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The INDIAN PANORAMA

will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition on the occasion of Diwali on November 10, 2023.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to Salujindra@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 02, 2023.



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India reiterates call for 'sovereign, independent, viable state of Palestine'

INDIA'S "LONGSTANDING AND CONSISTENT" POLICY ON PALESTINIAN STATE REMAINS UNCHANGED, SAYS MEA SPOKESPERSON

OCTOBER 12, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): India reiterated its call for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state on Thursday, October 12, with the Ministry of External Affairs saying that there was an "obligation" to uphold humanitarian principles.

"India always advocated the resumption of direct negotiations towards establishing a sovereign, independent and viable state of Palestine, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel," Mr. Arindam Bagchi said, emphasizing that India's position on Palestine has been "longstanding and consistent" and that there has been no change in that policy.

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a round of



The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated its call for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state saying that there was an "obligation" to uphold humanitarian principles. File Photo / ANI

meetings with Ministry officials to take stock of the situation.

Mr. Bagchi categorically stated that India considers last Saturday's strike against Israel a "terrorist attack". Prime Minister Narendra Modi had condemned terrorism and expressed solidarity with the Israeli people following the attack by Hamas on Saturday.

The official spokesperson said that there was a "universal obligation" to observe humanitarian law, but also emphasized the requirement to fight against international terrorism.

However, Mr. Bagchi did not give a clear answer to a journalist's question on whether India considers Hamas a terror organization. Saying that such a determination was the responsibility of

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House speakership stalled as Steve Scalise announces he's withdrawing from the race



U.S. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, talks to reporters as he announces he is ending his campaign to be the next House speaker after a Republican meeting at the Capitol in Washington, on October 12, 2023.

Screen Grab / CBS News

OCTOBER 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Representative Steve Scalise, the Louisiana Republican who Republicans nominated to be the next speaker of the House of Representatives, dropped out of the race on Thursday, October 12, as the

CONTD ON PAGE 42

Worldwide condemnation of move to prosecute Arundhati Roy



Delhi Lieutenant-Governor's decision to allow Delhi Police to prosecute writer Arundhati Roy has been widely condemned.

File Photo Credit / Thulasi Kakkat

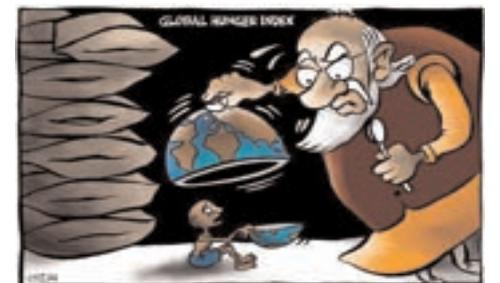
OCTOBER 12, 2023

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) on Thursday, October 12, condemned the decision of Delhi Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Vinay Kumar Saxena to allow Delhi Police to prosecute writer Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a former Professor of International Law at the Central University of Kashmir, in a 2010

case. Urging that the prosecution against Ms. Roy and Dr. Hussain be withdrawn with immediate effect, PUCL leaders Kavita Srivastava and V. Suresh said in a statement that Ms. Roy was being prosecuted for "worrying the edges of the human Imagination" for writing as if "the only thing worth globalizing is dissent" and believing that dissent is "India's best export".

CONTD ON PAGE 42

India ranks 111th on Global Hunger Index 2023; govt calls it flawed measure that doesn't reflect true position



India has disputed the ranking in Global Hunger Index, alleging the index suffers from methodological issues and shows malafide intent. Illustration : Courtesy Uttam Ghosh/Rediff.com

OCTOBER 12, 2023

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): India has rejected the 2023 Global Hunger Index in which the country ranked 111th, calling it a flawed measure of "hunger" that does not reflect the country's true position.

CONTD ON PAGE 42

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Lord Raj Loomba CBE Visits Eye Foundation of America -run Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry



Lord Raj Loomba and Lady Veena Loomba, accompanied by Deepak Dwivedi and Sandeep Saxena with Dr. V.K. Raju, Mr. Kumar and the Institute staff at the Goutami Eye Institute

OCTOBER 11, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Lord Raj Loomba CBE (Commander of the Order of British Empire) & Lady Veena Loomba visited Goutami Eye Institute Rajahmundry, a premier eye institute run by the Eye Foundation of America.

London based Lord Raj Loomba is Founder and Chairman of the Loomba Foundation, a UN accredited global charitable organization, which promotes the fundamental freedoms and human rights of widows and their children around the world.

Dr. V. K. Raju, an eminent ophthalmologist based in West Virginia, USA, who is the chairman of the Goutami Institute explained to the visitors that the

main thrust of the Institute was to provide eyecare to the less privileged, and mainly children. In fact, Dr. Raju said he was passionately committed to work for a world without childhood blindness.

Dr. Kumar, who is the head of the Institute, told the visitors that the Institute not only examined patients but also provided them the treatment and even spectacles free of cost.

Lord and Lady Loomba were deeply impressed to see for themselves the humanitarian work being undertaken by the Institute.

The couple was accompanied by, among others, Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman and Chief Editor, The Blitz and Sandeep Saxena, the editor.

Pro-Israel and Pro-Palestine groups hold demonstrations in New York City



Pro-Israel and Pro-Palestine groups hold demonstrations in New York City

October 11, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The City of New York appeared to be sharply divided between pro-Palestine and pro-Israel groups. The center of the New York City, Times Square, witnessed on October 8, demonstrations by the two

sides. Tensions did build up but the NYPD succeeded in segregating the groups with effective barricading in place. NYPD has, meanwhile, stated that there are no credible threats to New York City. However, the NYPD is on alert.



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Indian American NASA scientist Aroh Barjatya to lead rocket mission into 2023 solar eclipse

OCTOBER 5, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): An Indian-origin scientist at NASA is helming a mission that aims to launch three rockets during the 2023 annular eclipse on October 14.

The mission, known as Atmospheric Perturbations around the Eclipse Path or APEP, is led by Aroh Barjatya, will study how the sudden drop in sunlight affects our upper atmosphere, the space agency has said.

On October 14, people viewing the annular solar eclipse will experience the sun dimming to 10 per cent its normal brightness, leaving only a bright "ring of fire" of sunlight as the moon eclipses the sun.

Some 50 miles up and beyond, the air itself becomes electric. Scientists call this atmospheric layer the ionosphere because it is where the UV component of sunlight can pry electrons away from atoms to form a sea of high-flying ions and electrons.

The sun's constant energy keeps these mutually attracted particles separated throughout the day. But as the sun dips below the horizon, many recombine into neutral atoms for the night, only to part ways again at sunrise.

During a solar eclipse, the sunlight vanishes and reappears over a small part of the landscape almost at once. In a flash,



Aroh Barjatya will lead rocket mission into 2023 solar eclipse

ionospheric temperature and density drop, then rise again, sending waves rippling through the ionosphere.

"If you think of the ionosphere as a pond with some gentle ripples on it, the eclipse is like a motorboat that suddenly rips through the water," said Barjatya, a professor of engineering physics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida.

"It creates a wake immediately underneath and behind it, and then the water level momentarily goes up as it rushes back in."



multiple locations in the ionosphere during a solar eclipse.

Barjatya chose the team's science questions because they can pinpoint and measure specific regions of space with high fidelity. They can also measure changes that happen at different altitudes as the suborbital rocket ascends and falls back to Earth.

The APEP rockets will take measurements between 70 to 325 kilometers) above the ground along their trajectory.

In addition, a ground-based observation will collect ionospheric density and neutral wind measurements. A team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Haystack Observatory in Westford, will run their radar to measure ionospheric perturbations farther away from the eclipse path.

Finally, a team of students from Embry-Riddle will deploy high-altitude balloons (reaching 100,000 feet) every 20 minutes to measure weather changes as the eclipse passes by.

The APEP rockets launched in New Mexico will be recovered and then relaunched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, on April 8, 2024, when a total solar eclipse will cross the US from Texas to Maine. (Source: IANS)

Indian American advocate Sapna Khatri to lead Massachusetts Reproductive Justice Unit

OCTOBER 4, 2023

BOSTON (TIP): Indian American abortion rights activist Sapna Khatri has been named to lead Massachusetts' Reproductive Justice Unit, a new unit established under state Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.

The Unit will focus on ensuring that Massachusetts is a national leader on reproductive justice by expanding and protecting access to reproductive and gender-affirming care, Campbell announced in Boston on Oct 2.

It would do so by "addressing disparities in maternal health, tackling misinformation and disinformation that prevents access to care, working across state lines to respond to national attacks on reproductive health care, and championing and defending Massachusetts' strong legal protections for reproductive rights."

"We must meet the escalating anti-science, extremist attacks on our basic right to bodily autonomy with bold and comprehensive action," said Campbell. "I am proud to launch the Reproductive Justice Unit and name Sapna as Director. I am confident that, under her leadership, Massachusetts will be a north star in showing just what is



Sapna Khatri has been named to lead Massachusetts' Reproductive Justice Unit

possible when people are free to make decisions for themselves about their bodies, lives, families, and futures with dignity and respect."

"I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to serve as Director of AG Campbell's Reproductive Justice Unit, a unit whose mission is not only one I care deeply about, but is critical in our fight for reproductive justice nationwide," said Khatri.

"I look forward to using my experience as a reproductive justice advocate to help AG Campbell lead this fight and collaborate with community organizations, health care providers, and legal experts across the Commonwealth."

Prior to being named Director of the AG's Reproductive Justice Unit, Khatri worked extensively in the areas of reproductive justice and privacy.

Most recently, between 2021 and 2023, Khatri worked as a Sears Clinical Teaching Fellow at the University of California Los Angeles, where she launched the school's inaugural Reproductive Justice Externship Program.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

British-Sikh man, Jaswant Singh Chail, jailed for 9 years over assassination attempt on Queen Elizabeth II



Jaswant Singh Chail claimed he wanted to "assassinate" the late monarch as revenge for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar

OCTOBER 5, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A British Sikh crossbow-armed intruder who pleaded guilty to committing treason after telling royal guards at Windsor Castle on Christmas Day 2021 that he was there to kill Queen Elizabeth II was sentenced to nine years imprisonment by a UK court on Thursday, October 5.

Jaswant Singh Chail, 21, who claimed he wanted to "assassinate" the late monarch as revenge for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar according to a social media video that emerged soon after his arrest, has been handed a "hybrid" sentence order to take into account his mental health issues.

During a televised sentencing hearing at the Old Bailey court in London, Justice Nicholas Hilliard ruled that Chail must remain at Broadmoor

Hospital, a high-security psychiatric hospital in Berkshire until he is considered fit to be transferred into custody.

"The act was conceived in 2021 when he was not psychotic and he went on to become psychotic by a process," the judge noted as he stated his reasoning behind the sentencing order.

He concluded that Chail had ultimately acted upon his "homicidal thoughts" and therefore posed a threat of "serious harm" to the public, which necessitated a custodial order.

The court heard how it was during a family visit to Amritsar in 2018 that he learnt more about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and decided to "give his life purpose" by avenging the killings by assassinating the British monarch at the time, who passed away aged 96 in September 2022.

Last month during his trial it emerged that Chail had written a letter to express his "distress and sadness" as an apology to the royal family and King Charles III.

According to court reports from the hearing, Chail's "strong family unit" includes his father, a software consultant working in aerospace, his mother, a special needs teacher, and his twin sister, a university student. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American 17-year-old inventor honored by First Lady Jill Biden for leading community improvement

OCTOBER 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Teenage Indian American inventor Gitanjali Rao was honored by US First Lady Jill Biden, along with 14 other young women leaders, for leading a change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the nation.

The 17-year-old scientist was honored on Wednesday in the first-ever "Girls Leading Change" celebration at the White House, marking the International Day of the Girl.

The 15 young women leaders, selected by the White House Gender Policy Council, were honored by First Lady Jill to recognize their impact on their communities.

"It is my honor to celebrate this exceptional group of "Girls Leading Change" at the White House," she was quoted as saying in a White House press release.

"These young women are protecting and preserving the earth, writing and sharing stories that change minds, and turning their pain into purpose. Together, they represent the potential of young people across the country, and it is my hope that others can learn from the power of their innovation, strength, and hope," she said.

Rao, from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, is a scientist whose groundbreaking lead contamination detection tool won her an



Gitanjali Rao was honored along with 14 other young women leaders for leading a change and shaping a brighter future in their communities across the nation.

EPA Presidential Award and America's Top Young Scientist by Discovery Education/3M.

Her book "Young Innovator's Guide to STEM", which offers a prescriptive five-step innovation process, is used as a STEM curriculum globally in selected schools, according to the release.

Named the Time Magazine's first-ever Kid of the Year in 2020, Rao "is committed to not only continuing her career as a scientist and inventor but expanding her STEM education initiative, which has already touched more than 80,000 elementary, middle, and high school students," the release said.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology freshman, she has also been featured in Forbes' list of 30 Under 30 achievers.

Indian American Aparna Chennapragada joins Microsoft as corporate VP

OCTOBER 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Aparna Chennapragada, a former Indian American Google and Robinhood executive, has joined Microsoft as the corporate vice president where she will be working on generative media artificial intelligence products and technology.

"With generative AI, there is an opportunity to build products that instantly and easily bring your intent and imagination to life," she posted on the professional networking website LinkedIn.

"That's why I am super excited to share that I am joining Microsoft as Corporate VP leading efforts on AI-first creation experiences, across Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Designer," she wrote.

"I've always thrived on building and scaling products that combine deep foundational technology and intuitive user experience to solve customer problems," Chennapragada wrote. "I'm looking forward to diving in and putting AI to use to unleash our collective creativity."



Aparna Chennapragada has joined Microsoft as the corporate vice president where she will be working on generative media artificial intelligence products and technology

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella welcomed Chennapragada, who has previously worked with companies like Robinhood, Google, Akamai, and Oracle.

In her last job, she was the chief product officer of the American stock trading platform Robinhood, a post where she served for a little over a year.

Chennapragada is also a board member of eBay. She has been an active investor and last year she invested in online taxation and fintech software provider Clear (formerly ClearTax).

She received her BTech in Computer Science from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras; a master's in computer science from the University of Texas, Austin; and another master's in management and engineering from MIT, as per her LinkedIn profile.

In the last few months, Microsoft has undergone rejig in its top management, according to TechCircle.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Security situation shows importance of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam': Speakers tell UN



Inauguration of the Conference with lighting of the lamp



President of the United Nations General Assembly Dennis Francis, said that the concept of one world, one family aligns well with the principles of solidarity and unity, which were also highlighted in his remarks to world leaders during the high-level UNGA session last month.

OCTOBER 10, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The deteriorating security situation around the world, including the escalating violence in the Middle East, runs contrary to the concept of one world, one family, and the current times of division and distrust underscore the importance of India's philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', eminent speakers have said.

Delivering the keynote address at the International Conference on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' at the UN headquarters on Tuesday, the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, said that the philosophy cannot be seen as a standalone doctrinal approach of India, but it is inherent to the country's world view.

"It is historic that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is being discussed where it requires to be discussed. And the times are also such that we need to discuss this. In fact, there is perhaps no better way to articulate the organizational mission of the United Nations than Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," he said at the conference organized by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN along with the ICCR.

India's G20 Presidency for the year 2023 adopted the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth - One Family - One Future", signifying India's commitment to effectively fostering unity and collaboration in addressing global challenges.

Commending India on the theme of the conference, President of the 78th session of

the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, said that the concept of one world, one family aligns well with the principles of solidarity and unity, which were also highlighted in his remarks to world leaders during the high-level UNGA session last month.

"Little did I know, just weeks ago, that the challenges we face would become even more striking in the weeks to follow," Francis said.

"I have spoken clearly in condemning the escalation of violence in the Middle East and the associated alarming deaths of innocent civilians on both sides," he said, referring to the escalating conflict in the Middle East after Palestinian militant group Hamas carried out one of the most audacious and deadliest attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip over the weekend.

Following the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that his country was "at war".

"Clearly, the deteriorating security situation runs contrary - in any shape and form - to the concept of one world, one family, and indeed, to the cherished principles of unity and solidarity. Where we need more peace, we are getting less," Francis said.

He added that in times like these - of great alarm and distress - "we often find it within ourselves to come together, whether out of the need for solidarity or for solace, or both.

"It is entirely human to seek out community for support. I therefore deeply appreciate the leadership of India in reminding us of this important truth," he said.

"India's recent G20 Presidency, centered around the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', marked a historic milestone and echoed the message of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. It was under this theme that India has reminded us of the one, very singular, world that we call home - and of our responsibility - nay, of the necessity - to protect it," Francis said.

He emphasized that the message India is "sending us today" is that big or small, Indian or Pacific, North or South, "we are all facing the reality of multiple existential threats together - and only together will we persevere. And maybe preserve."

Sahasrabudhe underscored that the idea of nationalism in India was never about narrow-mindedness. He added that within the global community, India has also been trying to provide leadership to developing countries in diverse spheres through multiple ways.

"It was natural for India to try and give voice to the voiceless, whether to the most developing countries, smaller countries, or countries that are generally considered as invisible since they belong to the global south," he said.

"Not just in the past but even in the contemporary world, India has been playing its role strictly without sounding condescending or obliging. We consider it as our duty," he said.

In her opening remarks, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, said that from the sacred Vedas and

Upanishads, the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has travelled through millennia, reminding people that beneath the apparent divisions of nationality, religion, and culture, "we all share the same human essence. Our fates are intertwined, our dreams interlinked, and our challenges interconnected."

From India's G20 Presidency and Vaccine Maitri initiative to humanitarian assistance and yoga, Kamboj highlighted how the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has been enshrined in India's domestic and foreign policies over the years.

The G20 summit showcased "India's commitment to fostering a sense of global togetherness. Our leadership, marked by inclusivity and collaboration, saw the participation of 20 member states, nine invitee nations, and 14 international organizations," she said.

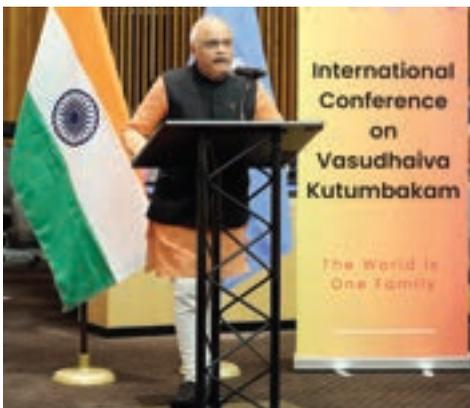
"What is more, it witnessed the historic inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member, amplifying the voices of nations often left unheard," Kamboj added.

Kamboj emphasized that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is more than a lofty ideal. "It is a call to action, urging us to recognize our shared destiny, to come together in the face of adversity, and to build a world where every individual, no matter where they come from, is treated as part of this grand, global family."

She noted that universal kinship could be realized by fostering understanding and empathy in a world fraught with division and distrust.

"Let us educate our young about diverse cultures, promote cross-cultural dialogues, and celebrate our shared humanity. Let us focus on our shared dreams and values rather than the differences that divide us," she said.

The conference, attended by prominent scholars, leaders, diplomats, and UN Ambassadors, included two panel discussions on 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and international peacekeeping forces and climate change. It was attended by speakers, including former union minister Suresh Prabhu, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix, former Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Vijay Nambiar, as well as UN envoys from various nations.



Delivering the keynote address the President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, said that the philosophy cannot be seen as a standalone doctrinal approach of India, but it is inherent to the country's world view.



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All photos / Mohammed Jaffer Snapsindia

(Source: PTI)

Indo American Press Club (IACP) honors Meera Gandhi, CEO and founder of the Giving Back Foundation

OTHERS HONORED INCLUDE VINAY MAHAJAN, DR. H.R. SHAH, DR. SAMPAT SHIVANGI, SHAJAN SKARIAH, AND DR. RENU ABRAHAM VARUGHESE

OCTOBER 10, 2023

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): Indo American Press Club (IACP) honored Meera Gandhi, the CEO and founder of the Giving Back Foundation, at an event held in Stamford, Connecticut on October 8th. Gandhi was presented with the prestigious Lifetime Humanitarian Award, recognizing her outstanding contributions to society and her unwavering dedication to philanthropy.

In addition to receiving this esteemed accolade, Meera Gandhi graced the occasion as the keynote speaker, captivating the audience with her inspiring words and visionary insights. Her profound commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others has earned her this well-deserved recognition.

The Indo American Press Club commends Meera Gandhi for her exceptional humanitarian efforts and her continuous pursuit of creating a better world for all. The event was a testament to her remarkable work and served as an inspiration to all attendees....photos Mohammed Jaffer /Snapsindia

Media Seminars, Workshops, Motivational Sessions, Awards Gala Dinner, Musical/Cultural Program by Hedge Group with renowned artist from India and the United States, and Networking were the key highlights of the 9th annual International Media Conference organized by the Indo-American Press Club (IACP) at the Hilton Stamford Convention Center in Stamford, CT from October 7th to 9th, 2023.

The theme for this year's conference was "Bridging



Dr. Thomas Abraham honored Meera Gandhi with Philanthropy Award. Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-snapsindia

Borders: Media's Role in a Globalized World," a topic that holds immense significance in today's interconnected and rapidly changing world. Dozens of media persons from the United States, Canada and India participated at the power packed conference which included workshops and panel discussions on social media influencing and defamation laws and a

motivational talk by a corporate trainer on 'Emotional Intelligence: How to Become a Success Magnet.'

In his inaugural address, Kamlesh Mehta, Chairman of IACP said, "It is an absolute honor to stand before you as the Chairman of this prestigious organization. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to address this gathering of media professionals, journalists, and distinguished guests. The Indo-American Press Club has always been at the forefront of promoting cultural exchange, fostering dialogue, and encouraging collaboration between India and the United States. This conference embodies our commitment to these ideals."

The inaugural ceremony began with a welcome speech by IACP General Secretary C G Daniel and was followed by the lighting of the lamp by IACP leaders and local Chapter leaders. Ginsmon Zachariah, founder chairman of IAPOC administered the oath of office to a dozen new members, who joined IACP as its new members, the first day of the conference came to a close with a colorful and thrillingly enjoyable musical and dance extravaganza presented by RHYTHM 2023, led by Anna Prasad, Aishwarya Devan, Vidya Vinu Mohan, Abhijith, Kalpana (Choreographer) George (Keyboard) and Sunitha- Dance Co Ordinator. Jacob Abraham from the popular Hedge Funds Entertainment hosted the evening cultural show. The inaugural event on the first day ended with the Vote of Thanks proposed by IACP Treasurer, Joji Kavanal.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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PARLIAMENT HAS COMMITTED AN EGREGIOUS FOLLY IN FUSING WOMEN'S RESERVATION WITH DELIMITATION



BY KALEESWARAM RAJ

"A CENSUS TO UNDERSTAND THE POPULATION OF WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESERVATION IS ALSO UNWARRANTED. THE CRITERIA, PROCESS AND PURPOSE OF THE WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL ARE QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE DELIMITATION EXERCISE. AND, RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN LOCAL BODIES, WHICH MATERIALIZED THROUGH THE 73RD AND 74TH AMENDMENT ACTS OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND CAME INTO EFFECT IN 1993, WAS NOT CONTINGENT ON ANY DELIMITATION EXERCISE FOR THAT PURPOSE. PARLIAMENT, HOWEVER, HAS LOST SIGHT OF THESE ASPECTS."

