Lebanon, France, Qatar | US Premiere

MANIFESTO
Angie Vinchito | Russia | North American Premiere
MILISUTHANDO
Milisuthando Bongela | South Africa, Colombia

THE MISSION
Jesse Moss, Amanda McBaine | USA
NON-ALIGNED: SCENES FROM THE LABUDOVIC? REELS
Mila Turajlic | Serbia, France, Croatia, Montenegro, Qatar | US Premiere

ONE WITH THE WHALE
Peter Chelkowski, Jim Wickens | Sivuqaq (St Lawrence Island), USA, UK, Portugal | World Premiere
ORLANDO: MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

Paul B. Preciado | France
PIGEON TUNNEL
Errol Morris | UK
Q
Jude Chehab | USA, Lebanon

QUEENDOM
Agniia Galdanova | France, USA
REJEITO (TAILINGS)
Pedro de Filippis | Brazil, USA | US Premiere

SILVER DOLLAR ROAD
Raoul Peck | USA | US Premiere
A STORM FORETOLD
Christoffer Guldbrandsen | Denmark | US Premiere

THREE PROMISES
Yousef Srouji | Palestine, Lebanon, United States | US Premiere
TIME BOMB Y2K

Brian Becker, Marley McDonald | USA
SHORTS
PARALLEL

Lawrence Abu Hamdan | UK | 2022
A ROBUST HEART
Martin Benchimol | Argentina, USA, UK | 2023 | US Premiere

ALL THAT IS SACRED
Scott Ballew | USA | 2023
ALPHA KINGS
Enrique Pedraza-Botero, Faye Tsakas | USA | 2023
AMMA KI KATHA



Amma Ki Katha

Credit / pointsnorthinstitute.org/ciff

Nehal Vyas | India, USA | 2023 | World Premiere

ANTI-COSMOS
Takashi Makino | Japan | 2022
BAY OF HERONS
Jared Lank | USA | 2023 | US Premiere
BEHIND THE SUN
Bentley Brown | USA, Saudi Arabia | 2023 | US Premiere

BLOOM
Helena Giron, Samuel M. Delgado | Spain | 2023 | US Premiere
CAMP COURAGE
Max Lowe | USA | 2023 | World Premiere

CLOSURE
Abigail Jakob | USA | 2022
DARKROOM
Asli Baykal | Turkey, USA | 2023
EAT FLOWERS
River Finlay | USA | 2023

ELEPHANT
Wes Sterrs | USA | 2023 | World Premiere
EVER SINCE, I HAVE BEEN FLYING
Aylin Gokmen | Switzerland | 2023 | US Premiere

FALLING
Anna Gyimesi | Hungary, Belgium, Portugal | 2023 | North American Premiere
INCIDENT

Bill Morrison | USA | 2023
LET'S GO TO THE MINES
Advik Beni | South Africa, USA | 2022 | World Premiere
LITTLE BOY LOON

Kevin Bay, Julia Thompson | USA | 2023 | World Premiere
MAS Y MAS Y MAS FLORES
Cesar Martinez Barba | Mexico, USA | 2023 | World Premiere

MAST-DEL
Maryam Tafakory | UK, Iran | 2023 | US Premiere
SO THAT TONIGHT WE MIGHT SEE
Bea Hesselbart | USA | 2023 | World Premiere



Suddenly TV

Credit / pointsnorthinstitute.org/ciff

SUDDENLY TV
Roopa Gogineni | Sudan, Qatar | 2022
TITO
Kervens Jimenez | Haiti | 2023 | North American Premiere

WAKING UP IN SILENCE
Mila Zhluktenko, Daniel Asadi Faezi | Germany, Ukraine | 2023
WELCOME TO KING FRIDAY'S DUNGEON

Destiny Arturet | USA | 2022 | World Premiere
WHAT THE HANDS DO
Bing Liu | USA | 2023 | World Premiere

For updates and more information, visit pointsnorthinstitute.org/ciff.

TICKETS

For Tickets and Pass options to the Festival, visit pointsnorthinstitute.org/ciff.

POINTS NORTH

Established in 2016, the Points North Institute is the launching pad for the next generation of nonfiction storytellers. Building on the success of the Camden International Film Festival, the Points North Institute's mission is to bring together a unique, interdisciplinary community of filmmakers, artists, journalists, industry leaders, and audiences, forming a creative hub on the coast of Maine where new stories and talent are discovered, collaborations are born, and the future of nonfiction media is shaped. Programs include the annual Camden International Film Festival and Points North Forum, as well as a year-round calendar of artist development initiatives that nurture the careers of diverse nonfiction storytellers and help them develop a stronger artistic voice.

Founded in 2005 and recognized as one of the top documentary film festivals in the world, the Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) brings innovative nonfiction cinema to the coast of Maine, showcasing 50+ documentary films and immersive works from around the globe each fall.

The 2023 Camden International Film Festival will take place September 14-17, with the virtual festival extending through September 25.

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



SRK offers prayers at Tirumala temple

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan along with his family members offered prayers at the Tirumala temple on September 5.

The actor, who had reached the temple on Monday night, had early morning darshan at the famous hill shrine.

Accompanied by wife Gauri Khan, daughter Suhana and actress Nayanathara, he participated in Suprabhata Seva.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) officials welcomed the superstar on arrival at the temple. They had made all arrangements for the actor and his family to offer prayers.

After the darshan, Shah Rukh and his family reached Ranganaykula Mandapam where the priests performed the Veda Ashirvachanam and presented Teertha Prasadam.

He offered prayers at the Tirumala temple ahead of the release of his much awaited movie 'Jawan'.

Thank You For Coming: Bhumi Pednekar, Shehnaaz Gill redefine friendship

Thank You For Coming starring Bhumi Pednekar, Shehnaaz Gill, Dolly Singh, Kusha Kapila, Shibani Bedi, and Anil Kapoor marks the directorial debut of Rhea Kapoor's husband Karan Boolani in Bollywood.

In August this year, Bhumi and others dropped the first poster of the upcoming film and it invited excitement among fans.

Ahead of the trailer release, Bhumi, Sonam Kapoor, Rhea Kapoor, and others shared a new poster of the film.

Bhumi Pednekar shared a new poster of her upcoming film Thank You For Coming on Instagram. Sharing the poster, the actress captioned, "In real life, your girlfriends are your real Fairy Godmothers. Don't forget to come on 6th October, to watch #ThankYouForComing in cinemas near you."

Sonam Kapoor also shared the same poster and wrote, "When your friendship game is stronger than any magic spell!"

Don't forget to come on 6th October, to Cinemas near you to watch #ThankYouForComing #ComeBackOfTheChick Flick #DontForgetToCome."

And, Rhea Kapoor shared, "My girls and I will see you tomorrow with our TRAILER!!!!!! Talk about squad goals..."

Thank You For Coming is produced by Rhea Kapoor along with Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor under Balaji Motion Pictures. It is set to release on October 6, 2023.



'Fukrey 3' trailer out: Richa Chadha, Fukra gang returns with signature gags

The highly anticipated trailer for the third installment of the much-loved franchise, 'Fukrey', is finally out after a long wait. With 'Fukrey 3' scheduled for release on 28 September 2023, the makers treated fans to the trailer during a grand launch event attended by the Fukra gang, Bholi Punjaban, Pandit Ji and the entire film team.

The trailer of 'Fukrey 3' was released on September 5. It brought back fond memories of this beloved comedy franchise. Seeing the Fukra gang - Hunny (Varun Sharma), Choochaa (Pulkit Samrat), Lali (Manjot Singh), Bholi Punjaban (Richa Chadha), and Pandit Ji (Pankaj Ji) back on the screens is a delight for the fans who absolutely love the franchise.

The trailer is filled with laughter and hilarious moments, ensuring that the film will be incredibly entertaining. Fukrey 3 promises to surpass the previous installments, offering even more fun and enjoyment. Additionally, Choochaa's surprise gift in this



film is bound to have us laughing uncontrollably, adding to the excitement.

The trailer appears promising and effectively carries forward the legacy of this much-loved comedy franchise. With sequels making waves at the box office, now is the perfect time for 'Fukrey 3' to make its mark and surpass all records upon its release.

Starring Pulkit Samrat, Varun Sharma, Richa Chadha, Manjot

Singh, and Pankaj Tripathi, Fukrey 3 promises to deliver yet another rib-tickling and unforgettable cinematic experience. The earlier parts of the franchise also included Ali Fazal as one of the leads. The film is directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba and produced under the banner Excel Entertainment by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar.

Source: India Today

Akshay starrer 'The Great Indian Rescue' renamed 'Mission Raniganj'

Akshay Kumar, fresh off the success of OMG 2, has a busy schedule ahead with numerous projects in the pipeline. His next film co-starring Parineeti Chopra, a survival thriller reportedly inspired by the life of mining engineer Jaswant Singh Gill, who saved 64



miners in the Raniganj Coalfields in 1989, was originally titled Capsule Gill and later The Great Indian Rescue. Now, the film has been rebranded as Mission Raniganj, and fans can look forward to the teaser's imminent release.

The upcoming Jaswant Singh Gill biopic, featuring Akshay Kumar and Parineeti Chopra, has undergone a title change. Previously known as The Great Indian Rescue, the film is now titled Mission Raniganj. Additionally, sources suggest that the teaser for the movie will be released soon.

Akshay is currently occupied with the filming of Sky Force in Lucknow, where he will also celebrate his 56th birthday on September 9, as exclusively reported by Pinkvilla. Meanwhile, Parineeti is preparing for her impending wedding to Raghav Chadha, with reports indicating a September 25 wedding date. Both actors are anticipated to take a break from their busy schedules to commence promotions for their second collaboration following Kesari.



Emma Stone embraces graphic sex in new film

Actress Emma Stone felt 'no shame' filming raunchy scenes in *Poor Things*. The actress takes on the lead role of Yorgos Lanthimos' surreal new movie and the filmmaker was grateful for the effort she put into her alter ego, Bella Baxter's intimate sequences in the adaptation of Alasdair Grey's novel. "It's a shame that Emma could not be here to speak more about it because it will all be coming from me. First of all sex is an intrinsic part of the novel itself — her freedom about everything, including sexuality," Yorgos said at the Venice Film Festival, where *Poor Things* premiered with none of the cast in attendance due the ongoing SAG-AFTRA strike.

The 49-year-old director continued: "Secondly, it was very important for me to not make a film that would be prudish because that would be like completely betraying the main character. We had to be confident Emma had to have no shame about her body while engaging in those scenes and she understood that right away."

Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet go public with their romance at Beyoncé concert

Timothée Chalamet and Kylie Jenner were spotted for the first time together. As per a report by Page Six, the duo, who have been reportedly dating for months now, were seen cozying up at Beyoncé's Renaissance tour in their first public appearance. Pictures and videos of them at the concert soon appeared online and are now going viral.

Timothée and Kylie were in attendance at the star-studded Los Angeles show as part of Beyoncé's Renaissance tour at SoFi Stadium on Monday. In a video that emerged from the concert, Timothée was seen in a black hoodie smoking a cigarette. Beside him stood Kylie in a sleeveless outfit which she paired with a pair of gold hoop earrings. Both of them were seen sharing a laugh and in good spirits.

This is the first time both Timothée and Kylie have been seen in public together, ever since rumours about their relationship grabbed media headlines in April. Last week, the *Dune* star was seen leaving his Beverly Hills mansion in an incognito mode, separately. Kylie was also spotted leaving the driveway in her luxury car.

Even a month ago, there were reports doing the rounds that the two have ended their romance. Neither of them have addressed the rumours yet. These relationship rumours became public months after Kylie had broken up with singer-rapper Travis Scott, with whom she shares two children – daughter Stormi, who is five, and son Aire, who is one. Earlier it was also reported that Kylie didn't want to make things official with Timothée Chalamet during the recent Coachella festival, where she was spotted with her friends.



Timothée has been previously linked to several high-profile stars from the industry, including actor Lily-Rose Depp, Eiza González and Madonna's daughter Lourdes Leon. On the work front, he will be next seen in *Wonka*, which is set for a December release. His upcoming release, *Dune 2*, was initially set to release on October 20, before being pushed back a month to November 17, 2023. It will now hit theaters on March 15, 2024.

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Jennifer Lopez shares hot pics in lingerie, fans say 'you look gorgeous'



Jennifer Lopez took to Instagram on Sunday and posted steamy pics of herself, wearing black lingerie with white lace details. She also highlighted that it was a paid partnership with Italian lingerie retailer Intimissimi.

Lopez captioned the series of pictures as: "When it feels right...nothing else matters". In the first picture, Lopez is seen looking at herself in the mirror. In the second one, she lies on the bed and poses for the camera. In the third and fourth pictures as well, the Hollywood star is seen giving sensual looks to the camera.

Fans absolutely loved Lopez's new pics and complimented her for the same.

"Queen on fireeee," read one comment.

"You are my inspiration every day for having such a beautiful body," wrote a second user.

"You are absolutely beautiful. Congrats to you for how hard you work and how dedicated you are to feel good about yourself," commented a third person.

