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



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A MIDDLE PATH NEEDED TO RESOLVE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT PAGE 10

Suspect in Maine mass shootings is dead, officials say



Robert Card, the suspect in the Lewiston mass shooting is dead. Photo Credit / Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office

OCTOBER 27, 2023

LEWISTON, MAINE (TIP): Robert Card, the suspect in the Lewiston mass shooting is dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, authorities confirmed, bringing an end to a sweeping two-day manhunt.

The gunman suspected of killing 18 people and injuring 13 others in Maine was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound on Friday, October 27 night, the authorities said.

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Israeli forces conduct 2nd ground raid into Gaza, US jets strike targets in Syria

PALESTINIAN DEATH TOLL SOARS PAST 7,000 AS ISRAEL PREPARES FOR WIDELY EXPECTED GROUND INVASION OF THE HAMAS-RULED TERRITORY



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli airstrike on buildings at Shati refugee camp, Gaza Strip, October 27, 2023. Credit / PTI

OCTOBER 27, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Israeli forces backed by fighter jets and drones carried out a second ground raid into Gaza in as many days and struck targets on the outskirts of Gaza City, the military said Friday, as it prepares for a widely expected ground invasion of the Hamas-ruled territory, says an October 27 AP report from Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip).

US warplanes, meanwhile, struck targets in eastern Syria that the Pentagon said were linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard after a string of attacks on American forces, and two mysterious objects hit towns in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, adding to the already high tensions fueled by the three-week-old Gaza war.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Young Indians should work 70 hours a week, says billionaire Tech founder



Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys Ltd., speaks at the company's head office in Bengaluru. Photo / Courtesy Infosys

OCTOBER 27, 2023

BENGALURU / NEW YORK (TIP): One of India's most revered entrepreneurs believes that young people need to put in exceptionally long hours at work if they want to see the country become a global economic powerhouse.

N.R. Narayana Murthy, co-founder of the software behemoth Infosys, said India needs "highly determined, extremely disciplined and extremely hardworking" youngsters, who should put in 70 hours a week at work. "You know, this is exactly what the Germans and Japanese did after the Second World War," Murthy told Mohandas Pai, the former CFO of Infosys, in a chat published on YouTube Thursday, October 26.

Murthy, whose wealth is estimated at over \$4 billion by Forbes, co-founded Infosys in 1981. It went on to become one of the world's biggest outsourcing firms.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Faith leaders and elected officials denounce Hate attacks against the Sikh community members



The Sikh community wants adequate protection. Faith leaders, elected officials, community activists and the recent victims of hate at the press conference convened by political activist Japneet Singh at Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society Richmond Hill on October 25

I.S. SALUJA

OCTOBER 25, 2023

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP): "STOP THE HATE" was a call given by faith leaders and elected officials at a press conference to denounce hate at the Sikh Cultural Society Gurdwara (Sikh temple) at 118 Street, Richmond Hill on October 25.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

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COMMENT

Stop the Hate

COMBATING HATE CRIMES AGAINST SIKHS IN THE UNITED STATES

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The United States has long been celebrated as a melting pot of cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds. However, in recent years, the country has grappled with an alarming increase in hate crimes targeting minority communities. Sikhs, in particular, have been victims of these hate crimes, despite their commitment to principles of equality, love, and selflessness.

The Sikh community in the United States has been disproportionately affected by hate crimes. Sikhs are often mistaken for Muslims due to their turbans and beards, which has made them vulnerable to hate crimes in the post-9/11 era. According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and advocacy organizations, hate crimes against Sikhs have surged over the years.

In 2018, the FBI reported that hate crimes against Sikhs had more than doubled since 2017. These crimes are driven by prejudice, misunderstanding, and xenophobia, making the Sikh community an unfortunate target for violence and discrimination.

Several tragic incidents in recent years have underscored the urgency of addressing hate crimes against Sikhs in the U.S. One of the most harrowing cases was the Oak Creek Sikh temple shooting in 2012, where a white supremacist killed six worshippers and wounded several others. This horrifying act of violence demonstrated the real and immediate threat that hate poses to the Sikh

community.