The celebration of the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill by both Houses of Parliament glosses over certain realities about this conditional legislation. The conduct of a census in the country followed by a delimitation of constituencies based on this census are the conditions for this legislation to take effect. Once it is accepted that reservation for women in legislative bodies is a progressive measure, there is no legal or political justification to prolong its implementation.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah justified these conditions saying that there could be legal challenges against the legislation if it is passed without relying on criteria fixed by way of a process of delimitation.

No doubt, a legislation should be based



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in group photograph with Union Minister Smriti Irani and women MPs after the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (women's reservation bill) by the Rajya Sabha in the special session of the Parliament on September 21, 2023. Photo Credit / PTI

on a solid foundation, and have valid reasons for existence.

In the case of the Women's Reservation Law, the reality is that about half of the population are women and they are under-represented in Parliament and State legislative bodies. Reports show that, of the maximum allowed 550 seats in the Lok Sabha, only 82, i.e., 15% are represented by women, and out of the 250 members in the Rajya Sabha, only 31, i.e., 12% are women. The Global Gender Gap Report places this in a macroscopic context by showing that India ranks 141 out of 185 in its list.

CONTENTIOUS ISSUE

Article 81 (2) (a) of the Constitution states that the number of seats in the Lok Sabha for a State should have a correlation with the population of the State and "so far as practicable", the criteria should be the same for all States. Article 170, concerning the legislative Assemblies of States, also takes population as the basis for designing constituencies.

However, delimitation in India is a contentious issue. It acts as an incentive for population expansion with scant regard to development and family planning. This was why a full-fledged delimitation was kept in abeyance in India since 1976. It is now expected to be carried out after the Census which will only be held by 2026 at the earliest.

But, as scholar Nilakantan R.S. predicts, this "demographic detonation" will cause "another big fork in the future allocation of political power and associated resources between the north and south". In his book *South vs North* (2022), Mr. Nilakantan has demonstrated how South India has performed well in

sectors such as health, education, economy etc. in comparison to the North.

South Indian States reduced their population by scientific means whereas North Indian States in general and States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in particular have failed to do so. The South Indian States have raised concerns about this proposed delimitation. This could lead to two outcomes: the delimitation would get prolonged by years which in turn will defer the materialization of the women's quota law, or it might happen based on population which in turn could translate to undue advantages for certain States in the North.

These are situations that the relevant provisions in the Constitution, namely Articles 81 and 170, failed to foresee. Thus, Parliament has committed an egregious folly in fusing women's reservation with delimitation.

Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution deal with the reservation of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly of States respectively. Though these Articles mention the relationship between reservation and the population of the SC and ST groups, such a parameter is irrelevant to women's quota. That their share in the total population is almost 50% is undisputed. Further, there cannot be a drastic variation in their population from one constituency to the other, as it could happen with SC or ST.

UNWARRANTED CONDITIONS

A census to understand the population of women for the purpose of reservation is also unwarranted. The criteria, process and purpose of the Women's Reservation Bill are qualitatively

different from those of the delimitation exercise. And, reservation for women in local bodies, which materialized through the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts of the Constitution, and came into effect in 1993, was not contingent on any delimitation exercise for that purpose. Parliament, however, has lost sight of these aspects.

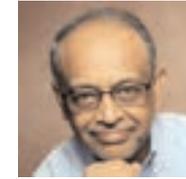
How far a constitutional Amendment can be done by way of contingent legislation is an issue too, as certainty is regarded as one of the hallmarks of modern constitutions. In *Hamdard Dawakhana vs Union of India* (1959), the Supreme Court hinted that in conditional legislations, for the statute to take effect, there could be a further dependence on the executive or even on the legislature of the future day, among other things.

Such enactments might be needed on various occasions for multiple reasons. But, by amalgamating the demand for women's reservation with the uncertainty of a future delimitation process, that too in the case of a constitutional amendment, Parliament has made populist rhetoric at best or committed a constitutional blunder at worst. The secrecy maintained on the subject till the commencement of the special session was also thoroughly undemocratic, which in turn, prevented the exposure of the follies of the legislation.

Therefore, with regard to the future of the women's quota in the legislature, one can only have the pessimism of the intelligence and optimism of the will, as Antonio Gramsci famously put it, in a different context.

(The author is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India)

It is time for the U.S. to impose a solution to the Middle East crisis



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

It is high time for the United States to intervene forcefully and guarantee the security of the state of Israel while assuring self-determination and sovereignty to the people of Palestine where they could live in peace and with dignity. It is also time for American politicians to stop shuddering before vested interests and stand up for what is morally right and conducive to lasting peace in the Middle East. Whether the U.S. will ever have another courageous leader like Dwight Eisenhower to do the right thing would be the most challenging question of the day.

As the conflict in the Middle East involving Israel and Palestinians unfolds, the world is witnessing a story of barbarism, cruelty, and untold sufferings of innocent people who are caught in the web of political maneuvering and calamitous aftermath. There is little doubt that this massive incursion and massacre of hundreds of civilians have shocked the world, especially considering the capabilities of the Israeli Defense Forces and their world-renowned efficiency of the Intelligence services known as Mossad. It would be challenging to convince skeptics that Mossad and the CIA missed these extensive preparations by Hamas prior to launching the attack, which has killed over 700 Israelis and shattered their invincibility in dealing with these radical extremist groups.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, was in the midst of a political storm in Israel due to the changes he wanted to incorporate into the Judicial process. The Judiciary has proven to be a problem for him as he faced corruption and fraud charges. Israel has been mired in months of protests and uncertainty because of Netanyahu's penchant for overhauling the judicial system in an apparent effort to circumvent his own legal problems. Although the Knesset has passed the bill despite the widespread opposition and protests, Netanyahu's coalition government faced an uncertain future. The opponents claim that the ultimate objective of this judicial reform is to put the power in the hands of elected officials rather than unelected judges, which may transform Israel from a democratic state into a religious autocracy.

Whether this is a significant intelligence failure or not, soon, the world will be dealing with another mushrooming crisis as Israel will do its utmost to crush Hamas and turn the Gaza Strip into a wasteland. This strategy of 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth' by both sides of the conflict has seen no end in sight as major powers, including the United States, are reserved in their judgment of the warring parties in this ongoing conflict probably from the inception of State of Israel. However, to all of the Western nations and much of the world, the very existence of Israel is a foregone conclusion. What remains to be seen is the fate of the Palestinians who lived in these occupied territories after the 1967 war and whether they, too, have a future to live with dignity and in peace.

That is the point where major powers, including the United States, have failed to find a solution. The United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 were passed respectively in the aftermaths of the 1967



Israeli air raid on Gaza

File photo via Twitter

and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars. Resolution 242 (reaffirmed in 338) was designed to provide the framework for peace negotiations based on a "land for peace" formula for subsequent negotiations and peace treaties in the region. The resolutions called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories and a recognition of State of Israel and right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

However, the resolutions languished in the web of political underplays and misinterpretations until today. Israel took the resolution to assert their historical rights to Judea and Samaria and to fulfill the dreams of a greater Israel. For the hardline Palestinian advocates, wiping out Israel from the map and claiming the whole territory for the Palestinians remained an unrealistic obsession. The moderates among these warring parties often found themselves in the unenviable corner, questioned for their nationalist credentials or patriotic fervors. The world seemed to have paid attention only when a conflagration took place, and even then, their noted concern was overwhelmingly of the impact on the world economy, especially regarding the oil prices, rather than ending a humanitarian crisis in place for the last several decades.

However, the United States's role until now is a glaring example of a major failure in international diplomacy. The United States remains the sole superpower with an unmatched economic and military might. Moreover, the United States has remained a close ally of Israel ever since its founding. Israel depends on the United States for its Financial and Military support, sharing advanced technologies and Intelligence. Therefore, it is academic to conclude that the U.S. possesses enough leverage to bring about a settlement

between Israel and Palestinians.

But the truth is much farther from the reality in Washington. The odd factor in this quest for Middle Peace is the powerful Neocons in Washington, along with a captured media. When it comes to Israel, any politician expressing a different opinion is in danger of being booted out of office or termed as anti-Semitic at the minimum. Scores of politicians and others have paid a high price for stating that Palestinians, too, have a right to live in peace.

Although President Jimmy Carter championed the Egypt-Israeli accord and brought peace between those nations, he is vilified today as an antisemite and enemy of Israel. If anyone knows the political dynamics in the Middle East, it is Carter. Once he told the truth about the inflexibility of Israel in achieving peace, he was driven out of the public forum. Recently, Vivek Swamy, a candidate for the Republican nomination for Presidency, spoke about ending aid to Israel that was the death knell for his candidacy as he suddenly fell from grace as a smart, intelligent, self-made businessman to a lying, fraudulent, and plotting conman.

The Neocons in Washington were also said to be the architects of two other major wars in the Middle East. Based on the bogus claims of 'weapons of mass destruction', they encouraged a naïve George W. Bush to invade Iraq, thereby dismembering the country and destabilizing the entire Middle East, paving the way for Iran to be a major player in the region. The war further created ISIS, a radical Sunni terrorist group that killed scores of Christians and Yezidis, erased Christian heritage from Nineveh plains, and brought about indiscriminate slaughter of innocents and untold miseries to millions and exodus of refugees creating

chaos in Europe.

They didn't stop there but set their eyes on Bashar al-Assad in Syria. Al-Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al-Qaida, was said to have received the tone of 500 million dollars from the United States to oust Assad and to replace it with an Islamic fundamentalist regime which would have brought harm to the 2 million Christians who were living peacefully under the Assad regime. What was the charge against Assad? He is an evil dictator. Why, then, only Assad was targeted, and there are numerous dictators worldwide? Obviously, both wars cost billions of tax dollars and precious American lives, and one should wonder for whose benefit those conflicts were waged!

The United States remains the only power that can truly bring about peace and tranquility to this Middle East quagmire. It will take courage, determination, and a leader's fairmindedness to accomplish that task. It is time to recollect how a past President resolved a crisis involving Israel and Egypt. President Dwight Eisenhower wrote to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion on November 7, 1956, and asked him to withdraw Israeli forces from the Suez Canal. The letter said, "Statements attributed to your government to the effect that Israel does not intend to withdraw from Egyptian territory, as requested by the United Nations, have been called to my attention. I need to assure you of the deep interest which the United States has in your country, nor recall the various elements of our policy of support to Israel in so many ways. It is in this context that I urge you to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with the current crisis and to make your decision known immediately. It would be a matter of the greatest regret to all my countrymen if Israel's policy on matter of such grave concern to the world should in any way impair the friendly cooperation between our two countries".

It is high time for the United States to intervene forcefully and guarantee the security of the state of Israel while assuring self-determination and sovereignty to the people of Palestine where they could live in peace and with dignity. It is also time for American politicians to stop shuddering before vested interests and stand up for what is morally right and conducive to lasting peace in the Middle East. Whether the U.S. will ever have another courageous leader like Dwight Eisenhower to do the right thing would be the most challenging question of the day.

(The writer is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

A key step by Bihar to promote better social justice



BY MANOJ KUMAR
JHA

REGULAR CASTE-BASED CENSUS DATA CAN HELP TRACK THE PROGRESS OF DIFFERENT CASTE GROUPS OVER TIME, HELPING BETTER EVALUATION OF POLICIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

"A caste-based census would provide accurate and up-to-date data on the distribution and socio-economic status of the various castes and communities in India. This data is essential for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation. It can help policymakers identify marginalized and disadvantaged groups and design targeted interventions to uplift them. India has a long history of caste-based discrimination and oppression. A caste-based census can help in recognizing and quantifying the extent of historical injustices and disparities that exist in society.

Acknowledging these disparities is a critical step towards addressing them."

There are certain dates which acquire greater significance by a stroke of history, and October 2, 2023 is one such date - a day when the Bihar government released the data for a caste-based survey, known as the Bihar Jaati Adharit Ganana. Let us remember not to forget.

A caste-based census would provide accurate and up-to-date data on the distribution and socio-economic status of the various castes and communities in India. This data is essential for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation. It can help policymakers identify marginalized and disadvantaged groups and design targeted interventions to uplift them. India has a long history of caste-based discrimination and oppression. A caste-based census can help in recognizing and quantifying the extent of historical injustices and disparities that exist in society. Acknowledging these disparities is a critical step towards addressing them.

ACCURACY FOR EFFICACY

With accurate caste-based data, the

CASTE DISCRIMINATION HAS ITS ROOTS IN CENTURIES OF HISTORICAL OPPRESSION AND MARGINALIZATION. IT HAS RESULTED IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND EDUCATIONAL BACKWARDNESS OF CERTAIN CASTE GROUPS. GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IS NECESSARY TO RECTIFY THESE HISTORICAL INJUSTICES.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at an all-party meeting on the caste-based census survey report, in Patna
Photo Credit/ ANI

government can develop more effective and targeted welfare programs. These programs can be tailored to the specific needs of different caste groups, ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the most vulnerable sections of society. Regular caste-based census data can help track the progress of different caste groups over time. This allows for the evaluation of the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at social justice and affirmative action. It will also enable the government to make necessary adjustments to policies when needed. Caste-based data can help ensure fair representation of marginalized communities in government, education, and employment. Reservations and affirmative action policies are often based on caste, and accurate data is crucial to determine the appropriate level of representation required. A caste-based census promotes transparency and accountability in government efforts to promote social justice. It allows citizens to hold the government accountable for the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Without accurate data, there is a risk of caste certificates being misused for personal gain or political purposes. A caste-based census can help verify and authenticate the caste status of individuals, reducing the likelihood of fraud and ensuring that benefits are directed to those who genuinely need them.

A SUBJECT OF DEBATE

However, it is important to note that the idea of conducting a caste-based census in India has been a subject of debate and controversy. Some argue that it could perpetuate and deepen caste divisions, while others believe that it is

necessary to address historical injustices and promote social justice. The decision to conduct such a census involves careful consideration of these arguments and a balanced approach to address the complex issue of caste-based disparities in India.

Caste discrimination in India is a deeply entrenched social issue that has persisted for centuries. Several factors highlight the need for committed government intervention to address this problem. First, historical injustice. Caste discrimination has its roots in centuries of historical oppression and marginalization. It has resulted in the social, economic, and educational backwardness of certain caste groups. Government intervention is necessary to rectify these historical injustices.

Second, constitutional mandate. The Indian Constitution recognizes the existence of caste-based discrimination and inequality and provides for affirmative action measures (such as reservations in education, employment, and politics) to uplift historically disadvantaged groups. The government has a constitutional obligation to implement and enforce these provisions.

Third, human rights. Discrimination based on caste is a violation of human rights. The government has a responsibility to protect the human rights of all its citizens, which includes the right to equality, dignity, and non-discrimination. Committed government intervention is necessary to ensure that these rights are upheld.

Fourth, social cohesion. Caste discrimination perpetuates social divisions and hinders social cohesion. It creates a sense of inequality and injustice among marginalized groups and can lead to social unrest.

Government intervention is essential to promote social harmony and unity.

Fifth, economic development. Caste discrimination often leads to economic disparities, with certain caste groups facing limited access to education and employment opportunities. Government intervention through affirmative action policies can help bridge these gaps and promote economic development for all.

Sixth, education. Discrimination can hinder access to quality education for marginalized caste groups. Government intervention is necessary to ensure that educational opportunities are accessible to all, irrespective of caste, and that discrimination within educational institutions is eliminated.

SUBJECT OF EMPLOYMENT

Seventh, employment. Discrimination in employment can limit job opportunities for certain caste groups. Government intervention is required to enforce anti-discrimination laws and promote fair employment practices, including affirmative action in the public sector.

Eighth, political representation. Dalits and other marginalized caste groups have historically been under-represented in political positions. Government intervention is needed to promote their political participation and representation, which is crucial for addressing their concerns.

Ninth, awareness and sensitization. The government can play a significant role in creating awareness about the harms of caste discrimination and promoting social sensitivity and inclusivity through educational programs and campaigns.

Tenth, legal framework. Government intervention is crucial to strengthening and enforcing anti-discrimination laws and policies aimed at eradicating caste discrimination. Without a committed government effort, these laws may remain ineffective.

In conclusion, caste discrimination is a deeply ingrained problem in India that requires sustained and committed government intervention to address. Such intervention is not only essential to rectify historical injustices but also to uphold the principles of equality, justice, and human rights for all citizens, regardless of their caste or social background.

(The author is Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Rashtriya Janata Dal)



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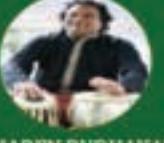
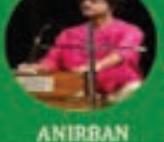
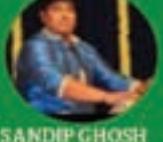
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COMMENTBY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The reopening of a case against Arundhati Roy is a stark reminder of the broader threats to free speech and dissent in India

The decision of govt of India to reopen a criminal case against Arundhati Roy is deeply troubling and raises serious concerns about the state of justice, freedom of expression, and democracy. Arundhati Roy, a celebrated author, activist, and one of the most prominent voices for social justice in India, has consistently voiced her opinions on a range of political and social issues. The reopening of a case against her is not only an attack on her individual rights but also a stark reminder of the broader threats to free speech and dissent in India.

Arundhati Roy's work has been characterized by her outspoken criticism of govt policies and her advocacy for the rights of marginalized communities, making her a thorn in the side of those in power. The decision to reopen a case against her suggests a politically motivated

India government hounds another social activist

attempt to silence and intimidate her and other activists who challenge the government's policies. In a democratic society, the freedom to express dissent and engage in open discourse is a fundamental right. Such actions undermine the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

It is imperative to question the timing and motivations behind this decision. Is it a deliberate ploy to divert attention from more pressing issues facing the country, or is it a calculated move to undermine the credibility and effectiveness of those who dare to criticize the govt? The reopening of the case against Arundhati Roy raises serious concerns about the misuse of legal mechanisms for political gain, as it seems to be part of a broader pattern of silencing opposition.

Moreover, the threat to freedom of expression posed by this act extends beyond Arundhati Roy as an individual. The reopening of this case sends a chilling message to other activists, journalists, and intellectuals in India, creating an atmosphere of fear and self-censorship. The mere specter of facing legal consequences for expressing one's opinions can have a

paralyzing effect on public discourse and hinder the free exchange of ideas, which is essential in a vibrant democracy.

In addition, the int'l community and advocates for human rights must condemn this clear infringement on freedom of expression. Upholding the right to dissent is crucial for the health of any democracy. Any attempt to suppress it should be met with strong opposition and condemnation. The reopening of the case against Arundhati Roy deserves widespread attention and a resounding denouncement from all corners of the world.

The reopening of a criminal case against Arundhati Roy is an alarming development that threatens the principles of democracy and free expression in India. It is essential to recognize this act for what it is - a politically motivated attack on a prominent voice of dissent. The targeting of individuals who challenge the government's policies undermines the very foundations of democracy, and it is the duty of the international community and all defenders of human rights to speak out against this injustice and stand in solidarity with those who champion the cause of justice and equality.

READERS WRITE

If Present Trend continues, Indian Americans will lead in the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada

At my age 93+ I keep thinking and dreaming about India and the Indian Americans. Though born in India and lived there only 24 years I love India and the Indian Americans. I am getting intoxicated sometimes hearing the extraordinary success of Indian Americans in all fields. I studied Business at Columbia and I have been following the outstanding leadership of Indian Americans in leading Business schools and major corporations (including two trillion dollars). I have been shocked at Harvard selecting an Indian as its Dean, who served for more than a decade. Harvard has selected another Indian to succeed him. This guy received all his education in India!

HBS is the No.1 leading Business school in the world. It manufactures CEO's. Does this not show that Indian Americans are geniuses in Business. Though Indian business success is nowhere near America's, Indians are excelling. India and the Indian Americans have not honored these outstanding Deans of the world. These Deans are highly influential. The main responsibility of the Harvard Dean is to raise funds and select the topnotch faculty and create the most successful environment for students at HBS.

POLITICS

In politics for a tiny population, we have made our mark. We elected two Governors, one Vice President, ten to Congress, Many Indian Americans have been appointed as Judges at all levels including Appellate

courts. Some have been identified for the Supreme Court.

So far, three Indian Americans have competed for the President of the USA. Two governors - Nikki Haley, Bobby Jindal and a businessman, Ramaswamy. Whether they win or not, they are competing with a small number of Presidential aspirants. Indian Americans stand out.

TECHNOLOGY

We are leaders. America has graduated thousands of Indian Americans in Electrical Engineering and other Engineering disciplines

I can state that without the input of Indian American engineers, the U.S. could not have made this much progress. Americans have become poor in mathematics and science because of failed public schools run by the unions. How many can qualify for admission to Bronx School of Science or Stuyvesant High School? Indians dominate in these schools.

We have achieved with a very tiny population of 4 million Indian Americans, slightly above 1% of the US population. Hoping this trend continues, what will be the impact of Indian Americans 10, 20, 50 or 100 years?

All the three Presidential candidates were born and buttered in the USA - second generation Indian Americans.

We have beaten all ethnic groups in income year after year. I came to the USA in 1954, almost 70 years ago when there were only 3000 Indians, all Foreign Students. The phenomenal progress of the Indian Americans has shocked me

VEN
PARAMESWARAN

pleasantly. Will this trend continue?

If it does, the US will certainly elect an Indian American as President in the future and that will create a huge impact.

The U.K., Ireland, Portugal, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Fiji Island, have been headed by Indian origin people. I think No.2 in Canada is an Indian. It is therefore possible the Indian American leaders could influence International Relations and Foreign Policy.

India is the youngest country in the world. I am getting the impression the young Indians are adventurous and want to live in various parts of the world. There is a tremendous interest and urge to immigrate to the USA. If and when the US chalks out a wise immigration policy it should attract millions of Indians to the USA in the future. Who can predict the influence of Indian Americans in the future?

It is quite possible that the Indian Americans will pretty soon have as much influence as the tiny Jewish community has.

I think Indian Americans should start formulating policies and strategies to solve major problems of the USA: Open Border; Immigration; Dealing with Minorities especially the Blacks and Latinos; Poor quality of Public Education; Foreign Policy taking into account the major blunders of the past: Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Breaking of Yugoslavia, Iran, neglecting South America, etc.