"YOU KNOW WHAT I ALWAYS SAY, MY JENNY: 'YOU ARE GORGEOUS INSIDE OUT,'" read another comment.

"So amazing so beautiful so wonderful. very pretty," posted a fifth person.

Recently, Lopez celebrated her one year marriage anniversary with husband Ben Affleck. Lopez and Affleck had got married in 2022 at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas. Later, the couple had their marriage celebration on August 20, 2022 at



Affleck's residence in Georgia.

Both Lopez and Affleck have children from their previous marriages. With ex-husband Marc Anthony, Lopez shares her 15-year-old twins, Emme and Max. On the other hand, Affleck shares three children namely Violet, Seraphina and Samuel with his ex-wife, Jennifer Garner

Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023, TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

8th September

1922 The count of GurSikhs injured as a result of Police atrocities during the Guru Ka Bagh morcha reached 836. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affair. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

9th September



1965 Indian Air Force, under the command of Chief Marshal Arjan Singh, successfully bombed the Pakistani strongholds.

1965 Fateh Singh postponed his fast under the pretext of Indo-Pak war.

1981 Lala Jagat Narayan murdered near Ludhiana and Sikhs Attacked. Narayan, a journalist, was killed by some unidentified persons near the city of Ludhiana. The police named Swarn Singh, Dalbir Singh and Nachhattar Singh as suspects. The Senior Superintendent of Police, D.R. Bhatti, also named Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala as one of the "conspirators." The next day the Hindus took out a procession in Jalandhar City and attacked a large number of Sikh shops and houses. Innocent Sikhs, including some anti-Akalis, were also beaten by the Hindu mob. Some of the Sikhs sustained severe injuries.

10th September



1539 Gur Gadhi, Second Patshah, Guru Angad Dev Ji. GURU ANGAD DEV (1504-1552): The mantle of the First Master fell on Angad, the second Sikh Guru, in 1539, and he graced the exalted position till 1552.

Born at "Mattae de Saran", a Punjab village, on Sunday, Vaisakh Vadi 1 sunmat 1561 (March 31, 1504) to

father Pheru Mal and mother Dya Kaur, Guru Angad was originally known as "Lehna". In sunmat 1576, Guru Sahib married Khivi, daughter of Devi Chand. This marriage resulted in two daughters Bibi Amro and Anokhi and two sons Dassu and Dattu Ji. Lehna's parents were orthodox Hindus and worshippers of the goddess Durga. The most momentous and exulting moment in Lehna's life came around 1531 when he met Guru Nanak at Kartarpur. So powerful and profound was the Guru's divine spell on him that he wound up domestic affairs and devoted himself entirely to the service of the Guru and of fellow-men in whom the Lord constantly dwells. Because of his patient and unpretentious service, he endeared himself to the Guru who lovingly called him "Angad" (i.e., of my own limb) and elevated him to the Guruship on Hadh 17th sunmat 1596. However, Guru Angad actually assumed Guruship on Asu 23rd sunmat 1596 and started his work.

Imbibing the spirit of the First Master, Guru Angad began to disseminate the gospel of Guru Nanak to redeem the caste-worn and custom-ridden contemporary society. He denounced formalism and ritualism, and highlighted the edifying experience of the adoration of the Guru (Guru Bhakti), service of the Guru (Guru Seva), and divine meditation (Nam Bhakti). These tie regarded as the noblest means of God-realization. Guru Angad held service in high esteem. Indeed, he placed love of God and service of humanity on the same pedestal.

To consolidate and propagate the mission of Guru Nanak, the Second Master collected the celestial songs and teachings of his predecessor which, together with his own compositions, he transmitted to mankind. There are sixty-two hymns by Guru Angad in the Adi Granth.

1930 Sardar Karam Singh, a renowned Sikh historian, passed away at Taran Taaran Sahib. He was born in 1884. He was the first Sikh historian who used scientific techniques in documenting the Sikh history. He spent almost all his life in collecting the source material related to the Sikh history. He left his education when he was a student of B.A. final year and walked on foot from one village to another in search of historical material and documented the tales told by the older people of Punjab. It was a period (1905) of great plague in Punjab. Many old and young people were dying of plague left and right. He could not afford to wait and finish his degree. Had he waited, many more sources of valuable information would have vanished forever.

11th September



1487 Guru Nanak Dev's marriage anniversary. Guru Nanak Dev Patshah married Bibi Sulakhani, daughter of Mul Chand of Batala city. This relationship was mediated by Bhai Jai Ram Jim, the husband of Guru Nanak's sister, Bibi Nanaki. The engagement too place on Vaisakh Wadhi 1, Sunmat 1542 when Guru Nanak Patshah was at the age of 16. At the time of marriage, Guru Nanak Patshah was 18 years of age. The marriage took place in Batala, which is on the railway from Amritsar to Pathankot. The location where Guru Nanak's marriage party stayed overnight is still marked by an earthen wall. Babae Da Viya, Guru Nanak

Dev's marriage anniversary, is celebrated every year on Badro Sudi 7.

1807 Maharaja Ranjit Singh met Charles Matcalfe, the British agent to draw out the terms of the treaty.

1982 34 Sikhs of the Dharam Yudh Morcha were crushed under train near Tarn Taaran. The bus was carrying Akali Satyagrahies under police escort from Amritsar to Ferozpur when it accidentally ran into the train.

12th September

1897 Sara Garhi episode took place. The Sikh solidiers continued to hold the picket until their last breath. All in all 21 men gave their lives.

1940 Master Tara Singh resigned from Congress because of Gandhi's communal attitude.

13th September

1604 The Holy Sri Guru GRANTH SAHIB was ceremonially installed in Sri Harmindir Sahib, Amritsar. Baba Buddha Ji was appointed the first priest.



1670 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji released from prison.

1923 SGPC's second Enquiry Committee to investigate the Doaba excesses was arrested by the Police.

1926 Orderes previously declaring the Sharomani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC) and Sharomani Akali Dal as unlawful bodies were withdrawn by the Punjab Government.

1931 Master Tara Singh led a Jatha of 100 Akalis in the Gurudwara Daska Morcha.

1944 All India Sikh Student Federation established in Lahore.

1981 Warrants were issued for Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala in connection with Lala Jagat Narayan's murder. The police went to Chando Kalan, a Haryana village, to arrest Jarnail Singh. However, he had already left that place. When Jarnail Singh could not be found, the police burnt the volume of Holy Scriptures of the Sikhs, three vehicles of Bhindranwala Jatha and various other articles of the School. A large number of Sikhs were arrested and beaten by the police. The next day the police sieged the headquarters of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

14th September

1777 Nawab Zaibta Khan Ruhela, impressed by the character of Khalsa decided to become a member of the Khalsa order. He was baptise and named Dharam Singh.

1848 Raja Sher Singh Attari declared war against British Rule in Punjab. He was son of Sardar Chattar Singh Attari and at that time his sister was engaged to Maharaja Dalip Singh.

1923 Began the Jaito Morcha by Sikhs. The Maharaja of the kingdom of Nabha, Ripudaman Singh, sided with the Akalis, against the British. He was stripped of his kingly status, and in protest of this action of the British, the Sikhs initiated a string of Akhand Paths.



Consulate General of India, New York

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Kavi Sammelan

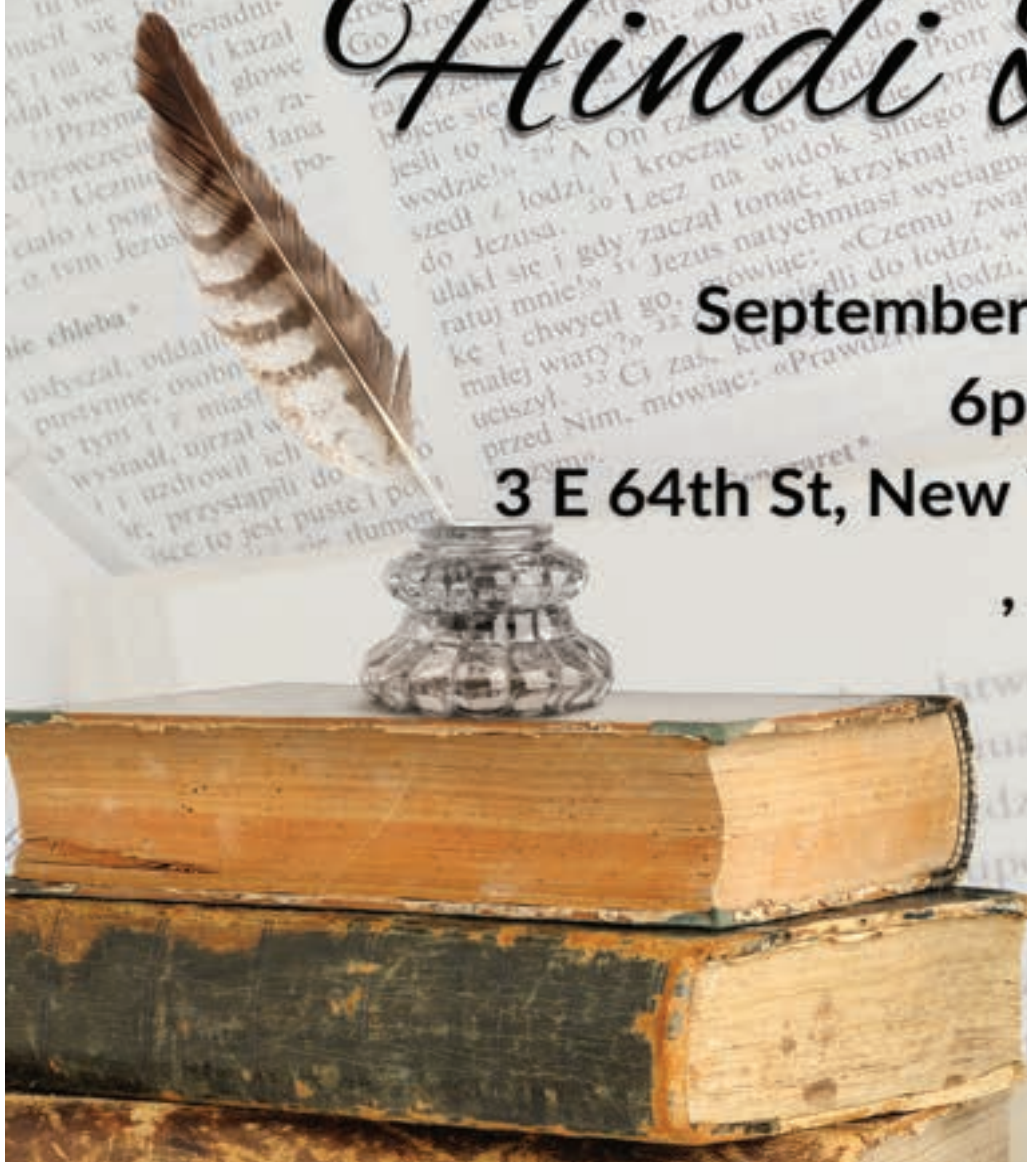
on the occasion of

Hindi Diwas

September 14, 2023

6pm

3 E 64th St, New York, NY 10065



HELICOPTERS AIRLIFT RESIDENTS TO SAFETY FROM DEADLY FLOODS IN CENTRAL GREECE

ATHENS (TIP): Severe rainstorms eased but floodwaters were still rising in parts of central Greece on September 8, while fire department and military helicopters were plucking people from villages inundated by tons of water and mud that have left six dead, six missing and many people clinging to the roofs of their homes.

Flooding triggered by rainstorms also hit neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, killing a total of 18 people in all three countries since the rains began Tuesday.

In Greece, severe rainstorms that lashed the country turned streams into raging torrents that burst dams, washed away roads and bridges and hurled cars into the sea. Authorities said some areas received twice the average annual rainfall for Athens in the space of just 12 hours.

Evacuation orders were issued for two areas north of the city of Larissa Friday morning, with authorities sending alerts to cell phones in the area warning that the Pineios River had burst its banks. Parts of Larissa, one of Greece's largest cities, were already starting to flood.

"The situation is tragic," Larissa resident Ioanna Gana told Greece's Open television channel, adding that water levels in her flooded neighbourhood were rising "minute by minute."

Elsewhere, residents of villages left without electricity or drinking water dialled into Greek television and radio stations, appealing for help and saying people were still trapped on rooftops without food or water.

Between Tuesday and early Friday, the fire department said more than 1,800 people had been rescued and the department had received more than 6,000 calls for help in pumping water from flooded homes and removing fallen trees.

In the Pilion area, residents and tourists were ferried to safety by sea late Thursday as all access roads to some villages were severed. On Thursday alone, a fleet of 10 helicopters airlifted 110 people from the hard-hit areas of Karditsa and Trikala to safety, while dozens more were being rescued by air and boats Friday.

Authorities have deployed swift water rescue specialists and divers as floodwaters rose above 2 meters (6 feet) high in some areas, leaving many houses flooded up to their roofs. Residents of some villages have reported buildings collapsing completely.