More recently, in 2021, an elderly Sikh man in California was brutally assaulted in a hate crime, highlighting that such acts are not confined to a particular region but a nationwide concern.

Only recently, two incidents of hate crime against the Sikhs in New York city, have shaken the Sikh community in the US. In one case, a 19-year-old Sikh young man with turban was the target of hate crime. In another it was a 66-year-old Sikh man Jasmer Singh who was punched mercilessly in a hate crime resulting in his death. These incidents are not isolated; they are part of a larger pattern of discrimination and violence against Sikhs.

Hate crimes against Sikhs are not only an attack on individuals but also an assault on the very principles upon which the United States was founded. The Sikh faith teaches love, tolerance, and compassion, and Sikhs contribute to American society in various ways. However, the persisting hate crimes undermine the ideals of diversity and inclusion that the nation aspires to uphold.

To stop the hate, a multi-pronged approach is needed. I emphasized recently in a meeting with the Mayor of New York City Eric Adams and Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar that education alone can stop the hate against the Sikhs in years to come. Raising awareness about Sikhism and the values it represents is crucial in dispelling misconceptions. Schools and communities should teach tolerance and

respect for all faiths and backgrounds. Make education about all faiths a compulsory subject from Grade 1 in schools. Let kids understand one another better.

Stricter legislation against hate crimes should be enforced. Perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions to deter future acts of violence.

Community Engagement is very important. Building bridges between Sikh communities and the broader society can help foster understanding and acceptance. Dialogue and partnerships can go a long way in reducing hate crimes.

Law enforcement agencies should provide training to their personnel on recognizing and responding to hate crimes, with a focus on cultural sensitivity.

The media can play a significant role in combating hate by accurately representing the Sikh community and other minority groups. Responsible reporting can help counter stereotypes and prejudice.

Hate crimes against Sikhs in the United States are a grave concern that threatens the core principles of equality and diversity. The Sikh community, like all Americans, deserves to live without fear of discrimination and violence. It is imperative that society, government, and institutions come together to stop hate, raise awareness, and ensure that all individuals can practice their faith and live their lives without fear. The United States can only truly live up to its ideals when it becomes a place where all are free from the scourge of hate crimes.

GUEST COMMENT

Maine mayhem :Laxity in gun control making America bleed

Speaking at the UN Security Council meeting on Palestine on Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken asserted that terrorist acts were 'unlawful and unjustifiable', whether they were carried out by ISIS, Boko Haram, Lashkar-e-Taiba or Hamas. He also underlined the vital need to protect civilian lives anywhere in the world. During his impassioned speech, Blinken apparently did not have on his mind the gun-toting 'lone wolves' who unleash terror in the US from time to time - be it in schools, grocery stores, restaurants or places of worship (for instance, the Wisconsin gurdwara in 2012).

One such gunman killed at least 18 people at a restaurant and a bowling alley in Lewiston, Maine, on Wednesday. The suspect has been identified as Robert Card, a trained firearms instructor and a member of the US Army Reserves. Admitted to a mental health facility for two weeks earlier this year, he had reportedly been hearing voices and had threatened to 'shoot up' a military base. The fact that a mentally unstable American with violent tendencies was on the loose, and that too with a gun, sums up the sorry state of gun laws in that country. The US has time and again failed to protect the lives of its own civilians on its own soil.

More than 560 mass shootings - in which four or more people were shot - have occurred in the US this year so far, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a non-profit group. As many as 647 mass shootings took place in 2022. The occasional outrage, however, has not been potent enough to shake up the powerful American gun lobby or tighten gun laws. After two such incidents in May last year, US President Joe Biden had made a fervent plea for standing up to the gun lobby, but the Maine bloodbath shows that America has no sincere intention of setting its own house in order or learning lessons from its mistakes. (Tribune, India)

READERS WRITE**DEAR EDITOR**

Apropos of article in October 20 edition- "Prioritizing America: The Non-Desirability of American Intervention in Foreign Conflicts" by Prof. Indrajit S

Saluja.