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U.S. officials say that there is no immediate threat to national security, but they are watching.



Pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protesters rallied in Times Square on Sunday

OCTOBER 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Top American counterterrorism officials on Thursday, October 12, said there was no credible or specific intelligence pointing to a current threat to the United States related to the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel or the ensuing war.

However, intelligence officials were still assessing the potential impact inside the United States of a Hamas call for protests in the next few days.

"We're also aware of information on the internet about a Hamas call for action or demonstrations," Christopher A. Wray, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said on Thursday. "And we're working to confirm whether there's any validity to that information." Mr. Wray was speaking during a seminar hosted by the Secure Community Network, an organization that provides consultation and support on safety matters to Jewish communities across North America.

"We cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas, or other foreign terrorist organizations, could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to conduct attacks here on our own soil," he said.

Monitoring for threats involves sifting through rhetoric online and looking for information that indicates a specific plan, like details about a time and place, and assessing whether any purported plotters have the capability to carry out an attack, a Homeland Security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said during a call with reporters on Thursday evening.

Since the Hamas attacks on Israel on Saturday, U.S. counterterrorism officials have been reaching out to thousands of state and local law enforcement officers and religious leaders to discuss the potential impact of the attacks inside the United States. This includes sharing intelligence and offering guidance and assistance in shoring up security at mosques and synagogues and other public gathering places where people could be at risk.

On Thursday, officials from the F.B.I., the Department of Homeland Security and the National Counterterrorism Center held a

call with about 4,000 law enforcement officers from around the country, a homeland security official said. The official, who was authorized to speak only on condition of anonymity to share sensitive details, said participation was extraordinarily high, an indication of the broad sense of urgency on security issues around the country.

"The reality in which we are gathered today is this: Jewish people in our country and across the world are again traumatized, again afraid for their own safety and for the safety of their loved ones," Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the Homeland Security secretary, said on Thursday during a speech to a group of sports leaders hosted by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism.

Hate crimes against Jewish people and institutions in the United States were already on the rise, Mr. Wray said, and had continued to do so since the Hamas attacks. Over the weekend, Mr. Wray said, the F.B.I. relayed a tip about threats to some faith-based community centers, including a Jewish Senior Services Center in Connecticut.

"We immediately kicked into action and worked with partners in that area to mitigate that threat to those communities and ensure our faith-based partners had what they needed," Mr. Wray said.

The United Nations humanitarian agency just announced a flash appeal of \$249 million to help 1.3 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Nearly 60 percent of households in Gaza were considered food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity prior to the war between Israel and Hamas, and \$132.7 million of the funds would address food insecurity, the U.N. said.

The British prime minister, Rishi Sunak, spoke with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt on Thursday to "underscore the importance of supporting civilians to leave Gaza," according to a statement from the British government. Egypt, which controls Gaza's southern border crossing at Rafah, has so far refused to allow Palestinians seeking to flee Israel's bombardments to enter its territory.

The statement also said that Britain

Maritime patrol and surveillance aircraft would begin flying in the region starting Friday to monitor for illicit weapons transfers and other security threats, and would move a navy task group to the eastern Mediterranean next week as "a contingency measure to support humanitarian efforts."

About 200 members of the House gathered on the steps of the Capitol Thursday evening to hold a candlelight vigil for the Israeli civilians killed or captured when Hamas launched a surprise attack over the weekend.

Homeland Security Department officials say there is no specific or credible threat to the United States at this time stemming from the Hamas attacks. Officials spoke to reporters Thursday evening on the condition of anonymity. The department has been in regular contact with law enforcement officials and religious leaders since Saturday. Earlier on Thursday, department officials held a call with about 4,000 local law enforcement officials around the country. One of the officials who spoke to reporters said this was an extraordinarily high number of participants, an indication of how much interest there is around the country.

The Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are planning to introduce a resolution on Monday pledging full-throated solidarity

with Israel, calling on the international community to impose sanctions to limit the flow of money and weapons to Hamas, and declaring the United States ready and willing to help resupply Israel as needed.

At least 30 Democrats and 27 Republicans have signed onto the legislation thus far, with more expected to lend their support in the days ahead. The resolution is similar to bipartisan legislation unveiled in the House this week by the top Republican and Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Gaza's Health Ministry said late Thursday that 1,537 Palestinians, including 500 children, have been killed since Israel began its response to the attacks by Hamas. An additional 6,612 people, including 1,644 children, have been injured, according to the ministry.

The NYPD posted a notice on X (formerly Twitter) to the effect that there was no credible threat to New York City.



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PM Modi inaugurates 9th P20 Summit in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, October 13, inaugurated the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) in New Delhi.

The summit is being hosted by the Parliament under the broader framework of India's G20 Presidency.

Addressing the summit, Modi said that it is the "mahakumbh" of parliamentary practices of the world.

"I welcome you at the 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) on behalf of 140 crore Indians. This Summit is like a 'mahakumbh' of parliamentary practices from across the world," he said. The PM added that parliaments are an important place for debate and deliberations. He also hailed India's moon landing and the successful conclusion of the G20 summit.

"Today, we are hosting the P20 Summit. This Summit is also a medium to celebrate the power of the people of our country. P20 Summit is being organised in India, which is the mother of democracy and the world's biggest democracy too," he pointed out.

The P20 Summit is being attended by Speakers of Parliaments of G20 members and invitee countries. Its theme is 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

Speakers and heads of the delegation of Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Spain, European Parliament, Italy, South Africa, Russia, Turkiye, Nigeria, Australia, Brazil, UAE, Singapore, Japan, Egypt and Bangladesh were present in the event. Notably, the representative of Canada did not attend the event, according to ANI.

According to the prime minister's office, the P20 Summit will focus on the following four subjects - Transformation in People's Lives through Public Digital Platforms; Women-led development; Accelerating SDGs; and Sustainable Energy Transition.

Canadian Speaker to skip P20 meet; India firm on cut in diplomatic staff

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Speaker of the Canadian Senate Raymonde Gagne is set to skip the meeting of presiding officers of G20 national parliaments that started in the Capital on Thursday, October 12.

Lok Sabha sources said Gagne had earlier confirmed her presence at the Parliament 20 Summit, but had now decided to give it a miss.

The development comes amid the ongoing diplomatic row between India and Canada. "The Canadian Speaker is not attending the summit. Schedules keep changing," the sources said.

India and Canada have been involved in a diplomatic row ever since Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linked Indian agents to the killing of pro-Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey in June. India had rejected the allegations, saying this was not its policy. Meanwhile, India said it was firm on achieving a reduction in the Canadian diplomatic strength in the country while dismissing Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's mention of India in recent bilateral meetings with world leaders as unhelpful to the core issue of Ottawa giving space to anti-India criminals and terrorists. "We remain committed to what we said, ensuring parity. We remain engaged on the modalities for achieving that. When there are specific details to share, we shall do so," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi at a media briefing here on October 12.

"We would urge Canada to take more seriously the international obligation to provide security to our diplomats and premises," said Bagchi while dismissing Canada's claim that India's call to pare the strength of its diplomatic complement in India was against Vienna Convention regulations. The MEA spokesperson was responding to Canadian media reports that said Ottawa did not comply with India's reported deadline of October 10 to cut its diplomatic strength by two-thirds to achieve parity with the Indian diplomatic staff size in Canada.

Source: TNS



Speaker of the Canadian Senate
Raymonde Gagne

After Khalistani posters, EAM Jaishankar's security upgraded to Z category

The Central government has upgraded the security cover of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar from the 'Y' category to 'Z', official sources said on Thursday, October 12.

The decision was taken by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs based on a threat analysis report from the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

The MHA, following the IB report, has directed the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to take charge of his security which was so far being covered by the Delhi Police.

Jaishankar, 68, is currently being provided round-the-clock security cover by an armed team of the Delhi Police under the 'Y' category.

Now, the External Affairs Minister will be protected by the CRPF personnel under the larger 'Z' security cover that includes over a dozen armed commandos during movement and stay of the protectee round the clock in shifts across the country, the sources added.

The CRPF is currently providing VIP security cover to 176-odd protectees comprising Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and 24 protectees who got the facility in the recent past on a temporary basis considering the upcoming elections. Source: ANI



The security cover of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has been upgraded from the 'Y' category to 'Z', official sources said on Thursday. The Home Ministry has asked the CRPF to take the charge of his security.

Operation Ajay: First batch of Indians returns home from Israel

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The first batch of around 200 Indians, including students, returned to the country from Israel on board a chartered flight in the early hours of Friday, October 13.

India has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home as a series of brazen attacks on Israeli towns by Hamas militants over the weekend triggered fresh tension in the region.

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar welcomed the passengers at the Delhi airport as they streamed into the lounge area from the tarmac side. He greeted them with folded hands and also shook hands with many of them saying, "Welcome home".

Shashwat Singh, a post-doctoral researcher, who has been living in Israel since 2019, reached Delhi along with his wife.

"We woke up to sounds of air raids' sirens. We stay in central Israel. I don't know what shape this conflict will take...I am doing post-doc in agriculture there," he told PTI.

The evacuation of Indians is a "praiseworthy step", Singh said soon after the flight landed. "We hope peace will be restored and we will return to work. The Indian government got in touch with us via email. We are



Indian nationals arrive in New Delhi on Friday . PTI

thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Embassy in Israel."

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Thursday said around 18,000 Indians are currently residing in Israel while about a dozen people are in the West Bank and three to four in Gaza.

The multi-pronged attacks against Israel by Hamas militants from Gaza since Saturday and the subsequent Israeli retaliation have left around 2,600 people dead. Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive in Gaza to avenge the attacks by Hamas.

Suparno Ghosh, a West Bengal native and a first-year PhD student of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev at Beersheba in Israel, was among the group of Indians who reached Delhi on the special flight.

"We were in shelters... the Israeli government has made shelters everywhere, so we were safe," he said.

Deepak, a student, said, "We heard sirens on Saturday. As the attack happened, we could hear the sound. Israeli authorities were instructing us (to take safety measures). It was a continuous attack. I am happy to return home, but sad also, as our friends are there (in Israel)," he said. But the evacuation process was very smooth, the student told reporters.

Duti Banerjee, another West Bengal native who was also among the first batch of Indians evacuated from Israel, said the situation there was "pretty messy and unsettled".

"Normal life has been paused. People are scared and angry. Even when I was leaving, I heard sirens and had to go to a shelter," she said.

SC declines 89-yr-old man's plea seeking divorce from 82-year-old wife

The Supreme Court has declined a plea filed by an 89-year-old man seeking a divorce from his 82-year-old wife, saying that the institution of marriage is still considered to be a "pious, spiritual and invaluable emotional life net between couples in Indian society", news agency PTI reported.

The order was passed by a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi on October 10.

The 89-year-old had filed the plea before the Supreme Court challenging the decision of the Punjab and Haryana high court, which had reversed a Chandigarh district court order granting divorce to him in 1996.

The estranged couple had married according to Sikh rites in 1963 in Amritsar and had three children – two daughters and one son. The man is a qualified doctor and retired from the Indian Air Force, while his wife is a former teacher.

The relations between them turned sour when the husband was posted in Madras in January 1984 and the wife did not join him. She preferred to stay initially with her in-laws and later with her son, according to PTI.

The man claims that she "treated him cruelly and deserted him" by not joining him in Madras, and thereafter not taking care of him though he had a heart problem. He also alleged that his wife filed complaints against him before Air Force authorities, maligning his image.

In his plea before the Supreme Court, the man argued that he has been living separately from his wife since 1996 and that their marriage has already been "irretrievably broken down".

The wife argued that she did not want to die with the stigma of being a "divorcee" and claimed that she had made all efforts to respect her marriage with the octogenarian and that she was still ready to look after her husband with the assistance of her son.

Urging the Supreme Court not to interfere with the order of the high court, she submitted that a mere long period of separation could not be tantamount to an irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and that her husband has failed to make out any ground either of 'cruelty' or 'desertion'.

In its order, the Supreme Court noted that several other relationships stem and thrive on the basis of matrimonial relationships in society.

"Therefore, it would not be desirable to accept the formula of 'irretrievable breakdown of marriage' as a strait-jacket formula for the grant of relief of divorce under Article 142 of the Constitution of India," the bench said in its order, according to PTI.

'We can't kill a child': SC on plea to terminate 26-week pregnancy

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Thursday, October 12, gave a 27-year-old woman 24 hours to reconsider her plea for immediate termination of her 26-week pregnancy, a day after a two-judge bench sharply differed on the case.

A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud said that the highest court of the land cannot overlook the rights of an unborn child when it has to deal with cases of abortion. The woman had approached the court saying she was unaware of her third pregnancy due to a disorder called lactational amenorrhea, and suffered from postpartum depression and poor financial conditions.

"Cognisant as we are of a woman's autonomy in these cases, we cannot be oblivious to the rights of an unborn child...We cannot kill the child," said the bench, as it asked the woman's lawyer Rahul Sharma and additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared for the Union government, to explain the court's preliminary views to the woman and come back with her answer on Friday.

"What do you want us to tell the doctors — 'you stop the foetal heart?' And if that is not what you want, then, if the child is born alive today, the child will have serious mental and physical deformities. We have to also balance out the rights of an unborn child. Whatever you do today is going to affect the rights of the child too," said the bench, also



comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The larger bench was set up a day after a bench comprising two women judges delivered a split verdict on the Centre's plea to recall an order passed on October 9, allowing the married mother of two to end her pregnancy owing to her vulnerable physical and psychological conditions.

Justices Hima Kohli and BV Nagarathna had, on Monday, allowed the woman to end her pregnancy, but two days later, sharply differed on whether the abortion could go forward, after a medical report said the "foetal heart" would have to be stopped as part of the procedure. The split verdict came on a recall petition by the Centre.

Justice Kohli said she was not willing to proceed with the earlier decision and wondered which court would ask to stop the "heartbeat of a foetus that has life". But justice Nagarathna remained firm on the October 9 order, prioritising the woman's decisional autonomy in matters of pregnancy. Following the divergence of views, the matter was referred to the CJI on the administrative

side to set up a larger bench.

The 2021 Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act allows both married and unmarried women to undergo termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks following an opinion by a registered medical practitioner. Certain categories of vulnerable women, such as rape survivors, minors and mentally infirm women, can undergo abortion up to 24 weeks under the law. Abortion after 24 weeks is permitted only in cases when there are serious threats to the life or well-being of a woman or for substantial foetal abnormalities. Such cases usually land up before courts that set up medical boards to help it taking a call.

When the three-judge bench took up the Centre's plea on Thursday, Bhati argued that the right to decisional autonomy and reproductive rights are not absolute rights, like any other rights. "They are subject to a legal regime (MTP Act), which has withstood the scrutiny of the court as well. To go against the law and medical opinion will be difficult and chaotic for the country," said the ASG, adding it could be difficult for the court to go only by the choice of a woman, who in the doctor's opinion, was vacillating in her response.

Bhati suggested that the woman could be counselled because allowing her plea in such a state of mind could eventually prove detrimental to her. The law officer further said that postpartum depression was one of the most common medical conditions for women after having children. *Source: HT*

'Ayodhya mosque's design changed, will be similar to those in Middle East'

AYODHYA (TIP)

The design of a mosque to be built on a five-acre land in Ayodhya's Dhannipur village awarded by the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid verdict has been changed, Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation said on Thursday, October 12.

The IICF, a trust formed to build the mosque and other community facilities on the plot, has now decided to shift to a "grand" design similar to the one adopted in the Middle East countries, trust chairman Zufar Farooqui said.

The proposed mosque's previous design was based on those built in India.

The trust has also decided to name it after the Prophet 'Mohammad Bin Abdullah', Farooqui told PTI.

"The new design prepared by Pune-based architect has been finalised today in a meeting held in Mumbai. This mosque will be bigger in size than the one proposed in the previous plan. Once completed, the new mosque will accommodate more than 5,000 people," he said.

The meeting was attended by clerics of all sects including Sunni, Shia, Barelvi and Deobandi and representatives from political parties, he said.

"We will also build a 300-bed charitable cancer hospital. Dr Habil Khorakiwala, chairman of pharma company Wockhardt Group, has agreed to establish and run the hospital on a charity,"



A board with Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation's name inside the perimeter fence of 5-acre plot allotted by the government for the construction of a mosque on the direction of the Supreme Court. PTI file

said Farooqui.

The IICF trust has started a fund raising campaign in different states of the country except Uttar Pradesh, he said, adding "we will soon start the construction of a grand mosque in Ayodhya".

However, the map of the proposed mosque and hospital is still with the Ayodhya Development Authority as the trust has to pay Rs 1 crore to the authority as "development charges", Farooqui claimed.

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 13, 2023, TO OCTOBER 19, 2023

13 OCTOBER

1987 Evergreen actor, singer Kishore Kumar, died.



1895 The first Test captain of India's cricket team, C.K. Naidu was born.

1999 Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of India for the third time.

2013 A stampede in Datia district of Madhya Pradesh killed 109 people.

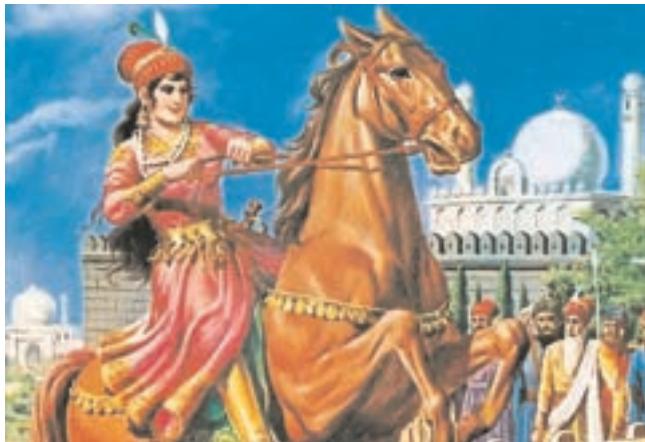
2011 Instructions have been given to use the words of Urdu, Persian, general Hindi and English instead of the difficult words of Hindi used in offices.

14 OCTOBER

1882 The University of Punjab was established in modern Pakistan.

1956 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar accepted Buddhism in Nagpur with 3,85,000 followers.

1240 Razia Sultan, the first female ruler of India, died.



1643 Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah I of Delhi (India) was born.

1953 The Estate Duty Act came into effect in India.

2008 The Reserve Bank of India announced the release of an additional 200 billion rupees to meet the needs of mutual funds.

2010 The 19th Commonwealth Games in the capital Delhi ended.

15 OCTOBER

1931 11th President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam



was born.

1932 The Tata Company airplane took its first flight. After the acquisition by the Government of India, this company was called Air India.



1997 Arundhati Roy was selected for Britain's most prestigious Booker Prize for her novel 'The God of Small Things'.

1949 The state of Tripura was included in India.

1988 Ujjwala Patil became the first Asian woman to travel the world through the sea.

1998 India's Fatima B was awarded the United Nations Award for the Eradication of Poverty.

1686 The Mughal ruler Aurangzeb signed a peace deal with Bijapur.

16 OCTOBER

1861 The sale of federal postage stamps began.

1948 India's famous actress and Bharatanatyam dancer Hema Malini was born.



1968 Bharatvanshi Hargovind Khurana was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for medicine and physiology.

1959 National Women's Education Council established.

1978 Indian cricketer Kapil Dev made his Test debut against Faisalabad against Pakistan.

2002 A gold and a bronze medalist at the 14th Asian Games took Sunita Rani of India to a medal after failing in the dopint test.

2005 G-20 countries agree to reform the World Bank and IMF.

17 OCTOBER

1979 Mother Teresa was given the Nobel Peace Prize.



1605 Mughal ruler Akbar died.



1817 Syed Ahmed Khan, founder of Aligarh Muslim University, was born in Delhi.

1870 The Port of Calcutta was brought under the management of a constitutional body.

1940 Mahatma Gandhi declared private Satyagraha.

18 OCTOBER

1980 The first Himalaya Car Rally was flagged off from Brabourne Stadium in Bombay (now Mumbai).

2004 The notorious Chandan smuggler Veerappan was killed.



1998 India and Pakistan agree to stop nuclear risk.

2008 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati returned 189.25 crore acres of land to the Railway Ministry for the railway coach factory in Rae Bareilly.

1950 Famous actor of Hindi films Om Puri was born.

1972 Trial of the first multipurpose chopper SA315 in Bangalore.

19 OCTOBER

1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionary of Charities in Kolkata. Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who held Indian citizenship.

1970 The first MiG-21 aircraft manufactured in India was inducted into the Indian Air Force. It is a super sonic fighter jet which was built by the Soviet Union.



1910 Astronomer and Nobel Prize winner Subramanian Chandrasekhar was born.

1920 Pandurang Shastri Athalve, the founder of the Swadhyay family, was born in Maharashtra.

DIWALI AT TIMES SQUARE



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INTERNATIONAL SENSATION SINGER-PERFORMER LIGHTS UP DEBUT DISNEY DIWALI DANCE FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Raghav

Credit/ Jashn Productions

Multi-talented singer-performer, Raghav Mathur, internationally & popularly known as Raghav will create magic at the Walt Disney World® Resort this

month. He will take center stage as he illuminates the much-anticipated Diwali Dance Fest on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at Orlando, Florida.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is set to illuminate the Walt Disney World®Resort as the sensational performer, Raghav, closes out the highly anticipated Diwali Dance Fest.

Raghav, the internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter, is renowned for captivating audiences worldwide with his mesmerizing performances and hit singles. Drawing from his rich cultural heritage and infusing modern elements, Raghav will be closing out the 2.5-hour Dance Showcase set to be held at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park.

Diwali Dance Fest will be the 1st Ever Youth Event Celebration of Diwali at Walt Disney World® Resort! The festival promises to be a magical event filled with vibrant colors, stunning costumes, and incredible performances by dancers from around North America. The event will feature an official parade at Disney Springs®, a dance showcase at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park, and a VIP party to follow.

"We wanted to make sure that the 1st Ever Diwali Dance Festival was going to be a memorable one for all those that will be attending," said Jeanie Beri, Director of Jashn Productions. When I saw my daughter dancing to Raghav's new hit "Desperado" I was reminded of myself when he had come out with "Teri Baaton" & "Angel Eyes" some years ago and I said to myself, he's the perfect fit for our event. We can't wait to experience the energy he will bring to the Walt Disney World stage."

Raghav's performance will feature a blend of his popular chart-topping hits along with traditional and

contemporary dance routines, making it a spectacle that promises to enthrall both Indian and international audiences. With his dynamic stage presence and soulful voice, Raghav is sure to leave a lasting impression, creating cherished memories for attendees of all ages.