The flooding followed on the heels of devastating wildfires that destroyed vast tracts of forest and farmland, burned homes and left more than 20 people dead. (AP)

Mali military camp is attacked a day after 49 civilians and 15 soldiers were killed in assaults

BAMAKO (MALI) (TIP): A military camp in Mali's restive north was attacked on September 8, a day after two separate assaults by al-Qaida-linked insurgents killed 49 civilians and 15 government soldiers, the military said.

"Response and evaluation in progress," the armed forces said in a brief statement about Friday's attack on a Malian military camp in the Gao region.

September 7 attacks targeted a passenger boat near the city of Timbuktu on the Niger River and a military position in Bamba further downstream in Gao, the military junta said in a statement read on state television. It said responsibility for the attacks was claimed by JNIM, an umbrella coalition of armed groups aligned with al-Qaida.

The passenger boat was attacked near the village of Zarho, about 90 kilometers (55 miles) east of Timbuktu. The statement said the government killed about 50 assailants while responding to the attacks. It declared three days of national mourning to honor the civilians and soldiers killed in the attacks.

Malian army spokesman Souleymane Dembélé attributed the high death toll to the inability of some of the boat's passengers to swim, suggesting some might have drowned. "When the boat was attacked, the soldiers on board exchanged fire with the terrorists. Unfortunately, many civilians who couldn't swim jumped into the water," Dembélé told The Associated Press.

Al-Qaida-affiliated and Islamic State-linked groups have almost doubled the territory they control in Mali in less than a year, the United Nations said in a



report last month, as they take advantage of a weak government and of armed groups that signed a 2015 peace agreement.

The stalled implementation of the peace deal and sustained attacks on communities have offered the IS group and al-Qaida affiliates a chance "to re-enact the 2012 scenario," the report said.

That's the year when a military coup took place in the West African country and rebels in the north formed an Islamic state two months later. The extremist rebels were forced from power in the north with the help of a French-led military operation, but they moved from the arid north to more populated central Mali in 2015 and remain active.

In August 2020, Mali's president was overthrown in a coup that included an army colonel who carried out a second coup and was sworn in as president in June 2021. He developed ties to Russia's military and Russia's Wagner mercenary group whose head, Yevgeny Prigozhin, was killed in a plane crash in Russia on

Aug. 23.

Timbuktu has been blockaded by armed groups since late August, when the Malian army deployed reinforcements to the region. The insurgents are preventing the desert city from being supplied with basic goods.

Over 30,000 residents have fled the city and a nearby region, according to an August report by the United Nations' humanitarian agency.

The deadly attacks come as the U.N. prepares to withdraw its 17,000-member peacekeeping mission, MINUSMA, from Mali at the government's request. The pullout is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The U.N. deployed peacekeepers in 2013 and MINUSMA has become the most dangerous U.N. mission in the world, with more than 300 personnel killed. Growing insecurity in Mali has increased instability in West Africa's volatile Sahel region. The military vowed in the two coups since 2020 to stop the jihadi violence. (AP)

Clashes resume between factions in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp

BEIRUT (TIP): Clashes resumed in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, with heavy gunfire and shelling wounding several people and prompting residents of the camp and the surrounding area to flee on Sept 8.

Several days of street battles had broken out in the camp, Ein el-Hilweh, between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and Islamist groups after Fatah accused the Islamists of gunning down one of their military generals on July 30. Those street battles left at least 13 dead and dozens wounded and forced hundreds to flee from their homes.

An uneasy truce had been in place since Aug. 3, but clashes were widely expected to resume as the Islamist groups have not handed over the accused killers of the Fatah general, Mohammad "Abu Ashraf" al-Armoushi to the Lebanese judiciary as demanded by a committee of Palestinian factions earlier this

Clashes broke out in the camp between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement and Islamist groups after Fatah accused the Islamists of gunning down one of their military generals in July.

month. A committee of Palestinian factions in Ein el-Hilweh announced on Tuesday that their joint security forces would launch raids in search of the accused killers. Fatah officials said that the Islamist groups had launched an attack Thursday night in an attempt to forestall plans by the joint security forces to clear militants out of schools they had been occupying in the camp on Friday.

The state-run National News Agency reported six people were wounded, including an elderly man, and transported to hospitals overnight. There were no immediate reports of deaths. The public Lebanese University announced it would close its branches in the city of Sidon, which is adjacent to the camp, and postpone scheduled exams in light of the fighting.

Officials with the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees, or UNRWA, could not immediately give information on the number of casualties or displaced.

UNRWA appealed last week for \$15.5 million to repair infrastructure damaged in the last round of clashes in the camp, provide alternate education locations for children whose schools were damaged or occupied by militants, and give cash assistance to people who have been displaced from their homes. (AP)

HONG KONG FLOODED BY HEAVIEST RAINFALL IN 140 YEARS

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong was flooded by the heaviest rainfall in nearly 140 years on September 8, leaving the city's streets and some subway stations underwater and forcing its schools to close.

Just across the border, authorities in China's tech hub Shenzhen recorded the heaviest rains since records began in 1952.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, experts say, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to flash floods and coastal damage.

The heavy rains in Hong Kong started on Thursday and in the hour leading up to midnight, the city's weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres at its headquarters, the highest since records began in 1884.

On Friday afternoon, the Hospital Authority said at least 110 people were hospitalised due to injuries, with four in serious condition. A man was found unconscious off the shore of western Hong Kong Island and declared dead at the hospital, though authorities were still investigating if the death was flood-related. The city's highest rainstorm warning level, "black", was hoisted for a record-breaking 16 hours before being lowered at 3:40 pm Friday, with rainfall mostly easing by late afternoon.

"It's absolutely shocking," said Jacky, 52, who lives in the Wong Tai Sin district with his elderly parents. "I don't remember floods ever being this bad in our district."

"The bottom floor of the mall is completely flooded, the water level is higher than the storefronts... It's turned



our day into chaos," he added.

Authorities issued flash flood warnings, with emergency services conducting rescue operations in parts of the territory.

"Residents living in close proximity to rivers should stay alert to weather conditions and should consider evacuation" if their homes are flooded, the observatory said.

It also warned of potential landslips, telling motorists to "keep away from steep slopes or retaining walls".

Hong Kong's stock exchange cancelled all trading sessions on Friday.

'Once in a century'

Hong Kong Chief Secretary Eric Chan described the deluge as "a once-in-a-century heavy rainstorm", adding that extreme conditions would continue until midnight local time (1600 GMT).

"It's like putting four bathtubs of water into one bathtub... it will spill," Chan said at a press conference when asked if the government had done enough to

prevent flooding.

The Hong Kong Observatory said it recorded more than 600 millimetres of rainfall at its headquarters over 24 hours -- roughly a quarter of the city's annual average.

Earlier in the day, taxis struggled through flooded roads as commuters attempted to make their way to work, with some cars stranded in the deluge.

"It felt like the whole neighbourhood was isolated by the floodwater. One of the underground car parks is totally underwater," Olivia Lam, who lives on the eastern side of Hong Kong Island, told AFP. "The water was almost waist-deep outside my building, and that's not the worst (case) in the neighbourhood."

An AFP reporter saw boulders and mud from a landslide block off a two-lane road in the Shau Kei Wan district, with mud also spilling over into a nearby basketball court.

Residents of a public housing block just 30 metres from the landslide lined up

with buckets to collect fresh water after the building's supply was disrupted.

Roads were also flooded on the island of Lantau, where rivers swelled over their banks.

Southern China was hit the previous weekend by two typhoons in quick succession -- Saola and Haikui -- though Hong Kong avoided a feared direct hit.

Tens of millions of people in the densely populated coastal areas of southern China had sheltered indoors ahead of those storms.

Hong Kong's weather observatory said the latest torrential rain was brought by the "trough of low pressure associated with (the) remnant of Haikui".

Authorities suspended schools and cargo clearance services on the city's border with Shenzhen were paused.

The border disruption came hours after Hong Kong authorities announced that Shenzhen was preparing to discharge water from its reservoir, which they said could lead to flooding in northern parts of the city.

Hong Kong's subway operator said there was a service disruption on one of its lines after a station in the Wong Tai Sin district was flooded.

A handful of other stations were also affected by the rain.

Footage posted on social media showed a subway train not stopping at Wong Tai Sin station, which had floodwater on its platform.

The flooding could cost Hong Kong at least \$100 million, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence estimate, compared to \$470 million in damage when the city was hit by typhoon Mangkhut in 2018. (AFP)

Russia holds elections in occupied Ukrainian regions in an effort to tighten its grip there

TALLINN (TIP): Russian authorities are holding local elections this weekend in occupied parts of Ukraine in an effort to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control.

The voting for Russian-installed legislatures in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions begins on September 8 and concludes Sunday. It has already been denounced by Kyiv and the West.

"It constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, which Russia continues to disregard," the Council of Europe, the continent's foremost human rights body, said this week.

Kyiv echoed that sentiment, with the parliament saying in a statement that the balloting in areas where Russia "conducts active hostilities" poses a threat to Ukrainian lives. Lawmakers urged other countries not to recognize the results of the vote.



For Russia, it is important to go on with the voting to maintain the illusion of normalcy, despite the fact that the Kremlin does not have full control over the annexed regions, political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

"The Russian authorities are trying hard to pretend that everything is going

according to plan, everything is fine. And if everything is going according to plan, then the political process should go according to plan," said Gallyamov, who worked as a speechwriter for Russian President Vladimir Putin when Putin served as prime minister.

Voters are supposed to elect regional

legislatures, which in turn will appoint regional governors. In the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces, thousands of candidates are also competing for seats on dozens of local councils.

The balloting is scheduled for the same weekend as other local elections in Russia. In the occupied regions, early voting kicked off last week as election officials went door to door or set up makeshift polling stations in public places to attract passersby.

The main contender in the election is United Russia, the Putin-loyal party that dominates Russian politics, although other parties, such as the Communist Party or the nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, are also on the ballots.

For some residents of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, large swaths of which have been held by Russian-backed separatists since 2014, there is nothing unusual about the vote. (AP)

HELICOPTER CRASH INTO SEA OFF DUBAI LEAVES TWO MISSING

DUBAI (TIP): A helicopter crashed off the coast of Dubai during a night training flight, with two pilots on board missing, the United Arab Emirates' aviation authority said on September 8. The Bell 212 helicopter went down in the Gulf at around 8:30 pm (1630 GMT) on September 7 after taking off from Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport, the authority said, quoted by the official WAM news agency.

The pilots -- an Egyptian and a South African -- had been on a training flight for AeroGulf, the UAE's leading commercial helicopter operator. "Search and rescue teams have recovered the wreckage and are still searching for the crew," the aviation authority said, adding investigations were underway. AeroGulf was founded in 1976 to provide services to the oil and gas industry, before expanding its services to other sectors. In 2022, a paramotor flyer crashed in Dubai, killing the pilot. The same year, a single-engine passenger plane crashed into a parking lot in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi, injuring one person. (AP)

Imran Khan's party president Parvez Elahi rearrested soon after court suspended his detention

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Parvez Elahi, the president of former prime minister Imran Khan's party, was rearrested on September 5 soon after the Islamabad High Court suspended his detention and ordered his release.

The Islamabad police in a post on X said the former Punjab province chief minister was arrested in a terror case. It posted the update soon after saying that the 77-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader was released after the high court's order.

Elahi is among several PTI leaders and workers arrested amid the state's crackdown on the PTI leadership following the May 9 riots during protests over party chief Khan being whisked away by paramilitary personnel at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

Earlier in the day, the IHC suspended Elahi's detention under Section 3 of the



Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) and ordered his release. Section 3 of MPO empowers the government to arrest and detain suspected persons. Elahi was first arrested on June 1 and was charged with several graft cases.

The most recent arrest of Elahi was on Friday last week by Islamabad police, hours after the Lahore High Court ordered his release in a graft case and explicitly directed the authorities not to take him in custody in any other case. Subsequently, Elahi was shifted to Attock Jail in Punjab province from Lahore's Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

Meanwhile, talking to the media in Islamabad, Elahi's lawyer said: "I think all limits have been crossed and this is injustice with the country and its institutions and equivalent to making a mockery of the law and Constitution."

"Absolutely shameful how court orders keep getting disrespected by the fascist regime. Parvez Elahi's crime is standing for Pakistan, crime is not leaving PTI despite massive pressure," the PTI posted on X, condemning the arrest of its president. (PTI)

Fake experts drive disinformation before Bangladesh polls

DHAKA (TIP): Hundreds of articles praising Bangladeshi government policies apparently by independent experts have appeared in national and international media but the authors have questionable credentials, fake photos, and may not even exist, an AFP investigation has found.

Commentators say it is evidence of a sustained campaign of disinformation by unknown actors ahead of elections due by the end of January but appears to be intended to benefit the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Such articles have been published by Chinese state news agency Xinhua, leading media across Asia, and quoted by the South Asia Brief of the Washington-based Foreign Policy magazine. Rights groups and foreign powers, including the United States, have long raised concerns over efforts by Hasina's government to silence criticism and stamp out political dissent.

AFP found that names forming a network of so-called experts are producing regular op-ed pieces, some posing as academics from leading global universities, some using stolen headshot photos, and others making up quotes from real analysts.