I hope our elected Senators and congressmen read this article & act accordingly. It is high time to use our tax money for the American people, our

Health care, Social security, Housing & Infrastructures.

Ahmed Shakir
New York

Sriniketan Foundation Sangeet Mahotsav dished out a musical treat to savor for a long time

SRINIKETAN FOUNDATION SANGEET MAHOTSAV DISHED OUT A MUSICAL TREAT TO SAVOR FOR A LONG TIME

PURNIMA JI IMPRESSED WITH A KATHAK PERFORMANCE

**FLORA PARIKH
OCTOBER 21, 2023**

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Sriniketan Foundation, a 501 (C) (3), non-profit organization founded by Purnima A. Desai in 2015, celebrated its Annual Sangeet Mahotsav - an International Music Festival by internationally renowned artists with a special tribute to Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhathkhande on October 14, 2023.



ERIC FRASER - FLUTIST ACCOMPANIED BY SHANKH LAHIRI

The organization is An Abode of Success of Body, Mind & Soul through Various Therapies, geared towards uplifting the cultural heritage and rich treasure of India's classical music, dance and natural healing therapy. Each year, the organization showcases the talent of internationally renowned artists and recognizes their phenomenal talent, unrivaled contributions, and dedication to preserving the heritage of Hindustani Classical Music.



LAKSHMI KURUP GAVE A SPLENDID PERFORMANCE ON SRI RAM'S CHILDHOOD DANCE THUMAK CHALAT RAMACHANDRA



CHANDRIKA KURUP THE DIRECTOR OF NUPUR DANCE SCHOOL WITH PURNIMA JI AND STUDENTS



BHARATNATYAM, MOHINIATTAM AND FOLK DANCE RECIALS BY CHANDRIKA AND LAKSHMI GROUP

At Sangeet Mahotsav 2023, over 47 professionally trained artists showcased a shower of international talent for almost 12 hours nonstop with a divine, mesmerizing experience of healing Ragas, Indian classical dances - Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kathak and folk and a heart throbbing special Manipuri performance by our own Vidushi Purnima Desai ji. Their exceptional performances captivated the senses, transporting listeners to realms of bliss and tranquility, captivating the audience with their magnificent performances.



VIDYA, TEJAL, SURESH, CYNTHIA, FLORA, PURNIMA JI DEVENDRA AND PARESH HONORES FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

The event showcased the rich and cultural heritage of Bharat's exceptional talent, educating on various ragas, dance forms and festivities, through mesmerizing musical and vocal blessings and a divinely spiritual healing experience. The event was supported and blessed by over 250 music lovers, including Community



VOCALIST SANDIP BHATTACHARJEE ACCOMPANIED BY ANIRBAN ON HARMONIUM AND SANDIP GHOSH ON TABLA

Leaders, Presidents, Supporters and Well-wishers.

Our special Thanks to our supporters, attendees, well-wishers, dedicated volunteers - Tejal Desai, Flora Parekh, Cynthia & Suresh Ketwaroe, Professor Indrajit Saluja, Rohit Pandya, Vidya Patel, Devendra Vora, Paresch Parekh, Amarnath Banarsi and each and everyone of you for making the event an astounding success year over year.



FAMOUS VOCALIST KASTURI BANDOPADHYAY ACCOMPANIED BY ANIRBAN CHAKRABORTY ON HARMONIUM AND ANIRBAN R. CHOWDHURY ON TABLA

Starting with Morning Ragas, the program was split into three parts. The first part showcased the sublime and inspiring Instrumental Recital by Anirban Chakraborty (Harmonium), Anirban R. Chowdhury (Tabla), Shankh Lahiri (Tabla) and Eric Fraser (Flute) followed by melodious Vocal by Kasturi Bandopadhyay. A special Manipuri Dance Recital by Vidushi Purnima A. Desai, Sanjib Bhattacharya, Jagannath Lairenjam, Jolly Moni Lairenjam & Chaobithoi Lairenjam Debi.