"I'm looking forward to this gig more than any in recent memory, the magic of Diwali combined with Disney magic," said Raghav. "It's going to be very special. I'm privileged to have been invited and thank Jashn Productions for both organizing this one-of-a-kind event and thinking of me."

TICKETS

For more information and Tickets, visit shopdiwalidancefest.com

JASHN PRODUCTIONS

Jashn Productions (jashnproductions.com) was created by dancers for dancers, bringing mainstream exposure and opportunities for South Asian performing artists. Jashn is led by Jeanie Beri, an award-winning South Asian American dancer with over 35 years of dance training and teaching from her New Jersey-based studio Rhythmic Arts to her various credits including Walt Disney World, NBA, and the Broadway stage!

RAGHAV

Raghav is an internationally acclaimed singer, songwriter, and dancer known for his fusion of various musical genres and his ability to captivate audiences with his energetic performances. Born in India and raised in Canada, Raghav's music reflects a diverse cultural background and has garnered him a massive global fanbase.

INNOVATIVE MUSICAL THEATER CELEBRATES ANCIENT INDIAN EPIC

BY MABEL PAIS



Ram, Laxman, Sita

Credit / suratifpa.org

'Ramaavan - A Musical,' after a successful NYC debut last year, returns to New York City and Jersey City in October 2023.

The pathbreaking musical based on the ancient Indian epic 'Ramayana' will be performed October 20-22 in Jersey City & October 25-29 in New York City.

'Ramaavan - A Musical' is an innovative dance and musical theater experience adapted from the celebrated ancient Indian epic 'The Ramayana,' that has been loved and revered for centuries.

The evolving musical, written in English verse, has

enthralled audiences of a variety of backgrounds and tastes. They have called Roy's interpretation of the ancient epic bold, innovative and universal in appeal. The treatment crosses boundaries of race, bias and preconceived societal notions as well as of traditional genres of dance and music in retelling one of India's greatest epics.

Founder and Artistic Director of Surati, Rimli Roy says, "I always wanted to bring a uniquely international sensibility to the epic of Ramayana. Finding talent that represented a diverse oeuvre of artistic talent that met my expectations was one of the biggest challenges. All actors are trained dancers and singers who perform live in this show."

"We are very happy and excited to be co-presenting Rimli Roy's 'Ramaavan - A Musical.' Surati's interpretation of the great Indian epic 'The Ramayana' embodies a universality never before seen in other interpretations of the ancient classic. In its diverse cast, inclusion of a wide range of performing art forms, and the message of peace and love inherent within, Surati's Ramaavan perfectly aligns with the goals and aspirations of IAAC," said IAAC board member Rajeev Kaul.

Performers of different races and ethnicities from different backgrounds are cast and accorded the liberties to explore each character through the lens of their own learnings and beliefs. The families shown are

multi-racial, the costumes and props are introduced from various sources, and the artisans creating them come from equally wide-ranging societies. The music and dance blend different styles seamlessly to offer an unforgettable experience to the audience. The multi-hued spectacle ranges from ragas of Indian classical music to Hip-Hop, Opera and Jazz; from Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kathak classical Indian dance to Ballet and Flamenco.

It is worth noting that the actors come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and ethnicities, and have traveled from all over the US and India as well. While some of them are familiar with the story of Ramayana and how it is linked to the story of Diwali, many of them heard about it for the first time.

SCHEDULE

Oct 20-22: Jersey City

Margaret Williams Theatre, NJCU, Jersey City, NJ

Oct 25-29: New York City

Cullum Theatre, American Theatre for Actors, NYC, NY

TICKETS

For more information and Tickets, visit suratifpa.org/ramaavan

SURATI FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Learn more about Surati for the Performing Arts at suratifpa.org

The Indo-American Arts Council

Learn more at iaac.us

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

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SPIRITUAL MUSIC IN "SINGING TOGETHER"



(top) Riyaaz Qawwali group, (bottom) harlem gospel travelers.

Credit: worldmusicinstitute.org.

BY MABEL PAIS

The World Music Institute, as part of its Collaboration Series, presents 'Singing Together,' a qawwali and gospel music collaboration between Texas-based Riyaaz Qawwali and The Harlem Gospel Travelers from New York City. The performance takes place on Friday, October 13 at the Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, Manhattan at 8 pm. Doors open at 7 pm.

PROGRAM

The program will consist of performances from both ensembles individually, followed by a collaborative set of repertoire performed by both groups. The collaborative pieces carefully interweave qawwali and gospel

elements into a singular soundscape, where the listener doesn't know where one genre ends and the other begins. In the creation of these pieces, the lyrics were also carefully arranged to honor both traditions. Don't miss this unique show celebrating the unifying joy of spiritual music.

RIYAAZ QAWWALI

Riyaaz Qawwali returns to NYC after their sold out performance at Cathedral of St. John The Divine which was presented by World Music Institute in January of 2019. The group performs qawwalis (or sufi music), bhajans, shabads and ghazals. They represent the diversity and plurality of South Asia. The ensemble's musicians, who are

settled in the United States, hail from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Learn more about Riyaaz Qawwali at riyaazqawwali.com.

WHAT IS QAWWALI?

Qawwali is a genre of music that has been used for centuries to spark religious devotion and bring listeners to a state of spiritual union with God. Qawwalis are often sung by Sufis as praise for religious teachers, saints, and scholars. Qawwali lyrics draw inspiration from Islam and use several poetry forms such as Ghazals, Hamd, and Kafi. However, spiritual love is expressed through the themes of worldly love and intoxication. Qawwali songs are mostly sung in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, Farsi, and

Bengali languages.

HOW IS QAWWALI MUSIC PERFORMED?

Qawwali music is usually performed by an ensemble consisting of a lead singer, a harmonium and a tabla or dholak player, and several side singers that serve as the chorus. This type of music is characterized by the voices of the lead singer and chorus, as well as hand clapping. A concert (traditionally as part of a 'mehfil-e sama') in such a setting can bring a Sufi into a state of ecstasy.

THE HARLEM GOSPEL TRAVELERS

Born out of a non-profit music education program led by Eli "Paperboy" Reed, The Harlem Gospel Travelers-singers Thomas Gatling, George Marage, and Dennis Bailey-released their debut LP, 'He's On Time,' to rave reviews in 2019, with Pop Matters hailing the album's "musical transcendence". Their 2022 release, 'Look Up!,' also produced by Reed, marked the group's first collection of totally original material, which NPR Music praised as having a "70s vibe but subject material is of this moment".

"Gospel's at the root of everything," says Thomas Gatling. "Country, folk, rock, soul, blues; we love it all, and it's all in there."

"When everything was stripped away, all we had left was the music," he says. "Difficult as it was, we realized that God was opening a door, and it was up to us to walk on through to the other side."

It's on the other side that we meet a transformed Harlem Gospel Travelers, complete with a new album, a new lineup, and a new lease on life. Produced by Eli Paperboy Reed, 'Look Up!' marks the group's first full-length release as a trio, as well as their first collection of totally original material, and it couldn't have come at a more vital moment. Learn more at harlemgospeltravelers.com.

TICKETS

For Tickets to the performance, visit symphonyspace.org/events/vp-riyaaz-qawwali-and-the-harlem-gospel-travelers

Pricing is tiered. Student, Senior (with valid ID) discounts and Member benefits apply.

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

H-O-R-R-O-R IN FILM?

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening Shorts

YOGESH CHANDEKAR's 'Giallo'

RAMONE MENON's 'My Scary Indian Wedding'

And many more



My Scary Indian Wedding

Credit / fmasu.com

The HorrorFest International Film Festival 2023 takes place at St. George, Utah, October 18-21. The Film and Media Alliance of Southern Utah presents the films and events at Southern Utah's historic Electric Theater once again serving as the primary venue for the event.

This year's edition of the international survey of horror/thriller cinema will screen 46 films (8 features and 38 shorts) representing 15 countries. In addition, 16 feature-length scripts and 8 scripts for short films will also participate in the film festival's script competition over the four-day fright-filled event. Additionally, HorrorFest International 2023 will host its always anticipated secret screening, filmmaker and horror-themed panels, its traditional trivia event, a live script read of a beloved horror classic, a costume contest, and more.

Recognized as one of the top horror festivals in the world and taking place in beautiful St. George, Utah, HorrorFest International FF not only has the benefit of utilizing one of the truly historic theaters in the United States as its festival hub, but it is also surrounded by some of the most breathtaking scenic locales in the U.S.

including Zion National Park, Pine Valley, and Snow Canyon.

HorrorFest International Film Festival Co-Founders and Senior Programmers, Adam Mast and John Pugh, said, "This year's lineup not only offers up great thrills and scares, but also challenges our preconceptions of what makes a horror film a horror film. Filmmaking and storytelling in the horror/thriller genre seems to be amid another artistic renaissance and is seeing a growing appreciation by audiences that aren't what we traditionally think of as 'horror film audiences. We love that idea and once again will enthusiastically bring those filmmakers and audiences together at the Electric Theater in St. George."

2023 Horror Fest International Lineup

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION

Onyx the Fortuitous and the Talisman of Souls

Director: Andrew Bowser; USA; 96m

Fledgling occultist Onyx and a group of worshipers attend a once-in-a-lifetime ritual at their idol Bartok the Great's mansion.

CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION

Where the Devil Roams

Directors: Toby Poser, Zelda Adams, John Adams; USA; 93m

The latest effort from the creative filmmaking family behind Hellbender follows a family of sideshow performers as they travel the world on a dying carnival circuit during the Depression Era.

ADDITIONAL FILMS

There are 6 additional Feature films, 38 Short Films, 16 Feature Length Screenplays and 8 Short Length Screenplays.

To get a complete lineup of films, visit fmasu.com/horrorfest

FILM AND MEDIA ALLIANCE OF SOUTHERN UTAH (FMASU) -- Formed in 2017, FMASU is designed to encourage, inspire, nurture, and educate filmmaking talent and to preserve film history and the theatrical experience. While FMASU prides itself on its Southern Utah roots, it is equally interested in championing storytellers from all around the world. Of course, the primary goal is to engage everyone through the culturally expansive nature of the world's greatest art form: Cinema! Learn more at fmasu.com.

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

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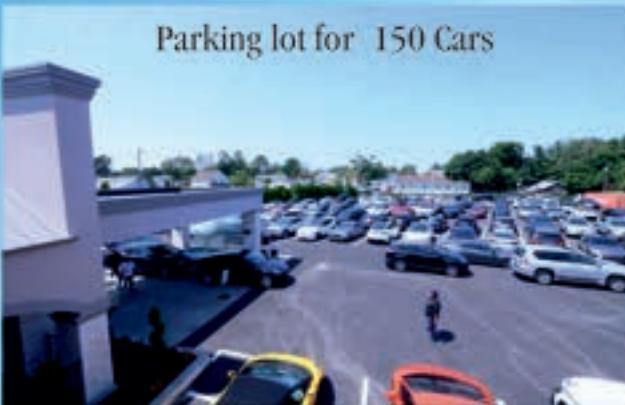


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Vicky Kaushal intrigues fans with his look in 'Sam Bahadur'

Actor Vicky Kaushal is all set to come up with his new film 'Sam Bahadur,' in which he will be seen portraying the role of India's war hero and first Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw.

Vicky took to Instagram to give his fans a sneak peek into his character in the film. He captioned the photo "To a well-lived life!" #SamBahadur." In the picture, Vicky can be seen standing on a lawn in a uniform, showing back to the camera. Fans quickly expressed their curiosity in the comments section. "Sir, we are eagerly awaiting this movie, please release it faster," a fan wrote. Another commented, "Very impressive... looking forward to the film." The film is helmed by Meghna Gulzar the film is all set to hit the theatres on December 1. The film also stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the lead roles. Talking about the film, Vicky earlier said, "I am fortunate to portray the role of a real-life hero and patriot who is still remembered and loved for his contributions to our country. There is a lot to learn and take back as an actor. With the amount of prep and hard work the whole team has put in."

Sushmita Sen excited about 'Aarya 3', next on her wishlist is a mature love story

Actor Sushmita Sen on Thursday said she is happy with the way her second innings in the industry is turning out to be with the hit series "Aarya". She now wants to explore a mature love story and a negative role.

The actor, who made a comeback to mainstream acting after a decade with the Disney+Hotstar series, said she felt like a newcomer when she started the project, whose third season will start streaming from November 3.

"The moment my second innings started in 2020, I became a newcomer. I've a long list of things that I want to do, like I want to do a mature love story, a kicka** action film, which no one has done, and play the most dangerous antagonist you have ever seen, a villain. I've a long list (of roles). This is just the beginning," Sen told reporters here at the trailer launch of "Aarya" season three.

Referring to her recent series "Taali", the actor said, "This year, I got to do two wonderful projects, and I'm very grateful for that. I hope this continues and allows me to do more work like that." When asked whether filmmakers took time to explore her potential as an actor, Sen, 47, said she feels blessed that the industry and the audience welcomed her with open arms. "Whether the industry gave me the opportunity or not or whether they



saw that potential in me as an actor or not all these years is a small thing. My biggest blessing in my life is that in 2024, it will be 30 years in this industry. At the age of 18, I was on a stage where I met so many people. And in these 30 years, whatever I've done, my people have always supported me.

"When I took a break for eight years at the peak of my career, the industry welcomed me with so much love when I made a comeback... Till the time the audience wants to see me working as an actor, no one can do anything about it." Sen is thrilled about the third season of "Aarya", created by filmmaker Ram Madhvani. The

International Emmy-nominated show is an official adaption of the hit Dutch series "Penzoza" and follows the journey of Aarya, played by Sen, a woman who finds herself in the world of crime after her husband Tej Sareen (Chadrachud Singh) is gunned down.

Sen said the new season of "Aarya" will present her in a fierce avatar.

"The thing about Aarya is that she has gone through so much from season one to season two. Now, (in season three) she has been trying to grow up, to save things, she has nothing to lose. It is the most dangerous situation as a woman when she has nothing more to lose or save. Source: PTI

Was never concerned about youngsters not connecting with Gadar 2: Sunny Deol

Sunny Deol is overwhelmed with the success of his recently released film Gadar 2. The movie became the third highest-grossing Bollywood film, after Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan and Pathaan. Recently, Sunny revealed that he never wanted to make Gadar 2. But then when he was presented with a good subject, he changed his mind. The actor was also confident that the audience who lapped up the 2001 film Gadar would also come to theatres to watch Gadar 2.

Sunny said, "Gadar 1 was a massive success because people loved it and identified with the film. They took the film home. We were not wanting to make it (Gadar 2), but once we decided on the subject, which was good, we knew it would be successful."

Though he was confident about the script of Gadar 2, Sunny Deol also believed that "every film has its own destiny". The actor's confidence materialised as Gadar 2 became a humungous hit. The movie pulled in people in huge numbers and earned Rs 525.45 crore in India.

Helmed by Anil Sharma, Gadar 2 is a sequel to the 2001 film Gadar: Ek Prem Katha. It was released on the Independence Day weekend and impressed cinephiles with its action sequences. It had a mass appeal, which helped it gain momentum in single screens and Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

While naysayers said that Gadar 2 would not attract the young generation, Sunny Deol was never concerned about the same.

He said, "I never thought about all that because we are making a Gadar and Gadar 2 had to be an extension of Gadar 1. So, one didn't think of today's generation or



the 20 years back ka generation. It was a film, that's how we watch it. But definitely, when we released Gadar 1 two months back and the way people responded, it gave me a lot of confidence."

The actor shared that youngsters liked the vibe of "Main nikla gadi leke" and he saw them dancing and singing it, just like the generation before did.

After creating box office records, Gadar 2, also starring Ameesha Patel and Utkarsh Sharma, is streaming on ZEE5.

Nimrat Kaur plays cop on the hunt of 'dead' woman she believes is alive

The Nimrat Kaur and Radhika Madan led crime-thriller film 'Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video' has released a gritty, realistic and suspense-filled trailer, packed with authentic female power and a dark gripping mystery.

The trailer revolves around the disappearance and seeming suicide of a schoolteacher called Sajini which is played by Radhika Madan. The premise sees that Sajini has likely killed herself after the leak of something sexually graphic which happened to her, prompting her to allegedly kill herself.

However, police officer Nimrat Kaur, who is investigating this case doesn't really believe that Sajini is dead, let alone committed suicide and instead believes that all of this is a facade hiding something more sinister. Source: IANS





Netizens see Will Smith-Chris Rock Oscars slap incident in new light after Jada Pinkett reveals separation

Jada Pinkett Smith has finally broken her silence about the Oscars incident that reverberated across the globe last year along with sharing a few things about her 'secret' separation with her husband Will Smith. The incident, famously dubbed 'The Slap Heard 'Round The World,' involved her husband, Will Smith, slapping comedian Chris Rock during the prestigious Academy Awards ceremony just before he received his Academy Award for his performance in "King Richard."

"I was like, 'There's no way that Will hit him,'" Pinkett Smith confessed to People magazine, revealing her initial disbelief about the incident.

For those unfamiliar, the incident unfolded just moments before Will Smith received the Academy Award for his performance in "King Richard." Chris Rock made a joke about Pinkett Smith's alopecia, likening her to a character from "G.I. Jane 2."

Scarlett Johansson opens up about 'painful memories' from her younger years

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson opens up about her struggle with acne during her youth.

The 38-year-old actress shared that she suffered from skin issues when she was in her late teens and suffered from "painful memories" when recently looking at old pictures of herself.

"I struggled with acne forever. My brother actually just showed me photos of myself at a family thing when I was probably 19 or 20, and my skin quality is completely different," She told Stylist, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"When I saw that photo it just, you know, it brought everything back. All those painful memories. I just struggled with my skin for such a long time. I used to wear concealer to work in the morning, even though somebody was about to put make-up on my face."

"But that was when I was younger and the messaging around acne back then was that your skin was grimy and dirty, and you'd get rid of the blemishes by washing it. It was all so negative - and also incorrect. At that point, I was using every product I was prescribed and that I saw in the media."

"I would go through these cycles of drying out the acne and then having all this redness and irritation. It was a non-stop cycle. Then, when I was in my mid-to-late 20s, I just couldn't do it anymore. I started using gentle products consistently, I began moisturising, and within a week my skin was completely different."

The 'Black Widow' star has now launched skincare brand The Outset and explained that all of her friends were excited to hear about her new venture because they thought it was something she should have done years ago.

She said: "It's funny, because when I told my friends I was starting a skincare line they were like, 'Finally!' So for them, it was (always on the cards for me) but I just never could have imagined entering into the start-up world. The b2b (business to business) space is a completely different industry for me, and it's been challenging but also really rewarding." *Source: IANS*



Beyonce attends Taylor Swift's 'The Eras Tour' concert film premiere in Los Angeles



The Grove in Los Angeles hosted the world premiere of Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour. The entire mall was shut

down as invited fans gathered to watch Taylor's concert film, directed by Sam Wrench. Also seen at the premiere was Beyoncé. Fans are blown away after photos of the two 'amazing, very talented and successful' singers posing together at the red carpet surfaced online. Other guests included Adam Sandler and Simu Liu. Also read: Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour film shakes up Hollywood, forces movies to shuffle release dates

"Taylor Swift and Beyoncé reportedly had dinner together before attending the Eras Tour movie premiere," said pop culture and entertainment based X (Twitter) account PopBase.

While Taylor wore a strapless blue Oscar de la Renta gown to the gala event, Beyoncé wore a metallic corset with her all-black outfit. She also sported dark sunglasses as she posed with Taylor at the red carpet. Earlier this month, Beyoncé had also announced the release of her

Renaissance World Tour film with a trailer.

Taylor also posted a clip of the two, and wrote, "I'm so glad I'll never know what my life would've been like without @beyonce's influence. The way she's taught me and every artist out here to break rules and defy industry norms. Her generosity of spirit. Her resilience and versatility. She's been a guiding light throughout my career and the fact that she showed up tonight was like an actual fairytale."

Many reacted to a photo of the two shared by Pop Base. One wrote, "Beyoncé and Taylor Swift - two icons shining at the Eras Tour movie premiere. No more fan wars, just love and appreciation for their incredible talent."

Another said, "The Swifties (Taylor Swift fans) that were calling Bey (Beyoncé) the most despicable things are gasping for air right now." Another wrote, "Two amazing, VERY TALENTED and successful performing artists!" One more said, "Queens supporting each other."

Israel's military orders civilians to evacuate Gaza City, ahead of a feared ground offensive

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's military directed the evacuation on October 13 of all of the hundreds of thousands of civilians living in Gaza City ahead of a feared Israel ground offensive. The order comes after Hamas militants, and the United Nations said Israel has warned it wants the evacuation of all 1.1 million people from the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

The directive, which comes on the seventh day of the war after a deadly Hamas assault on Israel, directs residents of Gaza City to flee deeper south into the Gaza Strip, a narrow coastal territory. Israel's directive charged that Hamas militants were hiding in tunnels under the city.

"This evacuation is for your own safety," the Israeli military said, in a warning it said was sent to Gaza City civilians.

The flurry of directives could signal an impending ground offensive, though the Israeli military has not yet confirmed such an appeal. On Thursday it said that while it was preparing, no decision has been made.

Israel delivered an even broader evacuation order — giving almost half of tiny Gaza's population 24 hours to flee to the territory's south — to the U.N. shortly before midnight, spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. The Israeli military did not immediately confirm



the broader evacuation order.

The broad evacuation order for all of Gaza's north also applies to all U.N. staff and to the hundreds of thousands who have taken shelter in U.N. schools and other facilities since Israel launched round-the-clock airstrikes Saturday.

"The United Nations considers it impossible for such a movement to take place without devastating humanitarian consequences," Dujarric said.

"The U.N. The United Nations strongly appeals for any such order, if confirmed, to be rescinded avoiding what could transform what is already a tragedy into a calamitous situation," the spokesman said.

Israel-Hamas war LIVE | Day 7 | Israel tells UN that 1.1 million northern Gazans should relocate

Another UN official said that the United Nations is trying to get clarity from Israeli officials at the senior most political level.

"It's completely unprecedented," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Panicked rumors of an evacuation had begun to spread in north Gaza in the early morning Friday.

A ground offensive in Gaza, which is ruled by Hamas and where the population is densely packed into a sliver of land only 40 kilometers (25

miles) long, would likely bring even higher casualties on both sides in brutal house-to-house fighting.

Hamas' assault Saturday and smaller attacks since have killed more than 1,300 people in Israel, including 247 soldiers — a toll unseen in Israel for decades — and the ensuing Israeli bombardment has killed more than 1,530 people in Gaza, according to authorities on both sides. Israel says roughly 1,500 Hamas militants were killed inside Israel, and that hundreds of the dead in Gaza are Hamas members. Thousands have been wounded on both sides.