"It's a coordinated influence operation," said A Al Mamun, a journalism professor at Bangladesh's University of Rajshahi. "These articles primarily promote narratives that are favourable to the current Bangladesh government."

A surge of articles appeared online around September 2022, when

Bangladesh's foreign ministry issued a call for "good columnists" to counter negative "propaganda".

AFP sent multiple requests for comment to top officials at Bangladesh's foreign ministry and information ministry but received no reply.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told AFP he did "not have enough time" to comment. AFP analysed more than 700 articles published in at least 60 domestic and international news sites with bylines attributed to 35 names, all of which appeared for the first time online last year. The articles overwhelmingly endorse narratives pushed by Dhaka, with some posted on Bangladesh government websites.

Many are staunchly pro-Beijing and fiercely critical of Washington -- which has issued Dhaka stiff warnings of the need for free and fair elections.

While it was not possible to prove if the 35 names investigated by AFP are real, no online presence apart from their articles could be found, none has a visible social media profile, and none has published research papers in academic journals.

At least 17 of the 35 claimed links to major Western and Asian universities but AFP's digital verification reporters found no records for them.

Eight major universities confirmed that they had never heard of nine of the writers purportedly working for them, including the University of Delaware in the United States, Canada's University of Toronto, Switzerland's University of Lucerne, and the National University of Singapore. (AFP)

Sri Lanka to investigate allegations linking Rajapaksa-backed officials to 2019 Easter bombings

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's government will appoint a parliamentary committee to investigate allegations made in a British television report that Sri Lankan intelligence had complicity in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that killed 269 people. Labor Minister Manusha Nanayakkara told Parliament on September 5 that details on the investigation will be announced soon.

A man interviewed in the Channel 4 videos released Tuesday said he arranged a meeting between a local Islamic State-inspired group and a top state intelligence official to hatch a plot to create insecurity in Sri Lanka and enable Gotabaya Rajapaksa to win the presidential election later that year.

Azad Maulana was a spokesman for a breakaway group of the Tamil Tiger rebels that later became a pro-state militia and helped the government defeat the rebels and win Sri Lanka's long civil war in 2009.

Rajapaksa was a top defence official during the war, and his older brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, had been defeated in the 2015 elections after 10 years in power.

A group of Sri Lankans inspired by the Islamic State group carried out the six near-simultaneous suicide bombings in churches and tourist hotels on April 21, 2019.

The attacks killed 269 people, including worshippers at Easter Sunday

services, locals and foreign tourists, and revived memories of frequent bombings during the quarter-century war. Fears over national security enabled Rajapaksa to sweep to power. He was forced to resign last year after mass protests over the country's worst economic crisis.

In the Channel 4 program, Maulana said he arranged a meeting in 2018 between IS-inspired extremists and a top intelligence officer at the behest of his boss at the time, Sivanathurai Chandrakanthan, the leader of the rebel splinter group-turned-political party.

Maulana said Chandrakanthan had met the group in prison while in detention on allegations of murder and found they could be useful in creating insecurity in the country.

Maulana told Channel 4 that he himself did not participate in the meeting but that the intelligence officer told him later that creating insecurity was the only way to return the Rajapaksa family to power.

After security camera footage of the bombings was released, Maulana recognized the faces of the attackers carrying bomb-laden backpacks as those whom he had arranged to meet with the intelligence officer, Maulana said in the program. Channel 4 reported that Maulana had been interviewed by UN investigators and European intelligence services over his claims.

(Associated Press)



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Things the living room reveals about you

For some, being in a room filled with books, souvenirs and knick-knacks could be comforting, and for others claustrophobic. There are those who find minimalism clinical and boring; some would differ and say it's blissful and pure. Your mood not only defines your dressing but your home interiors as well. After all, the living space is an extension of your persona. The living room is the heart of the home where creativity and personality come together. It is more than just a space; it is a place where every detail reflects the love and care people have for their homes and loved ones. Here are some inferences that one can draw by looking at someone's living room.

Personality punch

The design, color scheme and overall aesthetics of the space can tell a lot about the homeowner's personality. A minimalist room suggests preference for simplicity and order; while a more maximalist space speaks of a free-spirited and imaginative individual. Using a lot of natural elements can also indicate earthy and environmentally conscious personalities.

Way of life

From what excites homeowners to what makes them feel nostalgic, a living space can divulge a lot. The contents of a space offer fascinating insights into the homeowner's passions and interests. For instance, musical instruments, such as a piano, hint at love for music while sports memorabilia display a passion for athletics. Travel enthusiasts often curate their living spaces with cherished collectibles and souvenirs from their adventures. This can



indicate an individual's openness to experiences and willingness to explore new ideas.

Rooted in tradition

Some homes are designed traditionally while others showcase cultural cues. Cultural influences can be apparent in the design and selection of ornamental elements in the living room. Whether through traditional paintings, artefacts or textiles, these elements may reveal a homeowner's cultural heritage and background.

Don't mess with it

Did you know that a person's ability to be organised can be easily gauged from their living room? A cluttered space could mean the person is not organised or is overworked whereas a clean, clutter-free, movement-focused space often points at being organised, self-disciplined, responsible and maybe more reliable.

Social circle

Even the furniture in the drawing room can reveal whether you like

having people over. The living room's layout and seating arrangements hint at the homeowner's approach to socialising. An open and welcoming layout may indicate a person who enjoys hosting parties and entertaining guests. These individuals value social connections and are probably extroverts. Cosier spaces with lesser seating could indicate being reserved or introvert personalities.

Feeling nostalgic

A personalised space with family photos, artwork or items that hold sentimental value could mean that an individual values relationships and emotional connections. Pictures of pets can showcase a pet lover's empathetic and caring nature.

Life stage

You can also tell what life stage the inhabitants of a home are at. Hints of 'life's beautiful' milestones surface through the presence of children's toys scattered throughout the space, or in the delicate decor choices of empty nesters and mature individuals. *Source: India Today*



Korean beauty hacks to swear by for glowing clear skin

Korean women are big fans of the 'no-makeup' look. So, we are here to share all the K-beauty skincare mantras you should try to get monsoon ready glowy skin from within. Here are three ride-or-die mantras from the pages of Korean skincare novellas that'll give you an envy-worthy skin this monsoon season.

Embrace Pimple-Patches For Your Acne Ridden Skin

Korean women are more susceptible to pigmentation, so they take extra care to protect their skin from harmful UV rays. When it comes to skincare, they only use natural skin brighteners, such as rice extracts, vitamin C, and liquorice, as well as exfoliators. Pimple patches work their magic if you're looking at getting rid of a blemish fast, you should swear by pimple patches.

Swear By Deep Cleansers As A First Step Before Makeup

Cleansing is the cornerstone of a better-than-great complexion. It is important because it's the excess oil, dirt, and bacteria on your skin that can lead to premature ageing, dark spots, and breakouts. It's incredibly important to be proactive and keep your skin clean as without a clean base, makeup will also not look good.

Go For An Extensive Skin Care Routine

We know that it is slightly intimidating but layering skincare is the biggest game-changer. Most people just stick to a face wash and moisturiser. However, never overlook the importance of steps like exfoliating, toning, essence, and sleeping packs. Go big on an extensive step-by-step skincare routine which involves layering skincare products to get near-perfect glass skin.

Double Cleansing

We adopted the double-cleansing technique used by Asian skincare routines long ago. It is essential to begin your skincare regimen with a clean face, dirt and oil-free, and by removing makeup that has accumulated during the day. As the first step, it is recommended to use a cleansing oil or micellar water before moving on to a mild foam wash or cleanser.

Exfoliate

Getting rid of the dirt and dead skin cells on your skin's surface is crucial if you want clean skin. This kind of deep pore cleansing or exfoliating prepares your skin to absorb subsequent skincare treatments more effectively.

Hydration or Toning

You may think that toner can skip from the step, yet in Korean skincare, they play a crucial function. To help restore the skin's pH levels, K-beauty toners are used after cleansing and before applying any other products. They are made with refreshing and moisture-enhancing substances like green tea, rice water, or rose water.

FOOD CORNER

Tomato Rice

INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked basmati rice, 2 medium chopped onion, 2 teaspoon sambhar powder, 1 handful chopped, coriander leaves, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon garlic paste, 4 large chopped tomato, 3 medium green chilli, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ginger paste, 2 pinches red chilli powder

Method

- Wash and dry the basmati rice and soak for about 20 minutes. Take a deep pan, put it on medium flame and pour water in it. Bring it to a boil, and then add the soaked rice. Cover the pan with a lid and cook on medium flame till the rice becomes soft, but not mushy. Now remove from fire and keep it aside. Now put the chopped tomatoes in a blender and blend it properly. Transfer the puree in a bowl and keep it aside. Now heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan and add the ingredients for seasoning (mustard, asafoetida, curry leaves, dried red chillis). Add onions and saute. Then add green chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Saute these ingredients for a minute.



- Now add the tomato puree, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, sambar powder and salt. Cook until the oil separates. Add the cooked rice to the tomato gravy and mix well. Once done, transfer the tomato rice in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. Serve hot with papads, potato chips or raita.

Know the health benefits of papaya seeds

Papaya seeds have wonderful antioxidants like polyphenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, tannins and saponins, which protects the body from oxidative damage. They also keep inflammation in the body in check. Papaya seeds are also rich in fibre and can address your constipation woes. Carpaine in papaya seeds helps eliminate bacteria and parasites in the intestines and help keep the digestive system healthy. Papaya seeds provide a boost to metabolism and prevent the body from storing fat. They also help control bad cholesterol levels (LDL). The tiny black seeds are not only edible but also offer a wealth of nutritional support. Papaya seeds are rich in essential nutrients, including healthy fats, protein, vitamins, and minerals like zinc, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, and iron. Moreover, they contain significant amounts of monounsaturated fatty acids, such as oleic acid, along with polyphenols and flavonoids, which act as potent antioxidants.

Key health benefits that papaya seeds have to offer

Weight management

Papaya seeds are packed with dietary fibre, which can boost metabolism and aid in weight loss. Their high protein content also contributes to a feeling of fullness.

Menstrual pain relief

Carotene, a powerful antioxidant in papaya, helps balance oestrogen-like hormones, potentially reducing menstrual pain and promoting regularity.

Cholesterol regulation

The fibre in papaya seeds plays a role in reducing cholesterol levels in the body. Additionally, the presence of oleic acid and other monounsaturated fatty acids helps lower LDL (bad) cholesterol.

Gut health

Papaya seeds contain carpaine, which helps eliminate intestinal worms and bacteria, promoting digestive



health. Their abundant fibre content regulates bowel movements, prevents constipation, and maintains digestive balance. Enzymes in papaya seeds, like papain and chymopapain, aid digestion, reducing symptoms like bloating and gas.

Immune system support

High in Vitamin C, papaya seeds contribute to a robust immune system. Vitamin C is a potent antioxidant that protects the body against harmful substances and free radicals.

Cancer risk reduction

Papaya seeds are a source of polyphenols and powerful antioxidants that offer protection against various forms of cancer.

How to consume papaya seeds

One should consume approximately one tablespoon (15 grams) of papaya seeds per day to maximize their benefits. It's advisable to start with a gradual intake. You can either ingest the seeds directly in the morning with a glass of water or incorporate them into juices, smoothies, or oatmeal. However, do not exceed the recommended dose to avoid adverse effects. *Source: HT*



Men, wealthy people more likely to develop skin cancer

A new study sponsored by McGill University investigates why persons living in Atlantic regions are more likely to develop melanoma than other Canadians, providing lessons on skin cancer prevention for the entire country.

Rates of melanoma, a deadly form of skin cancer, have been rising globally, including in Canada. Current estimates indicate that up to 1 in 3 Canadians will develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. While some Atlantic provinces such as Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Nova Scotia have the highest incidence rate of melanoma in the country, neighbouring provinces like New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador have rates below or comparable to the Canadian average.

To find out why, the researchers compared UV exposure and behaviours among different groups in Atlantic Canada based on income, education, and gender, among other factors.

Higher-income individuals more at risk for melanoma.

The study found that higher-income individuals had an increased risk of melanoma. Risk factors contributing to this include more lifetime sun burns, tanning bed use, and being tanned. Similarly, individuals with university education had higher rates of recreational sun exposure but were less likely to use tanning beds.

"A higher socio-economic status is known to be associated with more vacations in sunny climates and recreational tanning, which likely ultimately drives melanoma incidence in this population," highlights Dr. Ivan Litvinov, an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and Chair of the Dermatology Division at McGill University.

However, the study also showed that individuals earning less than \$50,000 a year were more likely to work outdoors and experience occupational sun exposure, placing them at a higher risk of developing skin cancer. These findings suggest that policies to protect outdoor workers could help reduce melanoma risk, say the researchers. *Source: ANI*

1 in 3 men worldwide are infected with genital HPV: Lancet

Almost one in three men over the age of 15 are infected with at least one genital human papillomavirus (HPV) type, according to a new study published in The Lancet Global Health.

The findings also showed that one in five are infected with one or more of what are known as high risk, or oncogenic, HPV types.