JUGALBANDI BETWEEN SITARIST SUPRATIK SENGUPTA AND SAROD BY SOUMYA CHAKRAVERTY

The magic continued to the second part, as the stage lit up with mesmerizing Afternoon Ragas, a special jugalbandi of Pallab Bandopadhyay (Violin) and Shankh Lahiri (Tabla), followed by vocalist Vidushi Kankana Banerjee accompanied by Anirban Chakraborty (Harmonium). Traditionally dressed 23 classically trained dance performers from Chandrika & Lakshmi Kurup Dance Group rocked the stage with truly classical extravaganza combination showcase of Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kathak and folk, depicting the various festivities of India.

The musical extravaganza part 3 continued with a story telling Kathak dance performance by Pt. Satya Narayana Charka Dance Group. The Evening Ragas

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Sikhs in Fiji Police force now allowed to wear turban with official crown

Acting Commissioner of Police says move a testament of the organization's commitment in upholding the fundamental principles of equality and diversity



Police Constable Navjeath Singh Sohata.

Photo: Fiji Police Force/Facebook

OCTOBER 26, 2023

SUVA, FIJI (TIP): Navjeath Singh Sohata has become the first Sikh cop to don a turban with the official Fiji Police crown after the island nation's police force approved changes to the uniform in a bid to promote diversity, IANS reports.

Recognizing that the respect for diversity and inclusivity are integral to the success of policing efforts, Acting Commissioner of Police Juki Fong Chew approved the wearing of a turban with the official Fiji Police crown.

Police Constable Sohata, 20, is a member of Batch 66 undergoing the Basic Recruits Course Training in Nasova, after being selected from the open market recruitment drive.

A devout Sikh, Sohata had marched into the academy knowing the training requirements would require personal sacrifices on his part.

"However, the Acting Commissioner of Police, in respecting Sohata's rights, approved the wearing of the turban with the official Fiji Police crown," the Fiji Police said in a statement.

Commissioner Chew said the move was a testament of the organization's commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of equality and diversity.

According to a book by Stanley Brown, 'The History of the Fiji Police Force', the first Sikh constables were recruited in force the early 1910s.

Sharing his experience as a recruit, Sohata, who hails from Dreketi village in Northern Division of Fiji, said it was difficult at first being away from his family.

"I have a number of people in my life who I look up to as inspiration and role models, and it is my goal to make them proud and be just as good as them when it comes to my professional life," Sohata said.

According to records kept by the Lautoka Gurudwara, Sikhs arrived in Fiji towards the end of the indentured labor system and mostly established themselves as farmers, policemen and teachers.

The first school built by Sikhs in Fiji was the Khalsa High School in Ba district and the Suva gurdwara, built in 1922, is the oldest of all.

Indo-Canadian basketball star Ishan Sharma commits to University of Virginia

OCTOBER 21, 2023

TORONTO, ON (TIP): Indo-Canadian basketball prodigy Ishan Sharma is set to move south of the border to play for the University of Virginia next year. The highly touted 6'5 shooting guard, who is a member of the class of '24 at the Fort Erie International Academy in Fort Erie, Ontario, announced his commitment on social media on October 21. The Cavaliers had offered him a scholarship just the week before.

The rising senior year has already represented Canada in multiple international FIBA tournaments.

Sharma's shooting prowess caught the attention of Cavaliers Coach Tony Bennett and his staff during the Nike EYBL Peach Jam this summer, as reported by media. During this summer's EYBL circuit, he demonstrated an impressive ability to sink shots from beyond the arc, maintaining a remarkable success rate of nearly 45% for UPLAY Canada.

According to SI, Sharma had recently visited UVA. He expressed his excitement by posting, 'Blessed to receive an offer from the University of Virginia,' on his X account on October 16 after the visit.