As Israel pounds Gaza from the air, Hamas militants have fired thousands of rockets into Israel. Amid concerns that the fighting could spread in the region, Syrian state media reported that Israeli airstrikes on Thursday put two Syrian international airports out of service.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to "crush" Hamas after the militants stormed into the country's south on Saturday and massacred hundreds of people, including killings of children in their homes and young people at a music festival.

Amid grief and demands for vengeance among the Israeli public, the government is under intense pressure to topple Hamas rather than continuing to try to bottle it up in Gaza. (AP)

Israel-Hamas war: Displaced people's count shoots up from 3,000 to 35,000 in five days



GAZA (TIP): The number of displaced people in Gaza has shot up from 3,000 before the recent violence to nearly 350,000 within less than a week.

There were around 3,000 displaced people in Gaza before the recent violence. That rose to 40,000 within the first day and has since multiplied eight times to nearly 350,000.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) say they expect displacements - people forced to leave their homes - to increase further over the coming days.

Two-thirds of those who've left their homes - 218,597 of the 338,934 total - are being sheltered in 92 schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), according to Sky News. The British news channel quoted Mahmoud Shalabi, a Palestinian living in north Gaza, and a senior programme manager for Medical Aid for

Palestinians (MAP), as saying that those shelters are ill-equipped. The UN say they have already reached capacity and are now having to shelter people at their health centres instead, it added.

This leaves people to flee to the homes of friends or families instead if they can. Many have fled towards Gaza City, upon the advice of the Israeli government and because it's usually the safest place to be.

Shalabi says that's not the case this time.

"It was recorded that 200 raids were fired towards the centre of Gaza City, which was considered as the safest part of Gaza for a very long time.

"The roads there are no longer usable, so it's impossible to go there," he was quoted as saying by Sky News.

Juliette Touma, director of communications for the UNRWA, told Sky News of the difficulties facing aid agencies trying to help people.

"This is unprecedented. The losses are huge. The destruction, including to UN buildings and facilities, is significant."

Fourteen UN buildings have been damaged, including a headquarters building which sustained collateral damage as a result of heavy airstrikes on buildings nearby, Sky News quoted her as saying. ((NIE)

Morgue at Gaza's biggest hospital is overflowing as Israeli attacks intensify



GAZA CITY (TIP): The morgue at Gaza's biggest hospital overflowed October 12 as bodies came in faster than relatives could claim them on the sixth day of Israel's heavy aerial bombardment on the territory of 2.3 million people.

With scores of Palestinians killed each day in the Israeli onslaught after an unprecedented Hamas attack, medics in the besieged enclave said they ran out of places to put remains pulled from the latest strikes or recovered from under the ruins of demolished buildings.

The morgue at Gaza City's Shifa hospital can only handle some 30 bodies at a time, and workers had to stack

corpses three high outside the walk-in cooler and put dozens more, side by side, in the parking lot.

"The body bags started and just kept coming and coming and now it's a graveyard," Abu Elias Shobaki, a nurse at Shifa, said of the parking lot. "I am emotionally, physically exhausted. I just have to stop myself from thinking about how much worse it will get."

Nearly a week after Hamas militants crossed through Israel's highly fortified separation fence and killed over 1,200 Israelis in a brutal rampage, Israel is preparing for a possible ground invasion of Gaza for the first time in nearly a decade. (AP)

China to hold third edition of Belt and Road Initiative Forum in Beijing on October 17-18

BEIJING (TIP): China will hold the third edition of the Belt and Road Forum here from October 17 to 18 and President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony, it was announced on October 11.

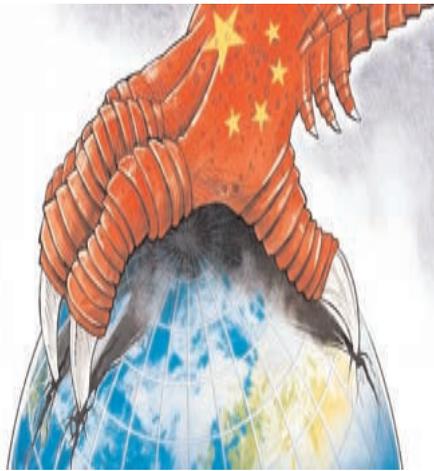
The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched by President Xi when he came to power in 2013. It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

Under the ambitious BRI, China provides funding for major infrastructure projects around the world, in a bid to speed Chinese goods to markets further afield.

The USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of the BRI. India has strongly protested to China over the CPEC as it is being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

In July, India once again refused to endorse China's ambitious BRI, becoming the only country in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation not to support the project. A declaration issued at the end of an India-hosted virtual summit of the grouping said Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their support for the BRI.

The third Belt and Road Forum for



International Cooperation (BRF) will be held in Beijing from October 17 to 18. President Xi will attend the opening ceremony of the forum and deliver a keynote speech, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced in Beijing.

According to Hua, the theme of the third BRF is "High-quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Together for Common Development and Prosperity."

The BRI was in the news recently when Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said his country made an "improvised and atrocious" decision to join China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Critics see the BRI as a tool for China to spread influence. Both the EU and the US expressed concern when

Italy decided to join the scheme.

However, a senior Chinese official has claimed that the BRI has delivered mutual benefits over the past decade, featuring deepened trade and investment cooperation, more abundant connectivity projects, and improved cooperation mechanisms.

"China's super-large market has provided important development opportunities for BRI participating countries, which contributed nearly half of China's total imports," Vice Commerce Minister Guo Tingting told the official Xinhua news agency.

As the major trading partner of over 110 BRI countries, China saw its total goods trade with all BRI countries reach close to USD 2.9 trillion in 2022.

China's direct investment in BRI partner countries topped USD 30 billion last year, while BRI countries invested more than 20 USD billion in China, the report said.

India along with the US and several major economies last month announced an ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

The new economic corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's BRI, was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi. (PTI)

FIRE CAUSES PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF PARKING STRUCTURE AT LONDON'S LUTON AIRPORT

LONDON (TIP): A fire burning in a London airport's parking structure early October 11 caused a partial collapse, and five people have been hospitalised for smoke inhalation.

All flights at Luton Airport were suspended until noon due to the fire, the airport posted on the X social media platform.

Five people, firefighters and an airline official, were admitted to hospitals for smoke inhalation.

A sixth person was treated at the scene.

Video posted on social media and on British news outlets' websites showed police and fire department vehicles gathered outside a multi-story parking structure where the top level was engulfed in orange flames.

A charred section of a parking structure is seen after it caught fire and partially collapsed at London's Luton Airport on October 11, 2023. (AFP)

The newly built parking structure for Terminal 2 partially collapsed after the fire started around 9 p.m. Tuesday.

The airport asked would-be passengers to stay away since access to the area was restricted.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue, Bedfordshire Police and the East of England Ambulance remain on the scene.

Luton Airport is about 35 miles (56 kilometres) north of central London and is one of several international airports serving the city. (PTI)

Evacuations are underway in Argentina's Cordoba province as wildfires grow amid heat wave

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): Dozens of people were evacuated from their homes in Argentina's central Cordoba province on October 11 as wildfires grew amid an intense heat wave.

IMAGES AND VIDEO FROM THE AREA SHOWED MASSIVE FLAMES IN HILLS SURROUNDING POPULATED AREAS AS FIREFIGHTERS WORKED TO COMBAT THE FLAMES THAT HAD REACHED SOME HOMES IN THE REGION.

It was not immediately clear how many homes had been affected by the flames.

A total of 960 firefighters were



working to combat the wildfires with eight firefighting planes and two helicopters, the provincial government said Tuesday evening.

Local media reported that dozens of people had been evacuated.

There was hope that rains expected Tuesday night and early Wednesday

morning could help calm the fires that had spread rapidly due to strong winds.

"I call on the population to respect the indications of the firefighters and authorities who are working in the affected areas," Cordoba Gov. Juan Schiaretti wrote on social media. "The most important thing is to save lives,

wherever evacuation is necessary, it will be done."

There were five active wildfires in the region on Tuesday, according to Argentina's National Fire Management Service.

Ulises Xarate, 27, has been detained and accused of starting a fire Monday afternoon in an area close to the city of Villa Carlos Paz in the province's Punilla region, according to local media citing prosecutor Jorgelina Gómez. Xarate reportedly told police he started a campfire to make coffee and lost control of the flames due to strong winds.

The provincial government said it had sent trucks with potable water, food, mattresses and blankets to the affected areas. "We request that prevention measures be taken to the highest degree, as the weather conditions are adverse," Cordoba's Government and Security Minister Julián López wrote on social media. (AP)

SRI LANKA CONFIRMS MAJOR DEBT DEAL WITH CHINA COVERING USD 4.2 BILLION OF OUTSTANDING DEBT



COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan government has confirmed that it has concluded a preliminary deal with China on the restructuring of its debts to Beijing, seen as a "big step" in the cash-strapped country's economic recovery.

In a statement issued on October 11, the Ministry of Finance said "The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is pleased to announce that it has reached an agreement on the key principles and indicative terms of a debt treatment with the Export-Import Bank of China."

China holds about 52 per cent of Sri Lanka's USD 46 billion external credit.

The agreement in principle covers approximately USD 4.2 billion of outstanding debt, it said adding that it constitutes "a key step towards restoring Sri Lanka's long-term debt sustainability and will pave the way to a prompt economic recovery."

The terms of the restructuring agreed upon will provide the space for Sri Lanka to implement its reform agenda.

The government has expressed hope that it should also facilitate approval by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of the second tranche of the USD 2.9 billion bailout of approximately USD 334 million.

"Yesterday marked a big step for Sri Lanka as we reached this landmark agreement in principle on debt treatment terms with our largest single creditor. We thank China Exim Bank for its support in resolving our country's debt situation."

Sri Lanka was hit by its worst economic crisis in history when its foreign exchange reserves fell to a critical low and the public came out on the streets to protest the shortage of fuel, fertilisers and essential commodities.

This agreement constitutes a key milestone in Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts to foster its economic recovery, the Secretary to the Treasury Mahinda Siriwardena said.

On Wednesday, State Minister of Finance Ranjith Siyambalapatiya said China's assurance to Sri Lanka to restructure its external debt is an important development for the debt-ridden country's economic situation.

He added that when Sri Lanka went into default in 2022 due to the economic crisis, the island's outstanding external debt stood at around USD 46 billion. (PTI)

More than 90% of people killed by western Afghanistan quake were women and children

ISLAMABAD (TIP): More than 90% of the people killed by a 6.3-magnitude earthquake in western Afghanistan last weekend were women and children, U.N. officials reported on October 12.

Taliban officials said Saturday's earthquake killed more than 2,000 people of all ages and genders across Herat province. The epicenter was in Zenda Jan district, where 1,294 people died, 1,688 were injured and every home was destroyed, according to U.N. figures.

Women and children were more likely to have been at home when the quake struck in the morning, said Siddig Ibrahim, the chief of the UNICEF field office in Herat, said. "When the first earthquake hit, people thought it was an explosion, and they ran into their homes," he said.

Hundreds of people, mostly women, remain missing in Zenda Jan.

The Afghanistan representative for the United Nations Population Fund, Jaime Nadal, said there would have been no "gender dimension" to the death toll if the quake had happened at night.

"At that time of the day, men were out in the field," Nadal told The Associated Press. "Many men migrate to Iran for work. The women were at home doing the chores and looking after the children. They found themselves trapped under the rubble. There was clearly a gender dimension."

The initial quake, numerous aftershocks and a second 6.3-magnitude quake on Wednesday flattened entire villages, destroying hundreds of mud-brick homes that could not withstand such force. Schools, health clinics and other village facilities also collapsed.

The Norwegian Refugee Council described the devastation as enormous.



"Early reports from our teams are that many of those who lost their lives were small children who were crushed or suffocated after buildings collapsed on them," the council said.

The maternity hospital in Herat province has cracks that make the structure unsafe. The U.N. Population Fund has provided tents so pregnant women have somewhere to stay and receive care, Nadal said.

Many people inside and outside the provincial capital are still sleeping outside, even as temperatures drop.

The disproportionate impact of the quake on women has left children without mothers, their primary caregivers, raising questions about who will raise them or how to reunite them with fathers who might be out of the province or Afghanistan.

Aid officials say orphanages are non-existent or uncommon, meaning children who have lost one or both parents were likely to be taken in by surviving relatives or community members.

Earthquakes are common in Afghanistan, where there are a number of fault lines and frequent movement among three nearby tectonic plates.

Women may be at greater risk of being unprepared for quakes because of Taliban edicts curtailing their mobility and rights, and restrictions imposed on female humanitarian workers, a U.N. report has warned.

Authorities have barred girls from school beyond sixth grade and stopped women from working at nongovernmental groups, although there are exceptions for some sectors like health care. The Taliban also say that women cannot travel long distances without male chaperones.

Aid agencies say their female Afghan staff members are "for now" working freely in Herat and reaching women and girls affected by the earthquake.

UNICEF has launched a \$20 million appeal to help the estimate 13,000 children and families devastated by the earthquake. (AP)

29 killed in army strike on camp for displaced in Myanmar: Rebels

BANGKOK (TIP): Twenty-nine people were killed and dozens wounded in a military strike on a camp for displaced people in northern Myanmar, a spokesman for an ethnic rebel group that controls the area told AFP on October 11.

Myanmar's junta has been accused of carrying out multiple bloody attacks on civilian targets as it struggles to quell resistance to its 2021 coup.

The latest attack happened around 11:30 pm on Monday (1700 GMT), Colonel Naw Bu of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) told AFP.

"We found 29 dead bodies including children and older people... 56 people were wounded," he said, adding they were investigating what kind of strike

had hit the camp. "We did not hear any aircraft," he noted, saying they were looking into whether the military had used a drone to target the camp near the town of Laiza, on the Chinese border.

Local media images purporting to show the aftermath of the strikes showed rescuers working by torchlight to recover bodies from wooden debris.

At least 10 bodies were shown laid out on towels and tarpaulins on the ground.

Colonel Naw Bu said that 42 people were being treated at a hospital near Laiza.

More than 10,000 people have been displaced in Kachin state since the military's ousting of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

The coup sparked huge protests and a bloody crackdown on dissent that has seen tens of thousands arrested and more than 4,100 killed, according to local monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP). A junta spokesman was contacted for comment.

The KIA controls swathes of Kachin state -- home to the world's largest jade mines -- and has clashed with the military for decades.

The region has seen heavy fighting in the wake of the 2021 putsch, with the junta accusing the KIA of arming and training the newer "People's Defence Forces" that have sprung up to battle the junta. (AFP)

JAI MATA DI
3rd Annual Community Jagran

**Friday, October 20th 2023
9.00 PM to 6.00 AM**

**Come & Take
Maa's blessings**

**Enjoy
Whole
Night
Jagrata**

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KHANA**
**Special Food
for Devotees
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Fresh Juice,
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Note : This is a community Jagran. This is not related to any religious organization.

Navratri: Nine days of Goddess Durga

Sharadiya Navratri 2023 will begin on October 15 and conclude on October 24. During these nine days, people worship the nine forms of Goddess Durga. The forms include Maa Shailputri, Maa Brahmacharini, Maa Chandraghanta, Maa Kushmanda, Maa Skandamata, Maa Katyayani, Maa Kaalratri, Maa Mahagauri, and Maa Siddhidatri.

Navratri the festival dedicated to Maa Durga, the embodiment of Shakti or cosmic energy is one of the pious festivals for the Hindus. Sharad Navratri observed in September/October is widely celebrated across India and abroad and witnesses huge festivities that touch everyone's lives. Maa Durga has nine forms, and all are worshipped during Navratri by dedicating each day to one 'avatar' or incarnation. Each goddess is representative of a particular virtue and is believed to bestow worldly and spiritual fulfilment.

Performing rituals of Navratri is the most significant way of experiencing the essence of this Hindu festival. In the auspicious and awe-inspiring occasion, divine love pervades through all devotees who emerge more courageous and wiser through the nine-day rigor. In the vein of all vedic traditions, Navratri customs help to inculcate spiritual habits. Hence, prayers, chants, 'bhajans' and reading of important religious texts make up a significant portion of this festival. Devotees pay obeisance to this feminine divine energy that is believed to maintain the balance of the universe.

Navratri is one of the most anticipated festivals in India with social and spiritual connotations. Navratri Hindu festival is spread out over nine consecutive days in the Chaitra and Ashwin months to consecrate the divine aspects of Ma Shakti as Goddess Durga, Goddess Lakshmi and Goddess Saraswati. The festival is associated with their symbolic connotation as epitome of courage, wealth and skill respectively.

Broadly, on the first three days, devotees venerate Goddess Durga as she represents power in its divine form that removes negativity and proclivity towards immoral behavior. She is, invoked as Kumari, Parvati and Kali which are aspects of Ma Durga and represent her adolescence-to-maturity stage. During the next three days, Goddess Lakshmi blessings for material and spiritual prosperity are sought with puja and powerful mantra chantings. Over the next three days, Goddess Saraswati is invoked to seek blessings for erudition and skills in the arts. The devotee puts books and musical instruments near the deity to acquire true knowledge and wisdom to see him/her through this life and beyond. The ninth day of 'Mahanavami', the concluding day of Navratri puja, is considered an auspicious day for conducting pujas such as 'Aparajita' puja and 'Kanya Puja'. The tenth day celebrates the momentous events associated with Lord Rama as well as Ma Durga, who killed the demon 'Mahisasura'.

Customs & Rituals of Navratri

Customs of Navratri which stand out prominently in terms of strict observance include the following:

On the very first day, barley or 'jowar' seeds are sown in a decorated clay pot and by the tenth day, the tender shoots are distributed among the devotees. A photograph or an idol of the eight-armed

Goddess seated on a lion, along with the 'yantra' is installed.

'Kalash Sthapna' is done which involves installing a water pot or 'kalash', sprinkled with holy water and filled with mango leaves and coconut.

The morning 'puja' is performed after a bath, and the day-long fast is broken after doing the evening puja.

During the puja, 'shankh' is blown, fresh flowers, 'doob' or sacred grass, 'paan' and fruits are offered to the deity, chapters from the sacred 'Durga Saptshati' and 'Chandipath' are recited, followed by 'arti' and prasad distribution.

A very significant ritual is performing 'Kanya Puja' on 'Ashtami' and 'Navami', which involves worshipping nine young girls, in pre-puberty stage, representing the nine forms of goddess Durga. Each girl is treated to a meal comprising puri, sweet bread, halwa, a sweet dish, made of semolina and Bengal gram curry. After washing their feet, the devotees break their fast.

Ayudha or Astra Puja is held on the eighth/ninth day. Tools, vehicles and equipments are worshipped on this day.

Among some communities, it is also considered an auspicious time to initiate learning for children by invoking Goddess Saraswati. Hence, Lalita-puja and Saraswati-puja is done ritualistically to start formal education of children.

A Garba performance precedes 'aarti' conducted in honor of Maa Durga.

Fasting or 'vrat' from sunrise till sunset is undertaken for night days.

In the Navratri Hindu festival, the devotee should observe abstinence and austerity.

On the eight day, a 'yagna' is performed with offerings of ghee and til for mental and spiritual cleansing.

Lemon or bhasma or ash is used for cleaning substances for 'abhishek'.

In Gujarat, a garbh-deep or a lamp is lit within an earthen pot with several perforations representing the unison of body and soul.

Navratri is a celebration of the nine incarnations of Maa Durga. Each day is devoted to a specific avatar. Read on to know which form of Maa Durga is worshipped on which of the nine days.

Day 1: Goddess Shailputri

Shailputri literally means 'daughter of mountains'. This avatar of Maa Durga was born as the daughter of Mountain King Himalaya. With a white bull as her mount, she sits with a trishul in one hand and a lotus in the other. She represents the principal form of Durga in the childhood stage of Parvati.

Day 2: Goddess Brahmacharini

The name Brahmacharini means 'mother of devotion and penance'. In this avatar, she holds a Rudraksha mala in one hand and a kamandalu in the other. She represents the ascetic phase of Durga.

Day 3: Goddess Chandraghanta

Seated upon a fierce tiger, this avatar of Maa Durga has 10 hands, eight of



which are armed with trishul, gada, sword, kamandal, a lotus flower, arrow, dhanush and japa mala. Her fifth left hand is in Varada Mudra, and her fifth right hand makes the Abhaya Mudra. This is the 'Shakti' form of Maa Durga.

Day 4: Goddess Kushmanda

This avatar is a representation of Durga as 'Mahashakti'. The name Kushmanda means 'creator of the universe'. In this avatar, she is seated on a lion, having eight arms. Each of her arms hold a kamandal, dhanush, bada, kamal, an amrit-kalash, japa mala, gada, and chakra respectively.

Day 5: Goddess Skandmata

Representing Durga in her motherhood phase, Skandmata means Goddess of motherhood and children. Mounted upon the back of a lion, in this avatar, she has four arms, two of them holding lotuses and with her son, six-faced Kartikey (thus the 'Skand') in one hand and the other hand in the fear-dispelling Abhayamudra position

blessing her devotees.

Day 6: Goddess Katyayani

In this avatar, the four-armed deity is seated upon a fearsome lion with a sword, shield, lotus, and trident in each hand. The goddess of power represents Goddess Durga as a warrior.

Day 7: Goddess Kaalratri

Kaalratri is the goddess of auspiciousness and courage as a manifestation of Durga in her form of destruction. With a donkey as her ride, she has got three bloodshot eyes and unkempt hair. She wears a garland of skulls around her neck and holds a trident, scimitar, vajra, and a bowl in her four hands. She is often referred to as 'Kali'.

Day 8: Goddess Mahagauri

On the eighth day of Navratri or Ashtami, Goddess Mahagauri is celebrated as the goddess of beauty and women. With a white bull as her vehicle, she represents Durga in her form of



Goddess Shailputri



Goddess Chandraghanta



Goddess Kushmanda



Goddess Brahmacharini



Goddess Skandmata



Goddess Katyayani



Goddess Kaalratri



Goddess Mahagauri



Goddess Siddhidhatri

During the fasting periods, only certain foods are allowed and a number of foods and spices are banned from consumption. Typically, fasting devotees give up consumption of grains for most part of the day, partaking in a specially prepared fasting meal only once a day. The rest of the day, they eat only fruits and special vrat snacks, prepared from sendha namak or rock salt. Only some food grains, vegetables and spices are allowed during the Navratri fasting period. These include grains like buckwheat and water chestnut flour and certain tubers like potato and sweet potato. Desserts made from sabudana or sago and fox nuts or makhanas are common preparations during Navratri fasts.

Other commonly prepared fasting dishes include sabudana vada or sabudana tikki, kuttu or buckwheat flour pooris, potato curry, sweet potato halwa, etc. While the consumption of sugar is allowed, consumption of table salt is banned during Navratris.