These estimates show that men frequently harbour genital HPV infections and emphasise the importance of incorporating men in efforts to control HPV infection and reduce the incidence of HPV related disease in both men and women.

"This global study on the prevalence of genital HPV infection among men confirms how widespread HPV infection is. HPV infection with high-risk HPV types can cause genital warts and oral, penile and anal cancer in men," said Dr Meg Doherty, Director of WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes.

"We must continue to look for opportunities to prevent HPV infection and to reduce the incidence of HPV-related disease in both men and women," Doherty added.

The study is based on a systematic review and meta-analysis assessed the prevalence of genital HPV infection in the general male population based on studies published between 1995 and 2022.

The global pooled prevalence was 31 per cent for any HPV and 21 per cent for high-risk HPV. HPV-16 was the most prevalent HPV genotype (5 per cent) followed by HPV-6 (4 per cent).



HPV prevalence was high in young adults, reaching a maximum between the age of 25 years and 29 years, and stabilised or slightly decreased thereafter.

The majority of HPV infections in men and women are asymptomatic, but they can lead to long-term sequelae and mortality. Each year, more than 340,000 women die of cervical cancer.

In men, HPV infection tends to manifest clinically as anogenital warts, which cause significant morbidity and increase HPV transmission rates. *Source: IANS*

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Elon Musk to only allow verified users to participate in polls on X

Elon Musk has announced that X will soon allow only verified, premium users to participate in polls across subjects, including political issues, on the platforms to avoid bots from swaying the results.

When writer-entrepreneur Brian Krassenstein posted that X has to make the option to only allow for blue checkmarks to participate in polls, Musk said it is coming soon.

"We're changing polls to allow votes only by verified users. That's critical to avoid polls getting bot-spammed on controversial issues," the billionaire said.

"We shut down a lot of bots this week," the tech billionaire added.

X earlier announced that it would permit political advertising on its site from political parties and candidates in the US and expand its elections and safety team before the 2024 presidential election.

The social media network said it will increase its teams to combat "emerging threats" and content manipulation. X stated that it is permitting political ads with the aim of "building on our commitment to free expression."

"We should empower our users to express their opinions and openly debate during elections, in line with our commitment to protecting freedom of expression," it added.

WhatsApp's Multi-Account Feature Now Reportedly Available for More Beta Testers on Android

WhatsApp may soon allow users to access two accounts from a single phone. The app has reportedly been spotted testing the multi-account feature for Android phones. Usually, the social media platform also releases the iOS version of the feature close to one another. WhatsApp has been rolling out new features to its user base, most notably adding HD photo and video sharing capability. Additionally, the app is also supposedly testing out a new Android interface with a bottom menu bar similar to what its iOS counterpart has had.

A WABetaInfo report suggests that more beta users on Android are now getting access to WhatsApp's multi-account feature. This is currently available to WhatsApp beta for Android 2.23.18.21 users and is reportedly being rolled out to additional beta users. The revamped user interface for the app settings is included with this beta release.

Earlier this year in June, WhatsApp was first spotted testing the multi-account feature. The feature enables users to run several WhatsApp accounts on a single device. The WhatsApp settings will now therefore allow users to access a second WhatsApp account on the same device.

SOLAR MISSION

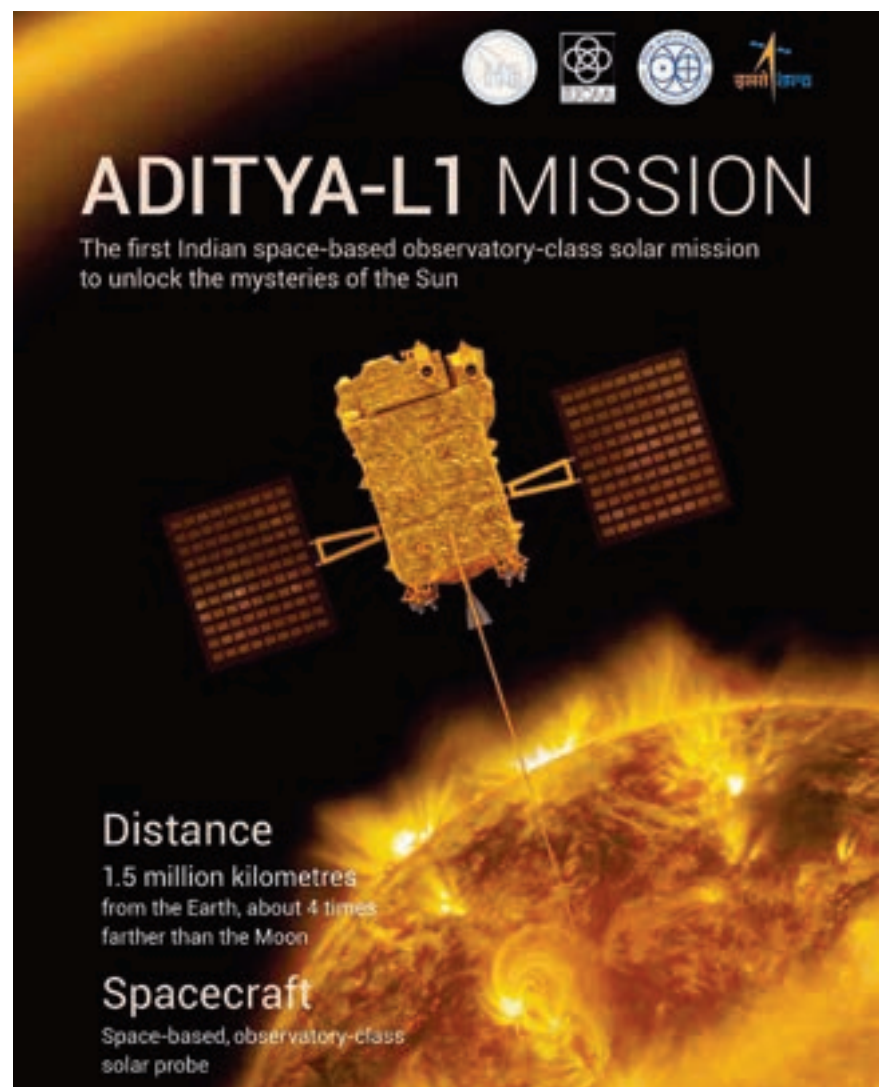
Aditya-L1 robust, first orbit-raising manoeuvre carried out successfully

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday carried out the first orbit-raising manoeuvre of Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the country's first space-based observatory to study the sun, a day after the probe was placed in a low earth elliptical orbit by a PSLV XL launcher. Stating that the satellite was "healthy and operating nominally", the ISRO said the first earth-bound manoeuvre had been "performed successfully" from ISTRAC, Bengaluru.

"The new orbit attained is 245 km x 22,459 km," ISRO said and added that the next manoeuvre was scheduled for 03.00 hours (IST) on September 5. Aditya-L1 will stay in earth-bound orbits for 16 days.

It is slated to undergo four more orbit-raising manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey to its destination located 15 lakh km away from the earth, which is about 1 per cent of the distance between the earth and the sun.

After 16 days, the spacecraft will undergo a Trans-Lagrangian 1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day cruise to its "home" around the L1 (Lagrange point 1). Upon arrival at the L1 point, another manoeuvre will bind Aditya-L1 to an orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between the earth and the sun. The satellite will spend its whole mission life orbiting around L1.

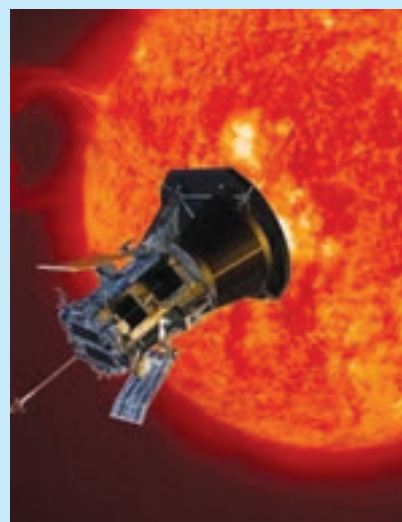


Main objectives of Aditya L1 mission

The primary objective of the mission is to increase India's ability to observe the Sun for 24 hours a day. The unhindered observation of the Sun will help in closely monitoring its activity. For its accomplishment, Aditya L1 is equipped with two major instruments, along with five smaller ones.

SUIT (Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope), is an ultraviolet imager that captures continuous images of the Sun. The ultraviolet spectrum is important for making observations. The reason for its importance is the large amount of ultraviolet and X-ray radiation emitted from the Sun's corona.

Another major instrument is VELC. It is a spectrograph that focuses on the Sun's corona—the outermost layer of the Sun's atmosphere. Notably, it extends far beyond the Sun's visible disk. VELC will also monitor the corona alongside SUIT and will let the ISRO scientists correlate changes



in the Sun's corona with events on the Sun's surface.

Aditya L1 to discover mysteries of the Sun's behavior

Referring to the peculiar phenomenon of the high temperature of the Sun's corona, Somak explains that the Sun's corona is

astonishingly hot. Its temperature can increase up to 2 million degrees. Interestingly, it is in stark contrast to the relatively cooler surface of the Sun at around 5,000 degrees. The significant temperature difference remains a "baffling mystery in solar science," Romak told HT. Studying the Sun's high-energy phenomena will help in unraveling the mystery. In a major development for India, Aditya L1 can help ISRO scientists establish casual connections between the Sun and its corona.

Observations made by Aditya L1 will also help in bridging the connection between the Sun's surface and the emission of high-energy particles during solar storms. These storms are closely related to the Sun's magnetic activity, highlighted Romak in his HT interview. He also warned that these solar storms carry the potential to harm human technologies, including satellites and communication systems.

Source: HT

Tatas keen to acquire Haldiram's, eyeing 51% stake in snack-maker

Tata Group's consumer unit is in talks to buy at least 51% of popular Indian snack food maker Haldiram's but is not comfortable with the \$10 billion valuation sought, two people briefed on the matter said.

If successfully concluded, the deal would see the Indian conglomerate directly compete with Pepsi and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail. Haldiram's, a household name in India, is also talking with private equity firms, including Bain Capital, about the sale of a 10% stake, they said.

Tata Consumer Products, which owns UK tea company Tetley and has a partnership with Starbucks in India, has baulked at the \$10 billion valuation given that Haldiram's annual revenue is around \$1.5 billion, the sources said.

A third person with direct knowledge of the discussions said Tata wants to buy more than 51% but has told Haldiram's that its "ask is very high."

A spokesperson for Tata Consumer Products said it "does not comment on market speculation". Haldiram's chief executive Krishan Kumar Chutani and Bain declined to comment. In a clarification to stock exchanges, Tata Consumer said it "is not in negotiations as reported".

"We would like to add that the company evaluates various strategic opportunities for growth and expansion of the business of the company, on an ongoing basis. The company will make appropriate announcements in compliance with the obligations under SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, as and then any such requirement arises," Tata Consumer added. Haldiram's has almost 13% share of India's \$6.2 billion savoury snack market. *Source: Reuters*

NTPC Partners with Apollo Hospitals

NTPC Ltd, India's largest integrated power utility, has forged a significant partnership with Apollo Hospitals, reaffirming its steadfast commitment to the health and well-being of its workforce.

In a remarkable leap forward towards enhancing healthcare accessibility and quality for its employees and their dependents, NTPC has introduced ground-breaking services such as Tele-Consultation, Tele-ICU, and Tele-Emergency, spanning across nine NTPC plant locations in India. These plant locations include Ramagundam, Talcher Kaniha, Korba, Vindhyachal, Dadri, Barh, Solapur, North Karanpura, and Mauda.

This occasion was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC, Dillip Kumar Patel, Director (HR), NTPC, Dr Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, among other distinguished officials from both organizations.

US lawmaker calls for ending Huawei, SMIC exports after chip breakthrough

NEW YORK (TIP)

The U.S. Commerce Department should end all technology exports to Huawei and China's top semiconductor firm following the discovery of new chips in Huawei phones that may violate trade restrictions, the chair of the House of Representatives' committee on China said on Wednesday, September 6.

The comments from Representative Mike Gallagher, an influential Republican lawmaker whose select committee has pressed the Biden administration to take a tougher stance on sending U.S. technology to China, come after Chinese electronics giant Huawei last week started selling a phone called the Mate 60 Pro. The phone contains a chip that analysts believe was made with a technology breakthrough by Semiconductor International Manufacturing Corp (SMIC).

"This chip likely could not be produced without US technology and thus SMIC may have violated the Department of Commerce's Foreign Direct Product Rule," Gallagher said in a statement. "The time has come to end all U.S. technology exports to both Huawei and SMIC to make clear any firm that flouts U.S. law and undermines our national security will be cut off from our technology."

Huawei was placed on a trade blacklist in May 2019 over national security concerns, forcing its U.S. suppliers and others to obtain a special license to ship goods to it. SMIC was added to the so-called entity list in December 2020, over fears it could divert advanced technology to military users.

The trade restrictions imposed on Huawei and SMIC include the Foreign Direct Product Rule meant to bar any company anywhere in the world from using tools from the United States to manufacture a chip for Huawei.