He reportedly also received offers from Cavaliers' in-state rival Virginia Tech, as well as Seton Hall, Arizona State, Rice, Indiana State, Wyoming, Northern Illinois, Marist, Maine and Eastern Michigan, among other schools.

With Sharma adding a formidable



Ishan Sharma is set to move south of the border to play for the University of Virginia next year

shooting presence, he and the Cavaliers could be a great match, says a college basketball expert.

"Poor perimeter shooting has doomed the Wahoos in recent seasons, so it's encouraging that UVA has locked down an elite shooter for 2024," writes Zach Carey of Streaking the Lawn, which covers Virginia basketball and football. "If there's one thing Sharma does well, it's shoot the ball. He'll be a very good catch-and-shoot threat who Bennett and

his staff can scheme open looks for, like they have for their best shooters over the years. He's also displayed the ability to hit shots off the dribble, indicating that his offensive game could expand beyond the perimeter in time."

Another longtime Virginia sports analyst expressed equal enthusiasm about Sharma.

Jerry Ratcliffe, who covers Virginia Athletics, highlighted Sharma's "reputation as a dangerous perimeter shooter" and noted that he "has an extended game."

Ratcliffe also quoted Josh Millican, a Canadian basketball recruiting analyst who hosts the podcast 'Maple Minute,' describing Sharma as a 'hidden gem.'

'Ishan is under the radar in terms of American ranking systems. I can tell you he is one of the top five prospects in all of Canada,' according to Millican.

"He's unbelievable with the ball in his hands," Millican said of Sharma, according to Ratcliffe. "He's a three-level scorer but doesn't dribble excessively. He's a tactical playmaker in the sense that he's not beating guys with sheer will or athleticism... he's thinking the game, finding your weaknesses, and exposing them. He's thinking two, three plays ahead and can't be rattled by trash-talking."

The Cavaliers, an ACC powerhouse, won their first NCAA championship in the 2018-2019 season by defeating Texas Tech in the championship game.

Indian American leader Samir Mayekar to lead Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

OCTOBER 24, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): Samir Mayekar, an Indian American innovation leader is set to lead the University of Chicago's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation as managing director from November 6.

As head of the Polsky Center, Mayekar will play a pivotal role in advancing the university's ambitious priorities in innovation, technology commercialization and entrepreneurship, the university announced Oct 18.

It stated that he will foster connections across the University, the city of Chicago, the region and the world that will enable the Polsky Center to accelerate the commercialization of critical technologies, it stated.

Most recently, Mayekar with a track record of driving innovation and impact across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, served as deputy mayor for the city of Chicago, where he focused on economic and neighborhood development.

He was a driving force behind initiatives such as the city's INVEST South/West initiative, which marshaled resources from across city departments, community organizations, and corporate and philanthropic partners to support commercial corridors across several South and West Side neighborhoods.



Samir Mayekar to lead the University of Chicago's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation as managing director.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin man faces 16 charges for pepper-spraying police, carjacking bid in Canada's Brampton

OCTOBER 26, 2023

TORONTO (TIP): A 24-year-old Indian-origin man is facing 16 charges for attempting to steal a vehicle and pepper-spraying responding police officers in the Canadian province of Ontario.

Photo/ @IANS

Rajbir Singh from Brampton was charged recently with two counts each of assaulting a peace officer, assault with intent to resist arrest, failure to comply with a release order, and possession of a controlled substance.

He also faces one count each of possession of an imitation weapon, breach of probation and theft of a motor vehicle, as well as a handful of other offences, CTV news channel reported.

The Peel Regional Police said that on the evening of October 6, officers were investigating a vehicle in a hotel parking lot with a suspicious license plate when the driver allegedly attempted to flee, causing damage to several vehicles.

As Singh was running away from the police, he unsuccessfully tried to steal a vehicle and carjack another, the report said citing police.