Significance

The Triumph of Good over Evil:

Navratri, meaning 'nine nights,' is a time when devotees worship different forms of the goddess Durga, the divine warrior who symbolizes the victory of good over evil. Throughout the nine days, devotees engage in prayers, fasting, and rituals, seeking blessings and protection from the goddess. On the tenth day, known as Dussehra or Vijaydashami, the festival concludes with the immersion of Durga idols, representing the triumph of good over



evil.

Devotion and Spiritual Purification:

The Sharad Navratri Parana holds immense spiritual importance for devotees. During this time, they engage in rigorous fasting and perform various religious rituals to cleanse their mind, body, and soul. By abstaining from certain foods, indulgences, and participating in prayers, individuals aim to purify themselves and strengthen their devotion to the goddess Durga. The Parana marks the culmination of these efforts, bringing a sense of fulfillment and spiritual satisfaction.

Renewal of Faith and Commitment:

Navratri serves as a time for devotees to reassess their faith and reaffirm their commitment to righteousness and moral values. The celebration of Navratri

Parana provides an opportunity to reflect on one's spiritual growth during the nine-day period and set new goals for personal development. It encourages individuals to continue walking on the path of righteousness, armed with the blessings and guidance of the goddess Durga.

Cultural Unity and Festive Joy:

Navratri is not only a religious festival but also a celebration of culture and unity. It brings people together, strengthening family and community bonds. During Sharad Navratri Parana, devotees participate in grand processions, singing and dancing to traditional folk music. The immersion of Durga idols in the river or other water bodies during Dussehra inspires a feeling of collective joy and excitement. This shared experience fosters harmony, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging among communities.

Sharad Navratri Parana marks the end of the revered Navratri festival, signifying the victory of good over evil and the renewal of faith. This celebration holds deep spiritual, cultural, and emotional significance for devotees across the globe. It serves as a reminder of the importance of devotion, purification, and personal growth on the journey towards spiritual enlightenment. Moreover, Navratri Parana reinforces our commitment to nurturing unity, love, and harmony within our communities. Let us embrace this festive occasion with reverence and joy, seeking divine blessings and embracing the triumph of good in all aspects of our lives.

recovery. The four-armed avatar holds a trident, a damru, and a pink lotus in three hands and her fourth hand is shown blessing her worshippers.

Day 9: Goddess Siddhidhatri

The final day of Navratri is dedicated to the goddess of siddhis. This form of Durga implies perfection, reaching the supreme form as Mahashakti. Sitting on a lotus, she holds in her four arms, a discus, conch shell, pink lotus, and a mace.

Foods To Eat And Special Fasting Foods

Navratri celebrations vary from state to state. A number of Hindu families fast for varying periods during Navratri.

Caring for curly hair: Tips and tricks

Unlike straight hair, curly hair tends to lack moisture and dry out easily, making it more difficult to care for. The amount of curl in your hair is influenced by your hair follicles. People with curly hair tend to have more oval or asymmetrical follicles. This, of course, is determined by your genetics.

If you're looking to add more bounce and shine to your natural curls, we break down the tips and tricks you need for keeping your hair healthy.

If you have very coarse or curly hair, you may want to try using a pre-shampoo treatment.

Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to condition only after cleansing. You can use a conditioner both before and after you shampoo.

Coarse, curly hair tends to lose moisture very quickly. Using a conditioner before shampooing in theory helps to protect the hair strand so that the shampoo won't strip the hair of its natural oils.

Hot water tends to strip moisture from hair and leave it dry. Washing hair with cold water and avoiding hot water will help you retain moisture and strength.

Avoid over-shampooing

Shampooing every day isn't a good idea for people with curly hair. Shampooing can strip the hair of its much-needed natural oils.

You may need to experiment with a cleansing schedule to see what works best for you. In general, try shampooing every other day or every 3 days.

Choose the right brush or comb

Curly hair is often dry and brittle and can break easily when combed or brushed. Try brushing or combing curly hair in the shower to avoid breakage.

Start with a wide-tooth comb to break up any knots. You can also comb while the conditioner is still in your hair to make it easier and to ensure the conditioner coats all your strands.

When choosing a hairbrush, invest in a high quality brush with natural bristles instead of plastic. A boar bristle brush can help spread natural oils from the



scalp through the ends of the hair.

Another option is to not use a brush or comb at all. If you have particularly springy curls, try applying a leave-in conditioner and then raking through wet hair with your fingertips.

Heat styling curly hair

Most stylists will recommend that you let curly hair air dry because using a blow-dryer can make it frizzy and damage it.

If you want to use a blow-dryer or straighten it every once in a while with a straightening iron, it's important to use some sort of heat protecting spray or treatment before you do so. Look for a spray containing silicone or keratin to seal the cuticle and make it more resistant to heat damage.

When blow-drying, researchers suggest that you keep your hair dryer 6 inches or more from the surface of your hair.

You can add a diffuser attachment onto your blow-dryer to help limit how much direct heat hits your hair.

Source: Healthline.com



Ways to make your 'all black' outfits look stylish than ever

Are you one of those females who can never seem to have enough black in her wardrobe? Don't be concerned! You are not by yourself! Every fashion girl knows that this colour can make you look fab for every event. But, you can't that deny too much of anything gets a little boring and monotonous. So, we are here with a bag full of amazing tips to wear all black, without looking boring at all. Go rock this sexy color like a boss!

Classic Monochrome

Create a sleek and sophisticated look by wearing all black from head to toe. Opt for a well-fitted black blazer or leather jacket, paired with black trousers or jeans. Complete the outfit with a black shirt or top, and accessorize with black shoes and minimalistic black accessories like a belt or a watch.

Edgy with Leather

Add some edge to your all black ensemble by incorporating leather pieces. Try a black leather biker jacket paired with black skinny jeans and a black graphic t-shirt. Finish the look with black ankle boots or high-top sneakers. You can also accessorize with a black leather backpack or a studded black belt for extra flair.

Textured Layers

Experiment with different textures to add visual interest to your black outfits. Combine a black knit sweater or cardigan with black leather leggings or black denim. Layer a sheer or lace black top underneath for a touch of femininity. Finish off the look with black ankle boots or heeled boots for an elevated touch.

Sporty Chic

For a casual yet stylish look, try a sporty black outfit. Pair black joggers or leggings with a black oversized hoodie or sweatshirt. Add a pop of contrast with white sneakers and accessorize with a black baseball cap or a backpack. You can also layer a black windbreaker or bomber jacket for extra versatility.

Minimalistic Elegance

Embrace a minimalistic approach by combining black pieces with clean lines and simple silhouettes. Wear a black tailored jumpsuit or a black midi dress. Complete the look with black pointed-toe flats or heels for an elegant touch. Keep the accessories minimal and sleek, like a black clutch or delicate black jewelry.

FOOD CORNER

Cauliflower Fried Rice

Ingredients

- 1 whole cauliflower (try to pick a large one)
- 1 chopped red bell pepper
- 1 packet of baby corn
- 1 packet of mushrooms
- 3 spring onions
- 1 tablespoon of soy sauce
- 6-7 pods of chopped garlic
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

1. Cut off all the leaves and the stem of the cauliflower and chop it up into smaller pieces. Wash thoroughly in case of any dirt or worms.
2. Add the cauliflower bits in batches into your food processor or a dry grinder. Blitz till they become crumbly. Do not add any water at all to the cauliflower this is a dry
3. Once you have the cauliflower into this fine crumbly rice or cous cous like texture leave it aside and chop all the other vegetables and ingredients.
4. Heat some oil in a pan or wok and add the cauliflower so you can cook/roast it for about 5-7 minutes. Keep stirring. The cauliflower won't take very long to cook.
5. Add the chopped garlic and let it cook a bit, then add the spring onions, the whites and some of the greens, keep some greens to garnish later and mix it all together.
6. To this add the peppers and baby corn. Sprinkle a little
7. Add the mushrooms and again season them with salt n pepper before they cook. Once they cook and start to release their water mix it into the other ingredients. The reason we season the ingredients separately first is because we don't add salt to the cauliflower as eventually we will add the soy sauce that has plenty of salt but the vegetables will not catch the flavour so we need to season them slightly.
8. Mix everything together and lastly add the soy sauce. As mention since we've added the soy sauce there is no need to add extra salt but if you taste it and feel you need to please go right ahead.
9. Once it's all mixed together, garnish with the leftover spring onions, serve hot.



Working night shifts messes up appetite and food habits: Study

Scientists reveal how working night shifts interferes with appetite, hunger and food habits, sometimes resulting in weight gain.

The disruption in the body's biological clock, or circadian misalignment, brought about by working night shifts affects the hormones which regulating appetite, the team of scientists, led by the University of Bristol, UK, said.

Circadian misalignment is also commonly associated with the phenomenon of 'jet-lag'.

The team focussed on the adrenal gland, situated near the kidney, which produces hormones that control many physiological functions including metabolism and appetite, called glucocorticoid hormones.

A misalignment between light and dark cues led to a disturbance in the functioning of these hormones that then affected the appetite of the jet-lagged group of animals, driving an increased desire to eat significantly more during the inactive phase of the day, the scientists said in their study published in the journal *Communications Biology*.

They said that their findings reveal how circadian misalignment can profoundly alter food habits much to the detriment of metabolic health and that they could help the millions of people that work through the night and struggle with weight gain.

The glucocorticoid hormones in the adrenal glands directly regulate a group of brain peptides controlling appetitive behaviour, with some increasing appetite (orexigenic) and some decreasing appetite (anorexigenic).

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The glucocorticoid hormones in the adrenal glands directly regulate a group of brain peptides controlling appetitive behaviour, with some increasing appetite (orexigenic) and some decreasing appetite (anorexigenic).

"For those who are working night shifts long-term, we recommend they try to maintain daylight exposure, cardiovascular exercise and mealtimes at regulated hours.

"However, internal brain messages to drive increased appetite are difficult to override with 'discipline' or 'routine' so we are currently designing studies to assess rescue strategies and pharmacological intervention drugs," said senior author Becky Conway-Campbell, Research Fellow at Bristol.

Source: PTI



Parkinson's disease may be detectable 20-30 years sooner than clinical diagnosis

It may be possible to detect signs of Parkinson's disease 20-30 years before symptoms appear, according to researchers in Australia.

A biomarker called F-AV-133, used in combination with PET, or positron emission tomography, scans can help diagnose Parkinson's disease and accurately track neurodegeneration, the researchers from the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne, said.

F-AV-133 is an imaging agent and has shown promise as a PET tracer for detecting and monitoring neurodegeneration in Parkinson's disease, a progressive neurological disorder characterised by tremor and impaired muscular coordination.

According to the researchers, the disease, often thought of as an illness of old age, in fact, starts in midlife and can go undetected for decades.

"Parkinson's disease is very hard to diagnose until symptoms are obvious, by which time up to 85 per cent of the brain's neurons that control motor coordination have been destroyed. At that point, many treatments are likely to be ineffective," said Kevin Barnham, professor at The Florey and lead researcher of the study published in the journal *Neurology*.

In their study, 26 patients already diagnosed to have Parkinson's disease and a control group of 12 people were scanned, along with 11 other people having Rapid Eye Movement sleep behaviour disorder (RBD), a strong indicator of the disease. All of them undertook two PET scans two years apart.

The researchers found that the PET scans showed a significant loss in the nerve cells or neurons in three key regions of the brain in individuals with the disease, even as no significant changes in their clinical symptoms were seen according to currently available diagnostic assessments.

The findings suggest that F-AV-133 is a more sensitive means of monitoring neurodegeneration than what is now available, the researchers said in their study.

Source: PTI

Prolonged antacid use linked to higher dementia risk: Study

Long-term use of certain medications to treat heartburn and acid-related disorders is associated with an increased risk of developing dementia, new research shows.

The research, published in the journal *Neurology*, examined data from more than 5,700 participants who initially did not have dementia and found that those who took proton pump inhibitors for about 4½ years or more had a 33 percent higher risk of developing dementia than those who did not take the medications.

The study did not say these medications cause dementia — only that there was an association between using the drugs and a higher risk of developing dementia.

The researchers did not find a higher risk of dementia linked to shorter-term use.

"Patients taking these medications should talk to their doctor before making any changes to discuss the best treatment for them," Kamakshi Lakshminarayan, senior author of the study and a professor of neurology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, wrote in an email. "Stopping these drugs abruptly may result in worse symptoms."

Proton pump inhibitors or PPIs, including Prevacid, Prilosec and Nexium, are used to help manage



symptoms of acid reflux and a more serious form called gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, in which the stomach contents move back up into the esophagus. The conditions can cause, among other symptoms, heartburn, nausea and regurgitation, which can lead to more serious complications such as trouble swallowing or bleeding in the digestive tract.

People with GERD are also at a slightly increased risk of developing esophageal cancer.

Source: Washingtonpost

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CERT-In issues high severity vulnerability warning for Google Chrome; advises users to apply updates

CERT-In has issued a high-severity rated warning cautioning against "multiple vulnerabilities" in popular web browser Google Chrome, which could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code and cause denial of service condition on targeted system.

In a vulnerability note, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) said a remote attacker could exploit certain vulnerabilities by sending a specially crafted request on the targeted system, and advised users to "apply appropriate updates as mentioned by the vendor".

Giving technical details, it said the software affected are "Google Chrome versions prior to 118.0.5993.70/.71 for Windows" and "Google Chrome versions prior to 118.0.5993.70 for Mac and Linux".

"Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Google Chrome which could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code and cause denial of Services (DoS) condition on the targeted system," CERT-In said on its website, which lists and updates users with vulnerability notes and advisories.

CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they strike.

ISRO to launch first unmanned test flight for Gaganyaan on October 21

National space agency ISRO will launch the unmanned first test flight on October 21 in preparation of India's human space mission Gaganyaan in 2024.

There will be two preliminary missions before the actual human mission goes up to space late next year.

"The launch of Gaganyaan Test Vehicle Space flight, that is, "Gaganyaan" Test Vehicle Development flight (TV-D1) is scheduled on 21st of this month," Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology; and MoS PMO and Space, Jitendra Singh said at a gathering to felicitate ISRO scientists associated with the Chandrayaan Mission here today.

ISRO will also test the efficacy of the crew escape system which is the crucial part of "Gaganyaan" mission.

The tests will be conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Crew module will carry the astronauts during the human spaceflight mission Gaganyaan to outer space in 2024. The test involves launching a crew module to outer space and bringing it back to earth safely and recovering it after touchdown in the Bay of Bengal.

Indian Navy personnel have already started mock operations to recover the module, Singh said.

The success of the test will set the stage for the first unmanned "Gaganyaan" mission and ultimately manned mission to outer space in low Earth orbit, informed the Minister. Before the ultimate manned "Gaganyaan" mission, there will be a test flight next year—a second precursor mission—which will carry "Vyommitra", a female robot astronaut, the minister said.

Gaganyaan project envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a human crew to an orbit of 400 km and bringing them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters. The prerequisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, Life Support System to provide an earth like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision and evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew.

Earth's solid inner core is surprisingly soft like butter, study suggests

Scientists recently discovered that Earth's inner core, which was long thought to be hard like a solid metal sphere, might be a lot softer - more like butter. A new study, led by the University of Texas at Austin and collaborators in China, suggests that this surprising softness may be caused by hyperactive atoms that move around within their molecular structure much more than we realised. Scientists believe that this finding could now help explain some of our planet's long-standing mysteries, like why Earth's magnetic field constantly defies expectations.

It is impossible to directly sample the Earth's inner core because of its extremely high temperatures and pressures. So scientists re-created the intense pressure within the inner core in the lab and observed how the iron atoms behaved under these conditions. They then fed this data into a computer-learning program to create a simulated virtual core that they dubbed the "supercell". Using the supercell, the researchers were then able to see how the iron atoms moved within their supposedly rigid structure.

The results suggested that the atoms inside the inner core can "move much more than we ever imagined," study co-author Jung Fu-Lin said. The researchers explained that the supercell simulations show that some of these atoms can move around in groups - like guests moving around a dinner table, per the press release. This type of movement is known as



"collective motion".

"This increased movement makes the inner core less rigid [and] weaker against shear forces," Mr Lin said. This could explain why the inner core is "surprisingly soft," he added.

Separately, co-lead author Youjun Zhang, who is a professor at Sichuan University, explained that this atomic movement could explain why seismic measurement of the inner core shows an environment that's much softer and malleable than would be expected at such pressures.

"Seismologists have found that the centre of the Earth, called the inner core, is surprisingly soft, kind of like how butter is soft in your

kitchen," he said.

"The big discovery that we've found is that solid iron becomes surprisingly soft deep inside the Earth because its atoms can move much more than we ever imagined. This increased movement makes the inner core less rigid, weaker against shear forces," Zhang added.

The researchers believe that the new findings could reveal new insights into other inner core mysteries, like how it helps to generate Earth's magnetic field. "Now, we know about the fundamental mechanism that will help us with understanding the dynamic processes and evolution of the Earth's inner core," Lin said.

Source: NDTV

Sample from asteroid Bennu rich in carbon and water: NASA

An initial study of the samples of asteroid Bennu brought back to Earth has revealed evidence of high carbon content and water. This indicates that the building blocks of life on our planet can also be found on the 4.5-billion-year-old asteroid.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) made the announcement from its Johnson Space Center in Houston. Scientists and leaders from the space agency showed off the asteroid material for the first time since the OSIRIS-REx mission dropped it to Earth.

"The OSIRIS-REx sample is the biggest carbon-rich asteroid sample ever delivered to Earth and will help scientists investigate the origins of life on our own planet for generations to come. Almost everything we do at NASA seeks to answer questions about who we are and where we come from. NASA missions like OSIRIS-REx will improve our understanding of asteroids that could threaten Earth while giving us a glimpse into what lies beyond. The sample has made it back to Earth,



Image of the asteroid Bennu taken by the OSIRIS-REx mission (Image Source: NASA)

but there is still so much science to come - science like we've never seen before," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson in a press statement.

The objective of the OSIRIS-REx mission was to collect 60 grams of asteroid material from Bennu and bring it back to Earth for analysis. NASA experts have spent more than ten days carefully disassembling the hardware used to return the sample. When the lid of the sample canister was first opened, scientists discovered "bonus" material covering the outside of the collector head, lid and base. There was so much material that it slowed the collection process, according to the space agency.

Scientists began with a "quick-look" analysis of the initial material, where they collected images from a scanning electron microscope along with infrared measurements, X-ray diffraction and chemical element analysis. They also used X-ray computed tomography to produce a 3D computer model of one of the particles. This early "quick-look" gave evidence for the abundant presence of carbon and water in the sample.

India's factory output growth rises to 14-month high of 10.3% in Aug

India's industrial production growth rose to a 14-month high of 10.3% in August, mainly due to good show by the manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to the official data released on October 12.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted by 0.7% in August 2022.

The previous high was recorded at 12.6% growth in June 2022. The IIP growth for July has been revised to 6% from 5.7% provisional estimates released last month.

During April-August 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 6.1%, down from 7.7% in the corresponding period a year ago.

"The growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted, considering the unusual circumstances on account of the Covid pandemic since March 2020," an official statement said.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 9.3% in August 2023 against a contraction of 0.5% a year ago.

Power generation rose 15.3% in August 2023 compared to 1.4% in the year-ago period. Mining output rose by 12.3% during the month under review against a 3.9% contraction a year ago.

India's inflation eases to 5.02% in September

Retail inflation declined to a three-month low of 5.02% in September, mainly due to easing of food prices, according to the government data released on Thursday, October 12.

The inflation has come back to the Reserve Bank's comfort level of below 6% after a gap of two months.

The inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) was 6.83% in August and 7.41% in September 2022.

The previous low was in June this year when the reading stood at 4.87%.

According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket came down to 6.56% in September from 9.94% in the preceding month.

The Reserve Bank of India mainly factors in retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

Gap between US income taxes owed and paid is set to keep growing, IRS says

NEW YORK (TIP)

The amount of tax money owed but not paid to the IRS is set to keep growing, according to projections published by the federal tax collection agency on Thursday, October 12.

For tax years 2021 and 2020, the latest to receive such IRS estimates, the projected gross "tax gap" soared to \$688 billion and \$601 billion, respectively. That marks a significant jump compared to years past — with gross tax gap projections standing at \$550 billion for 2017-2019 and \$496 billion for 2014-2016.

One of the IRS's biggest challenges is making sure that people actually pay their taxes. While agency data shows that the vast majority of Americans pay their taxes voluntarily and on time, hundreds of billions of dollars in unpaid taxes pile up each year — and tax gap estimates keep getting bigger. IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said that the rising tax gap estimates "underscores the importance" of more compliance efforts. Part of the \$80 billion the IRS received from the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act is being used for that purpose. "We are adding focus and resources to areas of compliance concern, including high-income and high-wealth individuals, partnerships and corporations," Werfel said in a statement. "These steps are urgent in many ways, including adding more fairness to the tax system, protecting those who pay their taxes and working to combat the tax gap." The tax gap could also be bigger than expected. Some prior-year projections have already been revised higher. The gross tax gap for 2017-2019, for example, was initially expected to be \$540 billion, but climbed \$10 billion in later estimates. Estimates for 2021 assume that noncompliant behavior hasn't changed since the most recent 2014-2016 audit, IRS officials noted in a call with reporters — meaning that current projections don't reflect filing behavior seen in the pandemic.

Source: AP



ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT IS 'NEW CLOUD' DARKENING ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: IMF CHIEF

International Monetary Fund managing director Kristalina Georgieva said on Thursday, October 12, the "heartbreaking" Israel-Hamas conflict threatened to darken an already murky global economic outlook.

"We are closely monitoring how the situation evolves, how it is affecting, especially oil markets," Georgieva said. There had been some fluctuations in oil prices and reactions in markets but it was too early to predict the economic impact, she added.

"Very clearly, this is a new cloud on not the safest horizon for the world economy, a new cloud darkening this horizon," she told a news conference at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Marrakech, Morocco.

Georgieva joined a growing chorus of financial leaders expressing concern about the sudden eruption of violence in the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict which has already claimed more than 2,500 lives.

Israel has vowed to annihilate the Hamas movement that rules the Gaza Strip in retribution for the deadliest attack on Jewish civilians since the Holocaust, when hundreds of gunmen poured across the barrier fence and rampaged through Israeli towns on Saturday.

Israel said on Thursday there would be no humanitarian break to its siege of the Gaza Strip until all hostages taken by Hamas were freed, after the Red Cross pleaded for fuel to be allowed in to prevent overwhelmed hospitals from "turning into morgues".

"It's heartbreaking to see innocent civilians dying," an emotional Georgieva told reporters. "Who pays the price? It is the innocent who pay the price."