But suppliers to Huawei and SMIC have received billions of dollars' worth of licenses to sell U.S. technology to the companies despite their being on the trade lists, Reuters has previously reported. About 90% of the licenses were for sales to SMIC.

The U.S. Commerce Department's bureau overseeing export controls did not immediately respond to a request for comment. *Source: Reuters*



Dollar shines as US economy outperforms

A buoyant dollar pushed the yen to a 10-month trough on Thursday and kept the euro and sterling pinned near three-month lows, as investors placed their faith in a still-resilient U.S. economy even amid a dour global growth outlook. The greenback scaled a fresh top of 147.865 yen in early Asia trade, its highest since last November.

Against a basket of currencies, the dollar was last 0.05% higher at 104.91, holding on to some of its gains from the previous session after scaling a six-month peak on news that the U.S. services sector unexpectedly gained steam in August.

The stronger-than-expected data pushed the euro to its lowest since June at \$1.0703 on Wednesday, with the single currency last 0.03% lower at \$1.0723.

Sterling similarly lost 0.07% to stand at \$1.24985, having also bottomed at a three-month trough of \$1.24835 in the previous session. "It certainly was a good (ISM) ... so those thinking of a (U.S.) recession in the near term might be a little bit disappointed," said Joseph Capurso, head of international and sustainable economics at Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA). "However, the Beige Book ... wasn't that great, actually."

Source: Reuters

Rs 3,760 cr scheme to boost battery storage cleared

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Government on Wednesday, September 6, approved Rs 3,760 crore for viability gap funding of up to 40 per cent of total capital cost to set up 4,000 MWh battery energy storage system in the country, Union minister Anurag Thakur said.

The entire Rs 3,760 crore viability gap funding (VGF) will be borne by the Central Government, the Information & Broadcasting Minister said while briefing the media about the Cabinet decisions.

The VGF will be released in five tranches till 2030-31 and help in creation of 4,000 MWh storage across the country.

The viability gap funding, Thakur said, will lead to an investment of Rs 9,500 crore.

About the progress of renewables, he said that the solar energy has increased from 2.6 GW in 2014 to 71 GW at present while wind energy has increased from 21 GW (in 2014) to 40 GW.

He told that India is meeting its 25 per cent of energy demand from renewable energy, including from large hydro plants.

He explained that India needs to develop BESS (battery energy storage system) for making round-the-clock renewable energy supply possible.

The BESS would enable use of stored renewable energy in peak hours, he said.

The minister opined that the scheme is in sync with India's ambition to meet its 50 per cent of energy requirements through renewable energy and non-fossil energy sources by 2030 and also help reduce carbon emission.

An official statement said, "The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister approves the Scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)."

The approved scheme envisages development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31, with a financial support of up to 40 per cent of the

capital cost in the form of VGF, it explained.

The move is expected to bring down the cost of battery storage systems increasing their viability.

Designed to harness the potential of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, the scheme aims to provide clean, reliable, and affordable electricity to the citizens, it stated.

The VGF for development of BESS scheme, with an initial outlay of Rs 9,400 crore, including a budgetary support of Rs 3,760 crore, signifies the government's commitment to sustainable energy solutions, it stated.

The scheme aims to achieve a Levelized Cost of Storage (LCoS) ranging from Rs 5.50 to Rs 6.60 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), making stored renewable energy a viable option for managing peak power demand across the country.

The VGF shall be disbursed in five tranches at various stages of implementation of BESS projects.

History This Week

SEP 08 TO SEP 14

SEPTEMBER 8

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.



September 8, 1935 - Louisiana Senator Huey P. Long was shot and mortally wounded while attending a session of the state House of Representatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He died two days later.

September 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

September 8, 1974 - A month after resigning the presidency in disgrace as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was granted a full pardon by President Gerald R. Ford for all offenses committed while in office.

September 8, 2022 - Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign, the longest in British history. Upon her death, her son Charles, age 73, became the new monarch as King Charles III. Born on April 21, 1926, Princess Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, and became Queen in 1952, at age 25, after her father King George VI died in his sleep. During her reign, the Queen met 13 U.S. presidents and visited over 100 countries.

SEPTEMBER 9



September 9, 1976 - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.

September 9, 1993 - Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) agreed to recognize each other, paving the way for a possible peaceful end to the hundred year old conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Mideast.

SEPTEMBER 10



September 10, 1898 - Elizabeth, Empress of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

September 10, 1919 - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.

September 10, 1943 - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.

SEPTEMBER 11

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was also diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overpower the terrorists on board.

Birthdays - Ferdinand Marcos (1917-1989) was born in Sarrat, Philippines. He



ruled the Philippines from 1966, imposing an authoritarian regime until he was ousted in 1986.

SEPTEMBER 12



September 12, 1943 - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.

September 12, 1953 - John F. Kennedy, 36, married Jacqueline Bouvier, 24, in a ceremony before 750 invited guests at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, conducted by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston.

September 12, 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR.

September 12, 1974 - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, was deposed by an army coup after 44 years as ruler.

September 12, 1977 - Steve Biko, the South African black civil rights leader, died while he was in police detention.

September 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a reunified Germany.

Birthdays - African American Olympic athlete Jesse Owens (1913-1980) was born in Oakville, Alabama (as James Cleveland Owens). He won four medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, defeating Nazi athletes and disappointing Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

SEPTEMBER 13

September 13, 1971 - State police and National Guardsmen stormed Attica prison in New York State ending a five-

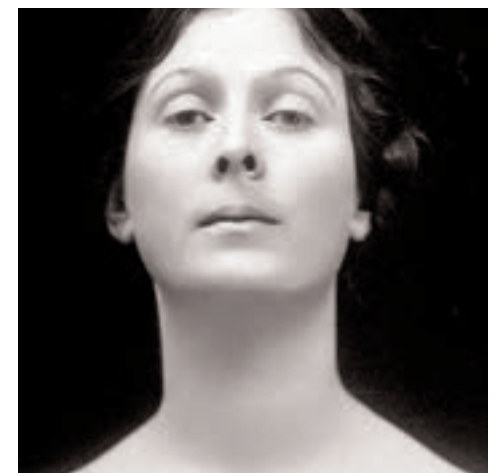
day prisoners' revolt. Thirty one prisoners and 11 guards were killed.



Birthdays - American Army physician Walter Reed (1851-1902) was born in Gloucester County, Virginia. Best known for his Yellow Fever research, he served as an army surgeon for more than 20 years. The U.S. Army's general hospital in Washington, D.C., is named in his honor.

Birthdays - Army General John J. Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Laclede, Missouri. He commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during World War I and oversaw the Meuse-Argonne operation that helped bring about the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

SEPTEMBER 14



September 14, 1927 - In Nice, France, famed ballet dancer Isadora Duncan was killed in a freak accident as the long scarf she was wearing became caught in the moving wheel of the car in which she was riding, strangling her.

September 14, 1930 - The Nazi Party became the second largest party in Germany following a stunning election triumph by Adolf Hitler.

September 14, 1960 - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was formed by representatives of oil-producing countries meeting in Baghdad.

September 14, 1975 - Elizabeth Ann Seton became the first American saint.

September 14, 1982 - Princess Grace of Monaco died following an accident in which her car plunged off a mountain road in Monte Carlo. Her daughter Stephanie, also in the car, survived and was treated for shock and bruises. Princess Grace (Grace Kelly) was a Hollywood actress who met Prince Rainier III of Monaco during filming of the Hitchcock film *To Catch a Thief*. She then gave up a successful acting career and married him in 1956.



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEPTEMBER 11 TO SEPTEMBER 17 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, you'll be fairly forthright about your goals since you were raised with desire; others will trust you owing to the conviction in your words, which will be a benefit on its own. Businesspersons must avoid the financial markets this week. This is the perfect time of the week to confess to somebody your secret admiration for their sincere feelings. You'll need to be a little harsh with your partner in order to get them to realize their mistake. You should travel very carefully this week. Ask your kids to prevent consuming excessive amounts of liquid and to prevent going into unsafe situations.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, your present expenditure will be impacted by high inflation for the goods and resources you need to operate your business. Avoid starting any intimate connections this week. You can squander a jewel of a personality if you don't take care of your connection. They've started to think that this connection is ending; therefore, you need to act right away. You'll be compelled to establish fresh, beneficial behaviors this week. The aim for this week is to stop bad habits.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, this week, external pressure to produce quick results will impede your thoughts, yet you should keep your composure with coworkers. You'll start to see results from your prior commitments this week. This week, the hospitality company will generate a significant amount of revenue. Individuals who are wedded will enjoy one other's company, while those in new connections may quarrel over somebody else's advice. Take care this week since you will exaggerate your health issues, which are actually sensitive.

CANCER



Ganesha says, if you operate in marketing or promotion, your imaginative approaches will be praised. You may put your funds into suitable projects in the works. You will squander all you have if you are hungry for rapid money. You can decide to invest some precious time with your partner while planning a treat for them. Jupiter will help you overcome any psychological barriers that exist between you and your partner. You'll feel smarter once you understand how your companion believes about you. It won't be simple for you to deal with your worry this week, but mindfulness may be able to assist.

LEO



Ganesha says, you will gain the help of somebody this week that will open doors for you ahead. Considerable wise judgments will need to be made this week but being overly definite will make your conversation difficult. This week, Venus will be in an adverse attitude, so be certain to take the required measures. You'll need to be more grounded this week. You won't need to worry about your wellness this week since everything will be Alright. Ensure that you adhere to the exercise programmed you've created.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week, you won't be allowed to assign responsibilities to others, and if you tried to handle things on your own, your work might be less productive. It's a terrific week to launch a venture in the leisure and tourism sector. This week, your partner will doubt your loyalty, so you'll need to defend oneself. You'll be capable of maintaining discipline in your marital relationships. Your wellness will suffer this week as a result of uneven resting patterns that will disturb your calmness. Dear Leo natives, exercise cautious.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, you will pay close attention to every little aspect of your work this week. You'll be prepared to implement a tenacious approach that will let you close the holes in your objectives. Be cautious not to generate too many forecasts this week if you purchase shares. You'll commit the mistake of picturing your partnership too much on your own this week, which will result in uncomfortable arguments among you and your partner. Traveling should be prevented at all expenses this week since it is an elevated week for accidents. This week, be sure you're not terrified of cliffs.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week is a great time to make significant investments in component shares. Consider creating a corporation this week and obtain the counsel of a skilled economic professional rather. A mortgage for a home or a company will be authorized this week. Keep clear of the financial markets this week. It is always too late to prevent a decent guy from leaving. You will be possible to reestablish contact with your beloved throughout this week. If one chooses to maintain silence about small concerns, this week's marital appearances will also hold strong. Take a brisk walk this week and practice breathing.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, there are rewards and a walk on the schedule for this week. You will select the best options when generating judgments at business. Your business component will grow this week, which might conflict with your schedule because you won't have enough of it. While accusations are not yet on the topic, you two will develop communication, which will help you communicate your emotions more clearly. Eat only home-cooked dishes and stay away from unhealthy foods and frozen cuisine. Ensure that you take good care of your gastrointestinal issues this week.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, you will be joining the workforce this week, and networking with a few influential people will present you with fresh opportunities. These days, if you operate alone, you may earn a comfortable income. You will encounter somebody this week, but you will mistakenly evaluate them too quickly. This week, ensure you're in control of your thoughts. The ideal time to preserve your vitality is during this week. This week, practice meditation and good sleep. This week don't worry over slight matters.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says, you may need to postpone a few of your projects this week due to a technical gap in your personnel. It's a great week to bring in new employees. Avoid engaging in immoral conduct if you operate for a partnership firm because you could find yourself embroiled in a conflict this week. Your charming demeanor will act as a gateway to a more substantial collaboration this week. You will surely meet new people this week and make new friends, but it would be premature to have high expectations. If you have an optimistic outlook, you'll be able to continue. You'll feel anxious in the afternoons this week, so look after oneself.

PISCES



Ganesha says, this week, your bosses will motivate you. You'll also do a review of the fatalities in your present line of work. This week, you'll be capable of maintaining a significant degree of esteem at the workplace. You will also benefit from the fortunate arrangement of factors in your 6th sector. Your partner will be able to tell that you are worried about them. Your relationship will be guided in the right direction this week. You'll be able to maintain a strong marital stance this week. A daily walk will help you a lot this week. You'll experience a change in your mental well-being this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 11 TO SEPTEMBER 17 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

SEPTEMBER 11

Ganesha says this day is brimming with the power and possibility of creative expression. The celestial alignment inspires you to channel your inner artist and express yourself creatively. Now is the time to inject some creativity into whatever it is you've been putting off, whether it's a project you've been putting off or a relationship that needs to be revitalized. However, be wary of making too many commitments to yourself at this time because the energy is strong but ephemeral. Because the stars are also aligned in favor of engaging in self-discovery, you should make it a priority to devote some time to introspection.

SEPTEMBER 12

Ganesha says the energies of the universe are guiding you in the direction of self-reflection and finding inner peace at this time. Today is a wonderful day to escape the craziness of the outside world and spend some time in the great outdoors. It's possible that answers to

questions you've been striving to answer will present themselves to you all of a sudden. Be mindful, however, of isolating yourself too much; the insights of others can frequently shed new light on familiar problems.