When officers located him, he allegedly pepper sprayed them before being taken into custody. The officers sustained minor injuries and were treated by paramedics at the scene.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



Rajbir Singh from Brampton is facing 16 charges for attempting to steal a vehicle and pepper-spraying responding police officers

Photo/ @IANS

Indian American scientists Subra Suresh, Ashok Gadgil presented National Medal of Science by Joe Biden

OCTOBER 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Two Indian American scientists - Subra Suresh and Ashok Gadgil - were among 19 Americans honored by President Joe Biden for "exemplary achievements in science, technology, and innovation to strengthen our nation's well-being."

Biden awarded the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor, to Suresh of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brown University along with eight other scientists at a White House ceremony on Tuesday.

Gadgil of the University of California, Berkeley, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the nation's highest award for technological achievement, with nine others.

Suresh was awarded the science medal "for pioneering research across engineering, physical sciences, and life sciences. A transformative educator, he has advanced the study of material science and its application to other disciplines. His commitment to research and collaboration across borders has demonstrated how science can forge understanding and cooperation among people and nations," the White House stated.

Suresh was the first Asian-born professor to lead any of the five schools at MIT. Born in Mumbai, Suresh received a BTech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. Later, he received a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering



Gadgil got White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation for providing life-sustaining resources to communities. Suresh got the National Medal of Science for pioneering research across engineering, physical sciences and life sciences.

from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Gadgil received the technology and innovation medal for "providing life-sustaining resources to communities around the world.. His innovative, inexpensive technologies help meet profound needs, from drinking water to fuel-efficient cookstoves. His work is inspired by a belief in the dignity of all people and in our power to solve the great challenges of our time," the White House stated.

Born in Mumbai, Gadgil graduated in Physics from the University of Mumbai and completed his postgraduate studies at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. He earned an MSc and PhD in physics from the University of California,

Berkeley. "I've long said America can be defined by a single word - Possibilities," Biden told the winners. "The fact that several of today's honorees immigrated from other countries is proof of the assertion that everything is possible."

"You know, there will be more technological change in the next 10 years, maybe in the next five years, than in the last 50 years," he said. "There's a - in large part to the minds sitting in front of us. And I want America to lead - to lead that change."

"Because the greatness of a country is measured not only by the size of its economy or the strength of its military," Biden said. "The strength of the nation is also measured by the boldness of its science, the quality of its research, and

the progress it helps bring forth for not only the country but whole the world," Biden said.

"These trailblazers have harnessed the power of science and technology to tackle challenging problems and deliver innovative solutions for Americans, and for communities around the world," the White House stated.

"These medalists have made discoveries that enable lifesaving medical treatments, help fight the opioid epidemic, improve food security, advance accessibility, protect our democracy, and much more."

"Their accomplishments advance American leadership in science, technology, and innovation, and their work inspires the next generation of American minds," it added.

Established by Congress in 1959 and administered by the US National Science Foundation, the National Medal of Science is bestowed on individuals deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contributions in biology, computer sciences, education sciences, engineering, geosciences, mathematical and physical sciences, and social, behavioral, and economic sciences, in service to the Nation.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation recognizes American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity, and determination have strengthened America's economy and improved our quality of life.

Established by Congress and administered by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the first Medal of Technology was presented in 1985.

Indian-American teen wins second spot in America's Young Scientist Challenge

Says wants to gain experience and advice from a mentor to help change lives with EasyBZ



Shripriya Kalbhavi of San Jose, California, a 9th grader at Lynbrook High School, will receive a \$2,000 prize for developing EasyBZ.

OCTOBER 27, 2023

SAN JOSE (TIP): Indian-American teen Shripriya Kalbhavi won second place at the annual 2023 3M Young Scientist Challenge, a premier science competition for middle school students in the US.