Source: Reuters

Mukesh Ambani reclaims top spot on Forbes list of India's 100 Richest

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a dramatic shift in the pecking order at the top, Mukesh Ambani has reclaimed the No 1 position on the 2023 Forbes list of India's 100 Richest. The collective wealth of India's 100 Richest is at \$799 billion this year. India is on a high after hosting the G20 Summit in New Delhi this September and becoming the fourth country to land a spacecraft on the moon.

Reflecting this sentiment, India's stock market rose 14 per cent since fortunes were last measured. However, that jump, tempered by a weaker rupee, was not



reflected in the collective net worth of India's 100 Richest, which flatlined at \$799 billion. Mukesh Ambani, who transformed his Reliance Industries into a diversified conglomerate, reclaimed the No1 spot with a net worth of \$92 billion.

The fortune of infrastructure magnate Gautam Adani, who rose meteorically to overtake Ambani as India's richest person for the first time last year, reversed dramatically after a report by US shortseller Hindenburg Research in January sent his group's shares tumbling.

Source: IANS



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 22, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, you'll be able to dismiss items in your life that aren't crucial. Creating goals will help you break up challenging circumstances into smaller segments. You'll have crystal-clear communication skills. Using your past expertise as a foundation, you'll develop new techniques for your career. They will be receiving from your subordinates. On this day, your romantic life will be rejoicing. Either you or the other person jointly decides on the season's excitement, or the other person takes on that responsibility. Spending time apart will strengthen your connection. You should concentrate on keeping your wellness in check in the evening. This week, stay out of the excessive heat to prevent aches and illness.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, this week, there will be little disputes. This week, especially in your job and at residence, there will be conflicts between your thoughts and those of others surrounding you. You must be accurate while maintaining a convincing appearance to avoid having to stay concealed until the mission is completed. Allow your family some time to adjust to the marital concept at home since they will find it challenging to comprehend. In terms of your love life, your partner will help you unwind after a challenging day. You'll consider having them to be an inheritance. Your mental well-being will be stressed while your bodily condition will be OK.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, you will have finished your hunt for happiness and romance this week. Because a wonderful new addition will join our circle of friends this week, you will not be dissatisfied like you haven't in a while. You'll find that your extended family is now standing with you. The romantic front will progress significantly after your long-awaited offer is accepted. On the business one another, you may obtain the resources required for progressing your start-up. You'll also meet some folks who will be tremendously useful. You'll be able to reflect on this week's activity with regard to of your messed-up mental state. Your general well-being will also improve as you begin becoming less nervous.

CANCER



Ganesha says, this week, you'll feel refreshed and ready to tackle new challenges. You'll be lucky, and you'll succeed in your goals. By doing this, individuals will advertise your new business. Although your physiological and emotional health will be balanced, joint pain will only be a minor source of discomfort. People in the corporate sector will be more focused on opening fresh businesses officially than those in regular labor, who may consider starting their own businesses. This week, making arrangements is an excellent suggestion. In your romantic life, you'll look in inappropriate areas for love. Before you struck double-check that you are coming towards the correct door.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, a lot of problems will be fixed for you. You will develop both professionally and personally. There won't be any major wellness problems, but you should be aware of your mental well-being. You will ultimately have the opportunity to advertise or explain your thoughts on the company's side. Managers will take you into account. You'll have the bravery to discuss the different elements of your affection with others. Say what's on your mind since your significant other won't be satisfied and would rather talk to you honestly than anything else.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week will be academically challenging for you since you'll meet a significant individual. Keep in touch with them since they will soon be able to direct you in the appropriate direction. This week, when making decisions, your senses will take precedence over logic, placing you in a challenging circumstance. The emotional gap between you and your relationship will be connected this week. This week, you must priorities your relationships with others and hold a meaningful conversation. This week, pay close attention to your job to complete it on schedule since your bosses will be keeping an eye on you. Their admiration for your business savvy will increase. This week, you'll feel at rest.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, there's an opportunity you'll learn something important. This week, you'll feel at rest. Take your time and you'll be ready to select the greatest combination for your child as well. Your income will definitely decline. Furthermore, your reps won't provide you with any uplifting information. Legal actions should be avoided this week because of Rahu's horoscope placement in the sky. Your feelings are making you crazy, and this week you're going to meet somebody who is remarkably similar to you. You'll be amply rewarded for your perseverance. You'll likely visit a lovely location this week for business. Your excursions will grow more frequent when you return from this location with successful business agreements.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, compile a list of all the difficult jobs and do them this week as with Lord Solar's assistance, your perseverance will lead you in the correct direction and enable you to overcome all of your obstacles. You'll create a web of knots if you try to do too much at once. Keep your focus and do one task at a time. If you're breaking your own standards to boost your revenues, you need to quit right immediately. Earnings are fleeting and transient, but your previous destiny has shaped who you are and will follow you throughout the rest of your life. Increase your faith to get yourself back on track. Being honest with oneself will help you improve as an individual.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, you may focus your attention right now on the subjects that will matter most in the future. If you have trust in your ability to complete jobs effectively, you'll get almost there. You'll make sure to complete your work in a polite manner and on time. Additionally, you'll be praised at work for one of your unique talents. This week is the ideal time to talk to your spouse about any problems you encounter in your love connection since they will be open to listening. Nearly all of your problems will be resolved by them. Your wellbeing should significantly improve, and the organic treatments you are utilizing are effective.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 22 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

OCTOBER 16

On this day, the universe will reveal some of its deepest, most profound mysteries to you. You'll notice that as the day progresses, you're more drawn to periods of self-reflection than usual. This is not daydreaming; rather, it is an opportunity to grasp the deepest needs and concerns that lie within you. While the rest of the world goes about its business as normal, a chance encounter could completely alter the way you look at things. You should put your faith in the feelings that come up since they serve as an internal compass that will lead you in the proper route.

OCTOBER 17

The presence of a burst of dynamic energy throughout the day makes today an especially fortunate day for starting fresh and new endeavors. The universe is encouraging you to take that leap of faith, whether you're thinking of making a change in your professional life or healing a personal relationship. Even though it can be frightening, change is the universe's way of telling

us something better is on the horizon. Confront the difficulties head-on, and keep in mind that a good outlook can transform any barrier into an opportunity.

OCTOBER 18:

The cosmos surrounds you with a warm and reassuring hug on this day. You are given a momentary reprieve as the mayhem of the world recedes into the background. Indulge in some form of self-care today, whether that takes the form of meditation, digging into a book, or simply going for a leisurely walk surrounded by nature. These stretches of peace and quiet are more than just breaks; they are necessary for the revitalization and lucidity of your spirit.

OCTOBER 19

In our modern world, words still have a great deal of power. Conversations that are held from the heart will generate strong vibrations, which will in turn build connections that may last a lifetime. Your words have the power to transform any

situation, whether it's a long-overdue conversation with a friend or an expression of gratitude to a coworker. But keep in mind that communication is a process that goes in both directions. It's possible to uncover hidden truths and broaden one another's perspectives simply by listening with an open heart.

OCTOBER 20

There is a sense of daring and exploration in the air! Today is not simply another day; rather, it is a blank canvas ready to be painted with your own personal strokes of color. Discover unexplored territory, whether that's through travel, acquiring a new talent, or simply interacting with people that look different from you. When you have the courage to step into the unknown, life's secrets begin to be revealed. Allow the wonder in your heart to direct your actions.

OCTOBER 21

Today is all about maintaining a balance. You are being nudged by the cosmos in every facet of your life to

find that place that is just right for you. If your job has been keeping you from spending time with the people you care about, now is the moment to change that. Find refuge in activities that help you feel more rooted in the present moment if your feelings have been running high. Keep in mind that life is a delicate dance of opposites, and right now you are the choreographer designing a harmonious pattern for the dance.

OCTOBER 22

The day brings with it an opportunity for introspection. Your life has been a unique tapestry that has been woven from the experiences and feelings that you've had along the way. Take a minute to be thankful, not just for the milestones that have been reached, but also for the life lessons that have come in the form of obstacles. You may always count on the support and encouragement of the universe. Take with you into the next week the lessons you've learned and the hope you've gained from the days that have passed.

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says your family members who are close will be grateful for anything. You'll discover that the entire family is beginning to accept you. This week, you won't begin a brand-new job task, but you may still progress by changing up older ones. You might be able to modify anything by giving close attention to the tiniest things. This week, you'll need to take better care of your family members' wellbeing. Kindly urge them not to go far away this week. Your significant other will guide you to the tranquility that a religious faith can provide to your love life. You'll realize how their endeavors have benefited you in the past. This week, you'll feel safe in every aspect of your life.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, your thoughts will wander frequently, causing you to experience a range of psychological ups and downs. You won't be able to focus without effort, so you shouldn't make any substantial professional choices this week. At work, you'll notice adjustments to your environment. When it comes to your love life, it's important to keep any embellishments to a minimum. If you are open and sincere with your partner about your relationship, they will appreciate it. For the benefit of your well-being, you

must keep an eye out for even the tiniest modifications to your surroundings. Be careful.

PISCES



Ganesha says, this week, you'll move the process along quickly on every front. You'll receive the extra push

you've been looking for. You'll have to say a few important things.

You'll do a second job for your business areas. This week, you'll additionally require putting in more time at business.

This week, pay close attention to what your teacher says. You'll discuss wedding plans or becoming passionately betrothed. Your partner will ultimately find themselves in

your shoes; despite the fact that they might feel it's early.

This week, you'll become sick with a gastrointestinal issue, which will worsen your condition. This week, be cautious with your diet.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥

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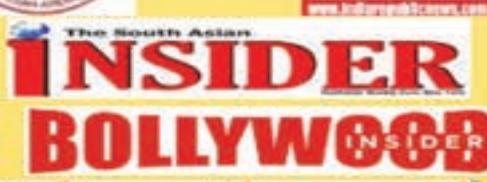
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In the Tantric cosmology, the whole universe is perceived as being created, penetrated and sustained by two fundamental forces, which are permanently in a perfect, indestructible union. These forces or universal aspects are called Shiva and Shakti.

The tradition has associated to these principles a form, respectively that of a masculine deity and that of a feminine one. Accordingly, Lord Shiva represents the constitutive elements of the universe, while Shakti is the dynamic potency, which makes these elements come to life and act.

From a metaphysical point of view, the divine couple Shiva-Shakti corresponds to two essential aspects of the One: the masculine principle, which represents the abiding aspect of God, and the feminine principle, which represents Its Energy, the Force which acts in the manifested world and life itself.

Shakti here stands for the immanent aspect of the Divine, that is the act of active participation in the act of creation. This Tantric view of the Feminine in creation contributed to the orientation of the human being towards the active principles of the universe, rather than towards those of pure transcendence.

Therefore, Shiva defines the traits specific to pure transcendence and is normally associated, from this point of view, to a manifestation of Shakti who is somewhat stronger (such as Kali and Durga), personification of Her own untamed and limitless manifestation.

Owing to the fact that in a way, Shakti is more accessible to the human understanding (because this regards aspects of life that are closely related to the human condition inside the creation), the cult of the Goddess (DEVI) has spread more forcibly.

Shaktism on Shiva and Shakti

Shaktism's focus on the Divine Feminine does not imply a rejection of Masculine or Neuter divinity. However, both are deemed to be inactive in the absence of Shakti. As set out in the first line of Adi Shankara's renowned Shakta hymn, Saundaryalahari (c. 800 CE): "If Shiva is united with Shakti, he is able to create. If he is not, he is incapable even of stirring." This is the fundamental tenet of Shaktism, as emphasized in the widely known image of the goddess Kali striding atop the seemingly lifeless body of Shiva.

Broadly speaking, Shakti is considered to be the cosmos itself – she is the embodiment of energy and dynamism, and the motivating force behind all action and existence in the material universe. Shiva is her transcendent masculine aspect, providing the divine ground of all being. "There is no Shiva without Shakti, or Shakti without Shiva. The two [...] in themselves are One".

The 5 Powers of Shakti

There are many aspects, forms and names of shakti who is the mother of all. In creation she distinguishes herself, or through the will of Siva, into three basic aspects:

- para-shakti (transcendental energy),
- apara-shakti (immanent energy) and
- para-apara-shakti (an intermediary energy).

In the texts of Shaivism we also find a reference to five supernatural powers of shakti, awakened in himself by Siva. Their permutation, combination, concealment and manifestation is believed to be responsible for the multiplicity, plurality, diversity and duality of the beings and objects and their forms and shapes in the manifested worlds. The five aspects of shakti manifested by Siva are:

- chit-shakti or the power of consciousness,
- anada-shakti or the power of bliss consciousness,
- iccha-shakti, the power of desire or will,
- kriya-shakti the power of action and
- jnana-shakti or the power of knowledge

Siva unleashes these five powers in the beginning of creation and withdraws them back into himself at the time of dissolution. In between he employs these energies for the purposes of creation (srishti), preservation (sthithi), samhara (destruction or modification), concealment (tirobhava) and revelation (anugraha).

Shiva Shakti Story

The legend of the marriage of Shiva and Shakti is one the most important legends related to the festival of Mahashivaratri. The story tells us how Lord Shiva got

Shiva and Shakti



married for the second time to Shakti, his divine consort. According to legend of Shiva and Shakti, the day Lord Shiva got married to Parvati is celebrated as Shivaratri – the Night of Lord Shiva.

The Legend goes that once Lord Shiva and his wife Sati or Shakti were returning from sage Agastya's ashram after listening to Ram Katha or story of Ram. On their way through a forest, Shiva saw Lord Rama searching for his wife Sita who had been kidnapped by Ravana, the King of Lanka. Lord Shiva bowed his head in reverence to Lord Rama. Sati was surprised by Lord Shiva's behavior and inquired why he was paying obeisance to a mere mortal. Shiva informed Sati that Rama was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Sati, however, was not satisfied with the reply and Lord asked her to go and verify the truth for herself.

Using her power to change forms, Sati took the form of Sita appeared before Rama. Lord Rama immediately recognized the true identity of the Goddess and asked, "Devi, why are you alone, where's Shiva?" At this, Sati realized the truth about Lord Ram. But, Sita was like a mother to Lord Shiva and since Sati took the form of Sita her status had changed. From that time, Shiva detached himself from her as a wife. Sati was sad with the change of attitude of Lord Shiva but she stayed on at Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva.

Later, Sati's father Daksha organised a yagna, but did not invite Sati or Shiva as he had an altercation with Shiva in the court of Brahma. But, Sati who wanted to attend the Yagna, went there even though Lord Shiva did not appreciate the idea. To her great anguish, Daksha ignored her presence and did not even offer Prasad for Shiva. Sati felt humiliated and was struck with profound grief. She jumped into the yagna fire and immolated herself.

Lord Shiva became extremely furious when he heard the news of Sati's immolation. Carrying the body of Sati, Shiva began to perform Rudra Tandava or the dance of destruction and wiped out the kingdom of Daksha. Everybody was terrified as Shiva's Tandava had the power to destroy the entire universe. In order to calm Lord Shiva, Vishnu severed Sati's body into 12 pieces and threw them on earth. It is said that wherever the pieces of Shakti's body fell, there emerged a Shakti Peetha, including the

Kamaroopa Kamakhya in Assam and the Vindhyaivasini in UP.

Lord Shiva who was now alone, undertook rigorous penance and retired to the Himalayas. Shakti took a re-birth as Parvati in the family of God Himalaya. She performed penance to break Shiva's meditation and win his attention. It is said that Goddess Parvati found it hard to break Shiva's meditation but through her devotion and the persuasion by sages and devas, Parvati, also known as Uma, was finally able to lure Lord Shiva into marriage and away from asceticism. Their marriage was solemnized a day before Amavasya in the month of Phalgun. This day of union of God Shiva and Shakti is celebrated as Mahashivratri every year.

There is no Shiva without Shakti and yoga is a realization of the unity of all things. That is not to say that everything in tantrik texts is figurative; many describe practices which are said to bring about this realization.

Source: Templepurohit

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Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 13, 2023, TO OCTOBER 19, 2023

13th October



1973 Sirdar Kapur Singh bestowed the honor, "National Professor of Sikhism" by Sri Akal Takht.

1979 President of Pakistan confers certain rights on Sikhs as a district entity, by signing a historical document on the occasion of official visit to Pakistan by an International Sikh Delegation.

14th October

1664 Guru Tegh Bahadur took formal possession of Guru's property.



1745 Sarbat Khalsa met at Sri Akal Takhat Sahib, Amritsar. Dal Khalsa was organized and distributed into 25 Jathas.

1944 Pritam Singh Gojran seeks a state for Sikhs in his Presidential address.

1983 Four Sikhs martyred in fake police encounters at Khadur Sahib.

1981 Giani Zail Singh declares the innocence of Bhindrawale.



15th October



1708 Bhog ceremony for Guru Gobind Singh.



1981 Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale released unconditionally.

16th October

1670 Birth anniversary Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur).

1814 Diwan Mohkam Chand, of Maharaja Ranjitt Singh's darbar passed away.

1945 Saint Amir Singh of Gurbani Exposition School, passed away.

1955 All Party Convention at Amritsar demanded Punjabi Suba.

1981 Negotiations among Akali Dal and Indian Central Government were initiated.



17th October

1605 Mughal emperor, Akbar, died in Agra.

1762 Sikhs pray at Akal Takhat before attacking and successfully defeating Ahmad Shah.

1973 Akali Dal Executive passed the Anandpur Sahib resolution asking for autonomy for the Sikh nation.

1977 The reconstruction work for "Guru-Kae-Mehal," Amritsar was initiated.

18th October

1982 All Sikhs arrested for DharamYudh morcha were released for lack of Jail space.

1982 Amritsar taken over by Border Security Force.

19th October

1711 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) won over the landlords of Bhallu.

Chittorgarh: City of pride and honor

Located in South-Eastern Rajasthan, Chittorgarh is known for Chittorgarh Fort, the largest fort in India built on a hilltop, spreading over an area of around 700 acres. The capital of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar, the magnificent fortress will always be remembered for the courageous self-sacrificing Jauhar performed by Rani Padmini to thwart the conquest of the fort by Alauddin Khilji.

Chittorgarh stands at the helm of Chattari Rajput pride and is remembered in the pages of history for its glorious battles, especially the siege of Alauddin Khilji. Once known for its grandeur and opulence, today, Chittorgarh has left its tales of bravery and betrayal far behind to catch up to commercialization. It takes a few hours to cover the fort complex on foot. Wear comfortable footwear and keep a water bottle handy.

Rana Kumbha Palace is the largest structure in Chittorgarh fort, and while it is now a mere tumbledown structure of broken walls and piles of stones, it was once a magnificent three-storied palace with gigantic pillars, maze-like underground tunnels and intricately designed architecture. The most famous attraction in Chittorgarh fort is the Padmini Palace, named after Queen Padmini herself. Replete with roof pavilions and water moats, the story of Queen Padmini's valour rings out loud in every corner of this dilapidated building.

Chittorgarh Fort

Built by local Maurya rulers (often confused with imperial Maurya Rulers) in 7th century A.D, the Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan is one of the largest forts in India. The Chittorgarh Fort, plainly known as Chittor is spread majestically over a hill of 590 feet in height and is spread across 692 acres of land is a fine example of the popular Rajput architecture. The imposing structure of the fort has many gateways built by the later rulers of the Maurya clan. Chittorgarh Fort was previously the capital of Mewar and is now situated in the city of Chittorgarh. Chittorgarh Fort reverberates with tales of heroism and sacrifice and displays the Rajput culture and values in the real sense. Owing to its magnificent edifice, the Chittorgarh Fort was declared a UNESCO's World Heritage Site in the year 2013.

Padmini Palace

Padmini Palace is the palace where Rani Padmini lived after she married Rawal Ratan Singh, the ruler of Mewar Kingdom who ruled between 1302 and 1303 CE. The majestic palace is a historical monument related to the self-sacrifice of Rani Padmini after

Chittorgarh was attacked by the Sultan of Delhi, Alauddin Khilji. The two storey monument stands rather strong right at the centre of the Chittorgarh Fort elevated on rocky terrain. The fort is surrounded by a lotus pool which adds to the charm of the monument. One can imagine how glorious this site would have been when the royal ladies used it, the pool having colourful lotuses depicting grace and beauty in the rugged Chittor Fort. Those exploring Chittorgarh Fort must visit the Padmini Palace.

Rana Kumbha's palace

Rana Kumbha palace is where Rana Kumbha lived and spent his royal life. Its charming and artistic architecture makes it a must visit for tourists visiting Chittorgarh.

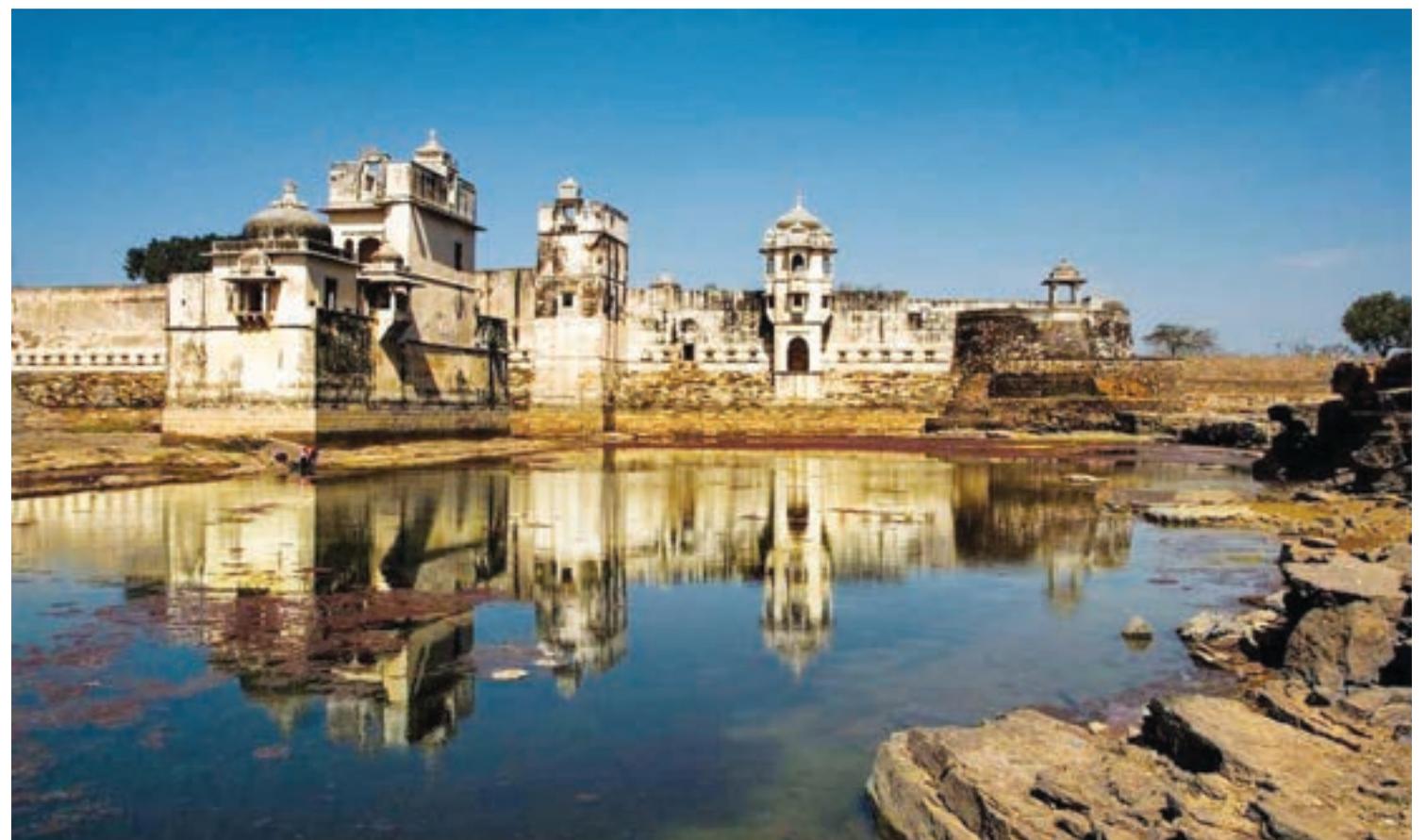
Lord Shiva temple in the nearby and light and sound show in its complex makes it an unforgettable experience.