SEPTEMBER 13

Ganesha says it's possible that today could provide you with challenges that call for quick thinking and flexibility on your part. Those who are prepared to stretch themselves beyond their boundaries will find themselves in a position to benefit from the current cosmic alignment. Today is a great day for forming new relationships and expanding your professional network. However, avoid associating with those who exude negative energy and be wary of rumors.

SEPTEMBER 14

Ganesha says the cosmic forces that we are experiencing right now are a hodgepodge. You'll have no shortage of chances to develop in your career or in the projects you're working on

for yourself, but you should also be prepared for unforeseen obstacles. The important thing is to keep ones cool and not lose one's composure. Additionally, today is an excellent day for financial planning, but you should steer clear of making any significant investments.

SEPTEMBER 15

Ganesha says we are celebrating love and healthy partnerships today. The cosmos is sending you positive, loving vibes, which makes it a wonderful day to spend time with the people you care about the most. Today's energies encourage cultivating emotional connections, regardless of whether or not you are currently in a romantic partnership. However, it is best to avoid making any commitments that will last for a long time today because the stars indicate that something that seems appropriate at the moment may not be so in the long run.

SEPTEMBER 16

Ganesha says the current astrological configuration is

favorable for intellectual endeavors and learning of all kinds. Today is a great day to begin anything new, whether it be a class, a hobby, or some research. Your mental capabilities have reached their highest point, making it much simpler for you to learn new things. However, you should exercise caution to avoid becoming overly absorbed in intellectual pursuits to the point where you overlook your emotional well-being.

SEPTEMBER 17

Ganesha says the energies are somewhat unstable today, which makes for a day filled with both highs and lows. There's a chance that you'll have spurts of creativity and production, but there's also a chance that you'll have bouts of lethargy and indecision. The trick is to let things unfold naturally and not try to control them in any way. It is also an excellent day to focus on one's physical health; perhaps experiment with a new fitness routine or spend some time in nature to help bring the energies into harmony.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAHI ॥



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Aja Ekadashi

The Ekadashi which falls in the Krishna Paksha of Bhadrapada month is called Aja Ekadashi. It is believed that fasting on Aja Ekadashi gives virtue equal to the Ashwamedha Yajna. On the day of Ekadashi, Lord Shri Hari is worshiped according to the law. The fast and worshipers of Aja Ekadashi get the blessings of Lord Vishnu.

On the day of Aja Ekadashi, special importance has been given for charity and meditation. Therefore, fasting story has special significance on the day of Aja Ekadashi. On the day of Aja Ekadashi, by listening or reading the fasting story, Shri Hari gets rid of all the troubles.

Aja Ekadashi Vrat Significance

The auspicious Annada or Aja Ekadashi Vrat relieves the devotee of sins and helps to get liberation from the cycle of birth and death. He/she is protected from evil energies, harm, danger, Black Magic, Ghosts etc. The devotee lives a prosperous, healthy and happy life, by the grace of Lord Vishnu. The Annada Ekadashi Vrat Katha clearly narrates how Raja(King) Harishchandra got relieved of his sins by observing the Annada Ekadashi Vrat. As per the ancient texts, merely hearing or reading the Annada Ekadashi Vrat Katha is equivalent to the fruits earned performing Ashwamedha Yajna. Abstaining from eating or drinking anything on Annada Ekadashi requires devotion, patience and control over one's senses. It is an important Vrat to observe, to appease Lord Vishnu in the Hrisikesha form.

AJA EKADASHI PRESIDING DEITY

The presiding Deity of Annada Ekadashi or Aja Ekadashi is Lord Hrishikesha, which is one of the names of Lord Vishnu, which means Lord of senses or the One who is in control of senses. Hrishikesha or Hrisikesha is among the 108 names and the twenty forms of Lord Vishnu. Among the other meaning of Hrisikesha, a beautiful version also says, the Lord Who turns all the senses of His devotees towards Him. Observing the Annada Ekadashi Vrat and worshipping Lord Hrishikesha with complete devotion and sincerity brings His benevolent blessings.

VRAT KATHA

As mentioned in the 'Brahmavaivarta Purana' the Annada Ekadashi Vrat Katha was narrated to Yudhisthira(the eldest Pandava brother) by Lord Krishna, when He wanted to know the name and merits of the Krishna Paksha Ekadashi in Bhadrapada month(August-September).

The Annada Ekadashi Vrat Katha is about Raja Harishchandra, was known for His truthfulness. He was a kind King who was liked by the people of His kingdom and lived happily with His wife and son. However, King Harishchandra had a terrible stroke of fate in which He lost His Kingdom and became so impoverished that He had to sell off His wife and son.

He became the slave of a Chandal (who burns corpses in the crematorium) and had to participate in collecting clothes from the dead bodies. But He never lost His integrity and pious nature.

After years of living such a life, in a state of despair, not knowing where life was taking Him, Harishchandra was overwhelmed by sorrow and worry. He wanted to be free from the terrible life He was forced to live. Once a great Sage happened to pass by and Harishchandra took the opportunity to tell the respected Sage His story and asked Him what He can do to get out of the unbearable life He was suffering. The Sage was none other than the great Gautam Muni, who was moved by the story of King Harishchandra.

Gautam Muni compassionately told Harishchandra to observe fast on the Annada/Aja Ekadashi which falls in the month of Bhadrapada(Bhadra) with sincerity, which will absolve His sins and relieve Him from poverty.

Harishchandra took the advice of Gautam Muni and followed the Aja or Annada Ekadashi Vrat with dedication and devotion. All His sins were dissolved after the observance of Vrat. He won back His Kingdom and got back His wife and son, who had actually died but were brought back to life. Due to the merits of the Annada Ekadashi Vrat King



Important information

Aja Ekadashi 2023

Sunday, 10 September 2023

Ekadashi date starts : 09 September 2023 at 07:18 PM

Ekadashi date ends : 10 September 2023 at 09:28 PM

Harishchandra, once again could live a happy life.

FASTING PROCEDURE

The Annada Ekadashi Vrat Vidhi are to be followed meticulously.

- Aja or Annada Ekadashi Vrat starts on the morning of Ekadashi and the Sankalp(intention) of observing the Vrat(fast) should be taken after having bath early in the morning, preferably before sunrise.
- Invoke and worship Lord Hrisikesha/Vishnu.
- Beans and grains are prohibited to eat on Ekadashi for devotees who are fasting by eating one meal on Ekadashi.
- Non vegetarian food, onion, garlic is strictly not allowed on Ekadashi and Dwadashi. Drinking alcohol, smoking, using drugs, tobacco, other addictions and sex are prohibited on the two days.
- Sleeping during the day or night during Ekadashi Vrat is disallowed. The devotee should chant/sing praises of Lord Vishnu/Krishna, chant the Vishnu Sahasranama, read the Bhagawat Geeta and other holy books through the day and night.
- Talking/thinking ill of others or self, gossiping, does not give the desired outcome of the Ekadashi Vrat.
- Maintain calmness, avoid anger/aggression for the best outcome of observing the Annada/Aja Vrat.
- Distribute the Prasad to family members and as many people as possible on Dwadashi.
- Devotees who observe fast should not eat food in other people's house on the day after Ekadashi.
- The next morning give charity to Brahmanas respectfully ask them for forgiveness for any offence. Donating to the needy is also advised which garners Lord Vishnu's blessings.

- For people who observe Annada Ekadashi Vrat, when breaking the fast, should say the prayer - "O Pundarikaksha, O lotus-eyed Lord, now I will eat. Please shelter me".
- After the prayer the devotee should offer flowers and water at the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu and request the Lord to eat by chanting the mantra of eight-syllable, thrice: Om Namoh Narayanaya. To garner the full merits of the fast, the devotee should have water which has been offered to the Lord.
- On Dwadashi only one meal should be eaten and Honey and Urad-dal(black lentil) is not to be consumed.
- For devotees observing fast, if due to some unavoidable reason they are not able to break the fast on Dwadashi during Prana time, then drinking water to signify breaking of fast is advised. Later food can be eaten as per convenience.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

contd from page 1

G-20 summit kicks off; leaders begin deliberations on pressing challenges facing globe

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, among others.

"Following the Covid pandemic, the world faced a new challenge of trust deficit and unfortunately, the wars have further deepened this," he said while addressing the gathering at the Bharat Mandapam convention Center here.

"But we must remember that if we can defeat a pandemic like Covid, we can also win over the challenge of this trust deficit. Today, as the president of the G20, India calls upon the entire world to turn this global trust deficit into trust and confidence," Modi said.

"This is a time when age-old challenges are calling for new solutions from us. And therefore, with a human-centric approach, we have to move forward to fulfil our responsibilities," Modi said.

The prime minister told the gathering that it had become a people's G20 in India with over 200 events held in more than 60 cities.

"For all challenges, right from the upheaval in the global economy to the North-South divide, from food management to fuel and fertilizer management, from terrorism to cyber security, from health to energy and water security, we have to move towards concrete solutions, together," Modi said.

He said India's G20 presidency has become a symbol of inclusion and togetherness within and outside the country.

"It has become the people's G20 in India. Crores of Indians joined it, over 200 meetings were held in more than 60 cities of the country," Modi said. (Source: PTI)

Read related stories on p 18 & 19

INDIA bloc 'very strong', BJP in panic after bypoll results: Kejriwal

The opposition alliance tasted victory in the Ghosi Assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh, where it backed the Samajwadi Party, and in Jharkhand, where the JMM retained the Dumri assembly seat.

The BJP maintained its hold on the Bageshwar Assembly seat in Uttarakhand and Dhanpur in Tripura and wrested the Boxanagar assembly seat from the CPI(M) in the northeastern state, where the INDIA alliance parties had joined hands. The BJP lost the Dhupguri Assembly seat in West Bengal to the TMC.

The AAP is a member of the INDIA bloc that has yet to discuss and finalize a seat-sharing formula in different states to counter the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls next year. (Source: PTI)

Powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake strikes Morocco, killing nearly 600 people

Many Moroccans spent the night on the streets in

multiple cities fearful of aftershocks as a desperate mission to locate those trapped in the rubble got underway. Health authorities also called on people to donate blood to help victims.

Most deaths occurred in mountain areas that were hard to reach, authorities said, and rescue teams were having difficulties reaching the worst affected areas after roads were damaged, state-run TV Al Aoula reported.

The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces warned that residents to pay close attention to follow up tremors.

"We remind you of the need to exercise caution and take safety measures due to the risk of aftershocks," the military wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The USGS said Friday night's quake was unusually strong for that part of Morocco.

"Earthquakes of this size in the region are uncommon, but not unexpected. Since 1900, there have been no earthquakes M6 (magnitude 6) and larger within 500 km of this earthquake, and only 9 M5 (magnitude 5) and larger earthquakes," USGS said.

The US body predicted that "significant damage is likely and the disaster is potentially widespread", noting that many people in the area reside in structures that are "highly vulnerable to earthquake shaking".

Al-Aoula television on Saturday showed multiple buildings collapsed near the epicenter and reported that thousands of people had fled their homes after the country's National Institute of Geophysics warned of aftershocks.

Most houses in the mountain village of Asni near the epicenter were damaged, Montasir Itri, a local resident, told Reuters.

"Our neighbors are under the rubble and people are working hard to rescue them using available means in the village," he said.

Tremors were also felt further west near Taroudant, where a resident said he had fled his home and there had been aftershocks following the initial quake, according to Reuters.

"The earth shook for about 20 seconds. Doors opened and shut by themselves as I rushed downstairs from the second floor," teacher Hamid Afkar told Reuters.

In the old city of Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage site, some houses have collapsed and people were moving debris by hand while they waited for heavy equipment, local resident Id Waaziz Hassan told Reuters news agency.

Another Marrakech resident, Brahim Himmi, told Reuters he saw ambulances coming out of the old town and that many building facades were damaged. He said people were frightened and were staying outside in case of another quake.

"The chandelier fell from the ceiling and I ran out. I'm still on the road with my children and we're scared," Houda Hafsi, a 43-year-old Marrakech resident, told Reuters.

A former imperial city with a history that dates back nearly 1,000 years, Marrakech is tightly packed with medieval-era palaces, mosques, gardens and bustling markets. Its old city center is surrounded by red earth walls and filled with buildings constructed in red sandstone, which gave the city its nickname the "red



city."

The walls were first laid out in the early 12th century and some of the ramparts were damaged in the quake, Al Aoula TV reported.

Before the Covid pandemic, Marrakech drew nearly three million tourists in 2019.

In addition to its rich culture and history, Marrakech is also Morocco's fourth largest city and a major economic center.

SGPC to set up press in US to print 'holy saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib

SGPC decision to print the holy Saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the US. He has suggested that the SGPC set up religious preaching centers at all places with large population of the Sikhs. He has also recommended free distribution of literature on Sikhism in the local languages all over the world.