Kalika Mata Temple

It is one of the most important temples of Chittorgarh and the city's tour isn't complete without a visit to this temple. The splendid sculpture of the temple is what attracts most tourists.

It is dedicated to Kalika an incarnation of Goddess Durga. The entire temple, built on a platform, boasts of Prathira architectural style. The ceiling, pillars and gates all have intricate designs. Even though the temple is partially in ruins, one will still marvel at its architectural credibility.

Source: Holidify



contd from page 1

India reiterates call for 'sovereign, independent, viable state of Palestine'

other departments, the MEA spokesperson said, "Our focus is to help our citizens."

His comments were the first set of detailed remarks from the MEA about the situation in West Asia, since Saturday's air, land and sea attack on Israel and its retaliatory air attack on the Gaza Strip.

"In the world of diplomacy, we are always engaged in conversation and contacts. Of course, we maintain close contacts with all relevant stakeholders at various levels," Mr. Bagchi noted.

As the hostilities between Hamas and Israel entered the 7th day, UN said that by late October 11, the number of displaced people in Gaza had risen by an additional 75,000 people from the figure given 24 hours earlier, reaching 3,38,934. "Mass displacement across the Gaza Strip continues," the UN humanitarian agency OCHA said in a statement sent on October 12.



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City

The announcement came as Israel pounded Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip - a densely populated enclave of 2.3 million people - in response to the militants' surprise Saturday attack.

Israeli forces said 1,200 people, most of them civilians, were killed in the onslaught - the worst in the country's history.

In Gaza, officials reported more than 1,000 people have been killed in Israel's sustained campaign of air and artillery strikes.

OCHA said nearly 2,20,000 people, or two-thirds of the displaced people, have sought shelter in schools run by the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Another nearly 15,000 people fled to schools run by the Palestinian Authority, while more than 100,000 were being sheltered by relatives, neighbours and a church and other facilities in Gaza City.

OCHA said that around 3,000 people had already been displaced within the enclave prior to Saturday's attack.

The bombing campaign has destroyed or rendered uninhabitable at least 2,540 housing units in Gaza, OCHA said, citing numbers from the Gaza Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Another 22,850 housing units sustained moderate to minor damage, it said.

The UN agency also voiced alarm at the significant destruction of civilian infrastructure damaged in the shelling.

Among other things, it said sewage facilities serving more than a million people had been hit by air strikes, leaving solid waste accumulating in the streets, posing a health threat.

House speakership stalled as Steve Scalise announces he's withdrawing from the race

party failed to resolve its divisions, prolonging the leadership crisis in the chamber, an AP report says.

The announcement came after a day full of lengthy meetings with fellow Republicans that several described as unproductive. Scalise had narrowly edged

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) in a Wednesday, October 11 conference vote to be named speaker-designate but had made little progress getting to the 217 votes he would need in a floor vote to win the gavel.

"I just shared with my colleagues that I was withdrawing my name as a candidate for our speaker designee," Mr. Scalise told reporters.

"If you look at over the last few weeks, if you look at where our conference is, there is still work to be done... There are still some people that have their own agendas."

Without a speaker, the House is unable to consider any legislation to aid Israel in its war against Hamas or pass any appropriations bills to avoid a potential government shutdown in mid-November.

Worldwide condemnation of move to prosecute Arundhati Roy

"This is a tragedy for a country which prides itself as being the 'mother of democracy'," the statement added.

The PUCL said it was baffling that a 2010 related case is now on the front burner, with sanction being granted by the L-G, almost 13 years after the alleged incident. "A mature constitutional democracy ought not to prosecute speech, which by itself has no direct causal connection to violence or disorder. It is shameful that an FIR [First Information Report] was even registered for speech which by all accounts did not incite or provoke any form of violence," the statement added.

PUCL leaders said such an action did great disservice to the Narendra Modi government's belief that India is the 'mother of democracy', when the 'mother' prosecutes one of her most illustrious children. "Ms. Roy is one of India's most eminent writers who has used her writing to amplify the concerns of those whose voices are ignored or muted. In her writing be it on the Indian nuclear tests, the dams on the Narmada or of the US war on Iraq she has sought to remind Indians and indeed the inhabitants of the world of the human costs of nuclear technology, development and war," they said.

In a statement to The Indian Panorama, Journalists Beyond Borders President Prof. Indrajit S Saluja said: "The decision of government of India to reopen a criminal case against Arundhati Roy is deeply troubling and raises serious concerns about the state of justice, freedom of expression, and democracy. Arundhati Roy, a celebrated author, activist, and one of the most prominent voices for social justice in India, has consistently voiced her opinions on a range of political and social issues. The reopening of a case against her is not only an attack on her individual rights but also a stark reminder of the broader threats to free speech and dissent in India."

Prof. Saluja called upon the government of India to stop harassing writers and journalists who, in the best interest of India and the people of India, criticize government policies. He demanded immediate withdrawal of the case against her which is a politically motivated attempt to silence and intimidate her and other activists who challenge the government's policies. In a democratic society, the freedom to express dissent and engage in open discourse is a fundamental right. Such actions undermine the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

India ranks 111th on Global Hunger Index 2023; govt calls it flawed measure that doesn't reflect true position

The Women and Child Development Ministry said the index suffers from "serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent".

India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index-2023, released on Thursday, October 12, with the country reporting the highest child wasting rate at 18.7 per cent.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for



comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.

Rejecting India's ranking at the index, the Women and Child Development Ministry said the Global Hunger Index continues to be a flawed measure of "hunger" and does not reflect India's true position.

"The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues. Three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator 'Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population' is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000," it said.

The ministry said that since April 2023, the measurement data of children under five years uploaded on the Poshan Tracker has consistently increased - from 6.34 crore in April 2023 to 7.24 crore in September 2023.

"The percentage of child wasting, as seen on the Poshan Tracker, has been consistently below 7.2 per cent, month-on-month, as compared to the value of 18.7 per cent used for child wasting in the Global Hunger Index 2023," the ministry said in a statement.

According to the index, the rate of undernourishment in India stood at 16.6 per cent and under-five mortality at 3.1 per cent.

The ministry further said two other indicators, namely stunting and wasting, are outcomes of complex interactions of various other factors like sanitation, genetics, environment and utilization of food intake apart from hunger which is taken as the causative/outcome factor for stunting and wasting in the GHI.

Also, there is hardly any evidence that the fourth indicator-child mortality-is an outcome of hunger, it said. (Source: PTI)

History This Week

OCT 13 - OCT 19

OCTOBER 13

October 13, 1884 - Greenwich was established as the universal time from which standard times throughout the world are calculated.

October 13, 1943 - Italy declared war on its former Axis partner Germany after the downfall of Mussolini and collapse of his Fascist government.

October 13, 1990 - The first Russian Orthodox service in over 70 years was held in St. Basil's Cathedral, next to the Kremlin, in Red Square, Moscow.



Birthdays - Molly Pitcher (1754-1832) was born near Trenton, New Jersey (as Mary Ludwig). She was a water carrier at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778 during the American Revolution. After her husband, artilleryman John Hays, collapsed, she took his place at his cannon.

OCTOBER 14



October 14, 1912 - Former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot by a fanatic while campaigning in Milwaukee. Roosevelt was saved by his thick overcoat, a glasses case and a folded speech in his breast pocket, all of which slowed the bullet. Although wounded, he insisted on making the speech with the bullet lodged in his chest and did not go to the hospital until the meeting ended. Roosevelt, a rugged outdoorsman, fully recovered in two weeks.

October 14, 1933 - Nazi Germany announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations and stated it would take no further part in the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

October 14, 1947 - U.S. Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first man to break the sound barrier, flying in a rocket-powered research aircraft.

October 14, 1964 - Civil Rights leader

Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He donated the \$54,000 in prize money to the Civil Rights movement.

Birthdays - Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) the 34th U.S. President was born in Denison, Texas. He served two terms as President, from January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961. Nicknamed "Ike," he was a West Point graduate and career Army officer who became Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II. He held the rank of Five-star General of the Army.

OCTOBER 15

October 15, 1917 - World War I spy Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks, outside Paris.



October 15, 1945 - Pierre Laval, the former premier of Vichy France, was executed for collaborating with Nazi Germany during World War II.

October 15, 1946 - Nazi leader Hermann Goering committed suicide by swallowing poison in his Nuremberg prison cell just hours before his scheduled hanging for war crimes.

October 15, 1964 - Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev was deposed as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.

October 15, 1991 - The U.S. Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court by a 52-48 vote following several days of tumultuous hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning sexual harassment charges made by a former aide. Thomas became the second African American to sit on the Court, replacing retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, an African American.

Birthdays - Lee Iacocca was born to Italian immigrant parents in Allentown, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1924 (as Lido Anthony Iacocca). Dubbed "America's first corporate folk hero," he was a mechanical engineer who became an automobile executive at Ford and later helped save Chrysler from bankruptcy. He also served as foundation chairman for the rehabilitation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

OCTOBER 16

October 16, 1916 - The first birth control clinic in America was opened in Brooklyn, New York, by Margaret Sanger, a nurse who worked among the

poor on the Lower East Side of New York City.



October 16, 1946 - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.

October 16, 1964 - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.

October 16, 1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope. He was the first non-Italian Pope chosen in 456 years and took the name John Paul II.

October 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered the main address to the gathering of African American males.

Birthdays - American playwright Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) was born in New York City. He wrote more than 35 plays and was the first American dramatist awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. He also received four Pulitzers. His dramas, which dealt realistically with psychological and social problems, included; Beyond the Horizon, The Iceman Cometh, The Emperor Jones and Long Day's Journey into Night.

Birthdays - American jurist William O. Douglas (1898-1980) was born in Maine, Minnesota. He served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court for 36 years and was also a world traveler, conservationist, outdoorsman and author.

OCTOBER 17

October 17-25, 1944 - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese Battleship Musashi, one of the largest ever built.



Birthdays - Pope John Paul I (1912-1978) was born in Forno di Canale, Italy (as

Albino Luciani). He was elected the 263rd Pope of the Roman Catholic Church on September 28, 1978, but died in Rome just 34 days later.

OCTOBER 18

October 18, 1685 - The Edict of Nantes was revoked by King Louis XIV of France thus depriving Protestant Huguenots of all religious and civil liberties previously granted to them by Henry IV in 1598.



October 18, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Goering and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.

OCTOBER 19

October 19, 1781 - As their band played The World Turned Upside Down, the British Army marched out in formation and surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington. The war between Britain and its American colonies was effectively ended. The final peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783.

October 19, 1960 - The U.S. embargo of Cuba began as the State Department prohibited shipment of all goods except medicine and food.

October 19, 1987 - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 percent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.



October 19, 1990 - Beset by a seriously eroding economy, Soviet Russia's President Mikhail Gorbachev won parliamentary approval to switch to a market economy.



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Hockey: Indian men continue to sweep continental titles and Asian Games are the latest



By Prabhjot Singh

Those who had written Indian hockey off a couple of years ago are now forced to eat their words. India is back and back with a vengeance. In the past one year, Indian men have been making a clean sweep of all continental tournaments. And the just concluded Asian Games in Hangzhou is the latest. In August, India won the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.

It not only makes India a direct qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games Hockey competition, but also makes former Olympic champions an undisputed leader of the continental hockey.

India exhibited great team effort and played superbly throughout the tournament scoring 58 goals and emerging the only unbeaten team in the tournament. India's arch-rival, Pakistan, however, could not end the tournament the way it wanted. Though Pakistan ended on a winning note defeating Malaysia in the playoff for the fifth and sixth position, it expected to finish a little higher, at least on the podium.

Now previous champions Japan, Korea, China, Pakistan and Malaysia will have to go through the rigmaroles of playing the Olympic Qualifying tournaments for a berth in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Though initially Pakistan had offered to host one of the Olympic Qualifier Tournaments in Lahore, but it was taken away by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) quoting internal strife in the country as the reason. The tournament will now be held in Oman, the new hockey center of the continent after Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh.

India's return to the top was the culmination of a long-drawn effort that saw it making a clean sweep of continental tournaments it played this year.

It added its sixth title to its kitty by defeating defending champions Japan 5-1 in the Asian Games final. Earlier in the pool matches India recorded its biggest ever win (10-2) over arch rivals Pakistan.

India started with a style by notching up 16-0 win over Uzbekistan in the opener followed by 16-1 win over Singapore. After taking a comfortable 3-0 lead against Japan in the next match, India conceded two goals in the closing stages of the game to end with a 4-2 win over defending champions Japan. After a record 10-2 win against Pakistan, India had little trouble in defeating Bangladesh 12-0 in its last pool game to finish at the top of the table.

In the semi-finals, South Korea put up a splendid fight but it was not enough to upset the rhythm of the Indians looking for glory. India won the semis 5-3 for a place in the gold medal match. Pitted against the 2018 champions Japan in the



India thrashed Japan 5-1 to claim hockey gold in Asian Games in Hangzhou.

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final, India reiterated its supremacy to prove that earlier 4-2 win in the pool games was no fluke. India ended the summit clash with an impressive 5-1 win.

India's title triumph was also a personal gratification for the team captain Harmanpreet Singh, a drag flicker. Though in the last FIH World Cup for men hosted jointly by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, one of reasons attributed for India's poor ninth finish, was fewer goals from Harmanpreet than expected. He proved he is still the best as he scored in every match of significance. Even in the final, two of five goals came from his lethal drag flicks.

India's return to top position after a gap of nine years has warmed the cockles of the hearts of Indian hockey fans the world over. Now the focus will be on the bigger challenge, the summer Olympic Games. Harmanpreet had incidentally played sheet anchor when India returned to podium at the 2020



Harmanpreet Singh.

Tokyo Olympic Games by remaining one of the top scorers. And in Hangzhou he proved beyond doubt that he is still the number one.

Earlier this year, the FIH Hockey5s Asia Cup in Oman, India recorded a 2-0 win in a penalty shootout after a 4-4 draw with Pakistan in the final. Only a week earlier, Indian women had won the gold medal at the same venue.

Never before in the history of hockey any team had won so many continental titles in a row. As of today, India is the winner of Asian Games for men, Asia Cups, both for men and women, Asian

Champions Trophy for men and Asia Cups, both for junior men and women.

After the Asian Games title triumph, India has joined the hosts France, Australia men and women and the Netherlands men and women, as direct qualifiers for the 2024 summer Olympic Games. Later this month, Pan Am Games in Santiago will decide the teams, both men and women, that will represent Americas in the Paris Olympic Games.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. Read his articles at www.probingeye.com)



Gill will definitely play vs Pak in Ahmedabad': Ex-India chief selector

Shubman Gill's speedy recovery has put him right in contention for a return to India's playing XI in the World Cup 2023 match against Pakistan on Saturday, October 14, in Ahmedabad. Till Tuesday, October 10, there was very little chance of Gill being available for the Pakistan match. He was, after all, discharged from the hospital barely a night before. But things took a positive turn by Wednesday night as Gill travelled straight to Ahmedabad from Chennai and on Thursday morning, headed for a practice session – his first in more than a week.

In footage aired by Star Sports, Gill looked in a jovial mood before heading to the nets at around 11:30 in the morning. He was accompanied by Team India physio Kamlesh and throwdown specialist Nuwan Seneviratne. Gill batted close to an hour in the Motera nets. He took throwdowns and faced local net bowlers as no other member of the Indian team was available. The best part was that he did not seem to be in any sort of discomfort. Towards the end of the session, the 24-year-old also took some catches to hone his fielding skills.

Williamson back, Southee to sit out

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson will play his first match of the World Cup against Bangladesh but fast bowler Tim Southee will continue on the sidelines, the 33-year-old batter said on October 12. Williamson missed their wins over defending champions England and Netherlands to continue his rehabilitation from a knee injury he suffered in March that required surgery.

Experienced fast bowler Southee has been recovering following surgery on his fractured right thumb. "Tim's progressing well, but won't be playing tomorrow's game," said Williamson. "As for my recovery, it's been quite a journey but largely a good one."

ICC WORLD CUP

Dominant South Africa thrash lacklustre Australia by 134 runs

LUCKNOW (TIP)

South Africa reaffirmed their status as serious contenders as their pacers fired in tandem after Quinton de Kock's blazing century, paving the way for a dominant 134-run win over Australia in the World Cup here on Thursday, October 12.

If de Kock showed his class with a masterful 109 off 106 balls to take the Proteas to 311/7, the fast bowlers were at their ruthless best, bundling Australia for 177 in 40.5 overs for their second consecutive win.

The South Africans entered this game after a comprehensive victory in their opener against Sri Lanka.

Australia, on the other hand, bowled without a plan, looked equally clueless with the bat – losing wickets in clumps – and were sloppy on the field, dropping as many as five catches.

The loss will severely dent their confidence. They were also outplayed by India in their opener and sit second last in the 10-team table.

De Kock, who will retire from the format after the World Cup, oozed confidence while scoring his second consecutive century with the help of eight boundaries and five maximums while Aiden Markram smashed 56 off 44 to help the team post the highest ODI total in Lucknow.

The South African quicks were relentless with the new ball and bowled with accuracy to essentially finish off the match before the 18th over of the Australian innings, with Pat Cummins' side tottering at 70/6.

Lungi Ngidi (1/18) set the tone with some incisive bowling. Marco Jansen (2/54) backed Ngidi and reaped the benefit as he removed Mitchell Marsh (7) without much trouble.

David Warner looked to get going but Ngidi struck for a wicket- maiden seventh over.

Kagiso Rabada (3/33) joined the party with the vital strikes of Steve Smith (19) and Josh Inglis (5) off consecutive overs.

As the ball hit Smith's pad Rabada looked unsure, but de Kock insisted on appealing. To South Africa's delight and Smith's disbelief, the umpire was forced to change his decision as the ball tracking technology showed it was hitting the leg stump.

The ball seamed for Rabada as he came back to finish Josh Inglis' nascent innings.

Australia's trouble with left-arm spin continued as Keshav Maharaj (2/30) caught Glenn Maxwell (3) off his own bowling.

Marnus Labuschagne (46) and Mitchell Starc (27) stitched a fighting 69-run stand for the seventh wicket but that was not enough to change the course of the match.

Earlier, De Kock paced his innings well and troubled the Australian bowling attack, which cut a sorry figure, on a difficult Ekana pitch.

The rub of the green also went the Proteas' way as the Australians were guilty of spilling numerous catches.



Quinton de Kock won the Player of the Match award.

Off-spinner Glenn Maxwell (2/34) was their most successful bowler while the others managed to get some wickets at the fag end of the innings.

After a rather sedate start, De Kock, who calls this stadium 'home' during the IPL, put a move on things.

He used Mitchell Starc's pace to flick one over deep backward square leg to get the first six of the match in the fifth over.

Both Temba Bavuma (35) and de Kock skilfully nullified the early threat that the Australian pacers generally pose.

In fact, skipper Cummins was at his wit's end and kept shuffling between all his bowlers to find a breakthrough.

After playing the role of the sheet anchor with 35 off 55 balls, Bavuma decided to pull the trigger.

He had survived twice before – a top edge which Adam Zampa failed to judge and then when sub Sean Abbott caught the ball on the rope and lost balance. Abbott threw the ball towards a waiting Strac, but his throw was inaccurate.

The South African skipper attempted a sweep but the ball found David Warner.

The back-to-back maximums off Josh Hazlewood over fine leg, and the majestic six over midwicket for his hundred, were the highlights of de Kock's innings. The wicketkeeper-batter eventually fell to a freak dismissal as the ball deflected from the back of his willow into his chest and onto the stumps. Markram, who was dropped on 1 by Cummins off his own bowling, clobbered seven fours and a six.

Source: PTI

India-Pak fever, hospitals turn into hotels

AHMEDABAD (TIP)

Cricket fever has gripped Ahmedabad ahead of Saturday's World Cup group stage clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan and a visit to the hospitals near the venue of the match in the western Indian city clearly shows the degree of excitement. Quite a few of the hospitals have seen a sudden influx of patients booked in for check-ups involving a night's stay to coincide with the most anticipated match of the World Cup.

Several doctors told local media the rush for check-up 'packages' was an ingenious way to find affordable accommodation as hotel costs have soared up to 20 fold ahead of the match.

"We have come across some cases of people coming to watch the India-Pakistan match also taking an appointment for health check-ups and staying in hospitals," said Tushar Patel, president of the Ahmedabad Medical Association.

The Ahmedabad Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association has discouraged its members from accommodating such fans. "We have asked our members not to entertain such requests. Hospitals are not meant for non-patients," its president Bharat Gadhavi said. The first batch of tickets for Saturday's game were sold out within an hour of going on sale in August, prompting BCCI to release another

14,000 earlier this month.

Ahmedabad resident Hemish Patel and his friends, after several days of failed attempts, grabbed four tickets, each costing Rs 6,000.

"We logged into the site with multiple devices," he said. "We constantly kept on refreshing the site and were able to book within 10 minutes after the sale of tickets began."

Patel was one of the lucky few. Tickets are fetching up to 25 times face value on resale and city police arrested four youths on Tuesday for selling fakes.

Airfare has surged up to four times and Indian Railways will run a pair of super fast trains linking Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Source: Reuters



A fan gets tattooed in Ahmedabad. Reuters



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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- providing education to physicians and the public



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