Harcharan Singh Gulati, General Secretary of Gurdwara Nanak Darbar in Hicksville said while the decision to print the holy saroops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the US is welcome, it is equally important that there is a sustained effort at carrying the message of the Sikh Gurus to the younger generation of the Sikhs, and also propagate the Sikh values among other communities.

The executive termed the printing of voter forms only in Hindi for the HSGMC elections as a move to ignore Punjabi by the Khattar government. Slamming the 'discriminatory' move, Dhami said Punjabi was the second language in Haryana and even officials engaged to conduct the poll were not conversant with Punjabi. (With inputs from TNS)

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Reserve day for Indo-Pak clash

In view of the prevailing weather conditions, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) today decided to add a reserve day for the Super 4 match between India and Pakistan, scheduled for Sunday.

The group match between the arch-rivals had to be called off due to rain after the end of India's innings.

However, there will not be a reserve day for any of the other Super 4 matches. The Asia Cup final, to be played on September 17, already has been provided with a reserve day. Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood and his Bangladesh counterpart Chandika Hathurasingha expressed displeasure over the unilateral decision.

"There is a technical committee represented by every participating country," Hathurasingha said. "They might have decided it for some other reason. It is not ideal, and we also would have liked to have an extra day. But I don't have any more comment on this because they have already made a decision and had they consulted us earlier we would have given our opinion," he added.

Silverwood said he was surprised by the decision. "I was a little surprised. But we don't organise the competition, so we can't do a whole lot about it," he added.

Gavaskar questions venue selection

Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar has questioned the decision to not shift the Asia Cup Super 4 matches from Colombo to Hambantota. With heavy rains predicted in Colombo through the week, there were talks of shifting matches to Hambantota but the ACC has stuck to its original itinerary. "Somebody should find the real story. ...it was probably the players who didn't want to go to Hambantota. So, the administrators had to change it from Hambantota to Colombo despite knowing Colombo could have pretty dicey weather," Gavaskar said.

India announces 15-member squad for cricket World Cup

Wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, whose fitness is under the scanner, was on September 5 named in India's 15-member World Cup squad as the selectors drafted in seven batters and four all-rounders for the tournament.

Rahul has been out of action for months due to a hamstring injury. He is part of the ongoing Asia Cup but is yet to feature in a match. His comeback was delayed due to a niggle he suffered ahead of Asia Cup.

"There were a couple of fitness issues we had but all three players have come back. KL is looking good. We feel this squad gives us the best balance for this World Cup," chief selector Ajit Agarkar said.

"KL looked really good there but picked up a niggle just before the Asia Cup. He has got over it. He is an important player for us and we are happy to have him."

Hardik Pandya was named vice captain of the squad.

Pacer Prasidh Krishna and left-handed rookie Tilak Varma, who are part of the Asia Cup squad, could not make the cut.

The marquee ICC tournament will begin on October 5 with a clash between England and New Zealand in Ahmedabad.

India play their first match against Australia on October 8 in Chennai.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya (vice captain), Suryakumar Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav.

Asia Cup: KL Rahul keeps wickets at nets ahead of Pakistan clash

COLOMBO (TIP)

Can KL Rahul keep wickets for the entire duration of an ODI? That question has gathered steam after his inclusion in the India squad for ongoing Asia Cup and the upcoming World Cup.

But on Friday, September 8, Rahul might have answered a few sceptics while keeping for nearly 45 minutes at nets.

Even though Rahul has been batting quite fluently at the NCA match simulation process and at nets here, his wicketkeeping remained a subject of speculation.

Rahul's intense keeping drill at nets might have also brightened his chance of getting included in India's playing 11 for the Super 4 match against Pakistan on Sunday.

Rahul last played for India in an ODI match against Australia in Chennai in March this year.

Going through various scenarios of a match was at the core of Rahul's training at the Premadasa Stadium on Friday.

The training started with Rahul standing up to the stumps as two support staff members did the duties of batter and bowler, a simulation of keeping to spinners.

Rahul was given a test on collecting the ball outside off-stump, and the 31-year-old also managed to crouch for the entire duration of training without much discomfort.

It might have given the team management a vivid portend about Rahul's recovery from a niggle which was independent of the right thigh injury that mandated a surgery and rehabilitation.

Rahul soon shifted his focus to collecting the ball down the leg-side as the support staff aimed his throws in that direction.

Rahul aced the test without much difficulty, and glided down the leg to



collect the balls.

The drill followed an assessment to test his ability to affect stumpings, and later Kuldeep Yadav batted as Rahul's readiness to keep against a left-handed batter was also put under the test.

The clear indications of his readiness notwithstanding, the team management will have to apply deep thoughts about giving Rahul a place in the 11.

In the absence of Rahul, Ishan Kishan has been playing the wicket-keeper batter role.

Kishan made four half-centuries in as many matches – 3 against the West Indies and one against Pakistan, to impress all.

The Jharkhand left-hander also showed heartening adaptability in this interim. Kishan batted in his preferred opening slot against the Windies.

But the management asked him to bat at No. 5 against Pakistan in the

Asia Cup league match, and Kishan produced a composed 81-ball 82.

The management might be tempted to continue with Kishan but the return of Rahul might have started a change in thinking.

In the past too one has seen players walking straight back into the 11 after recuperation, with the latest example being Shreyas Iyer.

The Mumbaikar, who made a return to the India side during the match against Pakistan at Pallekele after a hiatus of 6 months, was allotted the No. 4 slot, his chosen position.

Meanwhile, Sanju Samson, who was the travelling reserve, returned to India after Rahul joined the squad here.

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who skipped the Asia Cup league match against Nepal to be with his wife for the birth of their first child, too has rejoined the squad, and sweated it out at the nets. *Source: PTI*

Messi magic wins it for Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (TIP)

Once again, and now as a World Cup champion, Lionel Messi came to Argentina's rescue when the team most needed him.

The 36-year-old captain scored from a free-kick in the 78th minute to give Argentina a 1-0 win against Ecuador in the first round of the South American World Cup qualifying on Thursday, September 7.

It was Messi's 104th goal in 176 international appearances, including his 29th in World Cup qualifying. Those 29 goals equal the record of Luis Suarez of Uruguay.

"Every match needs 100% from us in this qualifying," Messi said after the match. "This was a tough match to play, a very physical one."

Dutch blitz sinks Greece

Three first-half goals secured Netherlands a comfortable 3-0 win over Greece in a European Championship qualifier on Thursday.

Marten de Roon, Cody Gakpo and Wout Weghorst scored as the Dutch won their second match in Group B, showing much improvement after crashing out of the Nations League finals they hosted in June. They now have six points, ahead of Greece on goal difference,



behind leaders France who have won five out of five.

France took a giant stride towards the Euro 2024 finals as they maintained their perfect qualifying record with a 2-0 home victory over Ireland.

Playing at the Parc des Princes to preserve the Stade de France pitch for the Rugby World Cup opener between France and New Zealand, Les Bleus prevailed thanks to goals by Aurelien Tchouameni and Marcus Thuram in a one-sided match.



US Open: Sabalenka's comeback sets up final against Gauff

A three-set defeat after serving an opening-set bagel can be a sour outcome to digest, as Madison Keys would've felt after losing her US Open semi-final to Aryna Sabalenka with an astonishing 6-0, 6-7(1), 6-7(5-10) scoreline.

Sabalenka would know, having been through the rare reversal herself in February at a WTA event in Dubai. Turning up for her first tournament since becoming a Grand Slam champion at the Australian Open, Sabalenka imploded in a 6-0, 6-7(2), 1-6 quarter-final loss to Barbora Krejčíková.

The big-hitting Belarusian has been prone to such mid-match breakdowns, and showed signs of that on Thursday as Keys unlocked her beast mode for the first six games. Getting broken again in the third game of the second set, Sabalenka went chattering away to her box, slammed her racquet against the towel stand and flung it towards her team.

The meltdown done; it was immediately dusted. In the next game and on her third break point where Keys struck a backhand wide, Sabalenka stared at her box again, this time with an assured first bump.

That would be the start of the top-drawer turnaround from the world No. 1-in-waiting that put Sabalenka one step away from her career and season's second Slam triumph, although home favourite Coco Gauff would like one of her own on Saturday.

The Australian Open champion has been a familiar face in the semi-finals of all majors this year—the first woman to do so in a single season since Serena Williams in 2016. This was, however, only her second win from seven outings in the last-four stage of Slams. All the other five defeats came in three-setters, with Sabalenka blowing an opening-set lead in three of them.

Spain coach Jorge Vilda fired over kiss furore

Spain's football federation (RFEF) has sacked Jorge Vilda, the coach of its World Cup-winning women's team, as part of the fallout caused by the kiss on the lips on player Jenni Hermoso by its president, a source close to the matter.

A new board formed after the suspension of RFEF president Luis Rubiales by FIFA over the allegedly non-consensual kiss during the World Cup victory celebration two weeks ago has terminated Vilda's contract, the source said.

The scandal involving Rubiales has quickly spiralled into a national debate over women's rights and sexist behaviour.

Considered a close ally of Rubiales, Vilda had been under fire since last year after 15 players staged a mutiny calling for his resignation because of his inadequate coaching methods and calling for conditions to match those of the men's squad.

Most of the players involved were cut out of the squad even as some demands were met.

India beat Pakistan on penalties to win hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023

OMAN (TIP)

India beat Pakistan in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman, on September 2.

Pakistan led 3-2 at half-time but the men in blue managed to come back and level the score at 4-4 before the full-time whistle.

In the shootout, Maninder Singh and Gurjot Singh scored for India while goalkeeper Suraj Karkera saved the attempts of both players from Pakistan - Arshad Liaqat and Muhammad Murtaza.

It was a spirited start from India as it started pushing deep in Pakistan's half straightaway. But Pakistan intercepted the ball and started threatening from the left flank. Indian goalkeeper Suraj Karkera stepped up to make important saves, but Pakistan broke the resistance with Abdul Rehman (5') getting the opening goal of the match. However, Pakistan could not keep the Indian attackers quiet for too long, and Jugraj Singh (7') provided the much-needed equalizer for India. Three minutes later, India took lead as Maninder Singh (10') scored with a reverse hit from a distance. Pakistan Captain Abdul Rana (13'), and Zikriya Hayat (14') scored back-to-back late goals and the match went into halftime with Pakistan leading 3-2.



Indian hockey team after the win. Courtesy: Twitter

Trailing by a goal, India needed to deliver an urgent response in the second half, and the Mandeep Mor-led side started maintaining possession and pressing deeper in the opposition's half. But Pakistan made the most of a challenge as Arshad Liaqat (19') struck the ball into the back of the nets. Mohammed Raheel (19') gave a response straightaway to pull a goal back for India. India started attacking from all corners, leading to Pakistan making a couple of

crucial defensive errors. After receiving a long pass, Mohammed Raheel (26') dribbled past Pakistan's defence and struck the ball into the net to level the scoreline.

Hockey India announced Rs 2 Lakh for each player of the team, while Rs 1 Lakh each for the support staff.

India had already qualified for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup with its victory over Malaysia in the semifinals.

Daniil Medvedev beats Carlos Alcaraz to set up US Open 2023 final against Djokovic

NEW YORK (TIP)

Daniil Medvedev ended Carlos Alcaraz's hopes for a second-successive US Open title, as he defeated the world no.1 Spaniard 7-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a little more than three hours to enter the final of the 2023 edition. Medvedev will set up the title clash with Novak Djokovic, who beat American youngster Ben Shelton in straight sets to advance to final earlier on Saturday, September 9.

Seeded third, Medvedev had secured his first major title at the 2021 US Open, where he defeated Djokovic in the final. This victory had denied Djokovic the opportunity to achieve the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis since 1969.

Alcaraz was the defending champion at the Flushing Meadows, having defeated Norway's Casper Ruud in four sets to win his maiden Grand Slam title last year. This year, the 20-year-old Spaniard added another Slam to his cabinet, clinching the Wimbledon title in an incredible five-setter against Djokovic. Interestingly, prior to the start of the two weeks at US Open, there had been widespread anticipation of a final showdown between Djokovic and Alcaraz.

Medvedev's 2021 title at the US Open remains his only Grand Slam title to date. Additionally, this marks Medvedev's fifth major title match overall. His previous finals appearances include a loss to Rafael Nadal in New York in 2019 and defeats to Djokovic at the Australian Open in 2021 and 2022.

The 20-year-old Alcaraz, despite his many accomplishments on the tennis court, has never staged a comeback from being two sets down to win a match. Facing adversity, Alcaraz approached the third set with increased determination after being two-down,



Daniil Medvedev

securing a crucial break by executing a clever lob to establish a 3-1 lead.

This breakthrough proved to be sufficient for Alcaraz as he maintained his composure to claim the set 6-3, marking the beginning of his comeback effort.

The fourth set evolved into a test of willpower, particularly during a tense sixth game that spanned 13 minutes. In this critical moment, Medvedev secured a hard-fought break, propelling himself to a 4-2 advantage.

With a quick hold, the pressure shifted entirely onto Alcaraz, as his hopes of defending his title hung in the balance, necessitating a break to extend the match.

In a breathtaking and back-and-forth game, Alcaraz made a final stand, requiring Medvedev to fend off four match points to seal the victory.



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