Kalbhavi, a ninth grader at Lynbrook High School in California, received a \$2,000 prize for developing EasyBZ -- a cost-effective micro-needle patch that allows for self-automated drug delivery without pills or needles. Kalbhavi said in a blog post on the 3M Young Scientist Challenge website that she entered the contest because she wanted to help change lives. "Scientific research and innovations have always interested me, and I find the scientists, especially doctors, all around me to be extremely inspiring because they work to help people every day," Kalbhavi, who wants to become a practicing neurosurgeon, said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin diplomat nominated by Joe Biden as US ambassador to Indonesia



President Joe Biden has appointed Indian-origin diplomat Kamala Shirin Lakhdir as US Ambassador to Indonesia

OCTOBER 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-origin diplomat Kamala Shirin Lakhdir has been appointed by President Joe Biden as US Ambassador to Indonesia.

Lakhdir, who has served the State Department for almost 30 years, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, and was most recently Executive Secretary of the Department of State, the White House said. Her father, Noor, immigrated to the US from Mumbai to attend the University of California, Berkeley in the 1940s. A Harvard graduate and an M.S. from the National War College, Lakhdir had formerly served as an ambassador to Malaysia from 2017 to 2021.

Prior to that, Lakhdir served as US Consul General in Belfast, Northern Ireland from 2009 to 2011. She joined the Foreign Service in 1991 and has served as Director of the Office of Maritime Southeast Asian Affairs, which includes responsibility for US relations with Indonesia.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin Thomas Kurian, Google Cloud CEO, wins top ASEI award



Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, received the American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin's (ASEI) prestigious Lifetime Achievement award

OCTOBER 23, 2023

MICHIGAN (TIP): Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, received the American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin's (ASEI) prestigious Lifetime Achievement award at its 35th National Convention focusing on next-generation engineering innovations in Southfield, Michigan. ASEI National convention and celebratory awards gala dinner and entertainment event also honored six other outstanding individuals for their contributions to the engineering profession, society, and the community at large, according to a press release.

THE ANNUAL ASEI AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES:

- " ASEI Entrepreneur of the Year: Dheeraj Pandey, Founder & CEO, DevRev;
- " ASEI Scientist of the Year: Dr Nina Tandon, CEO, EpiBone;

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included a special Instrumental Recital by Supratik Sengupta (Sitar), Soumya Chakraverty (Sarod), Anirban R.Chowdhury (Tabla), Sandip Ghosh (Tabla), Naren Budhakar (Tabla) & Rohan Mishra (Sarangi). Internationally famed vocalists Ruchira Panda & Sandip Bhattacharjee led the audience through a soothing evening experience. The organization honored the artists in Recognition of their remarkable Talent and Exceptional performance, enriching the World of Hindustani Classical Music and inspiring many.



MANIPURI DANCE RECITAL BY SANJIB BHATTACHARYA, JOLLY AND CHAOBITHOI

The community is truly blessed with the remarkable contribution of organizations like Sriniketan Foundation, gracing us with sublime music and for being an inspiration to aspiring musicians. Sriniketan foundation has been serving the community tirelessly for years educating our younger generation with Monthly Educational & Cultural Events - "Shyama Shyam Shashtriya Sugam Sangeet Sammelan", training them for Indian classical music, singing and dancing. The organization also offers various services not limited to - Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Basic Yoga, Mantra Therapy, Music Therapy, Laughing Therapy, Kriya Yog, Ayurveda, Meditation, Reflexology, Reiki Therapy, Listening Therapy For Chaitanya - Jagruti



TRIBUTE TO PANDIT VISHNU NARAYAN BHATHKHANDE JI



ANIRBAN CHAKRABARTY RECEIVED CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION & MERIT BY THE TOWN OF NORTH HEMSTEAD, COUNTY OF NASSAU, STATE OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK STATE AND RAGINI SRIVASTAVA - TOWN CLERK. SANJIB BHATTACHARYA, KANKANA BANERJEE, LAKSHMI KURUP AND ERIC FRASER RECEIVED THE CERTIFICATES AS WELL.



MOHINIATTAM DANCE BY STUDENTS OF CHANDRIKA KURUP

(Awareness & Pure Consciousness) and much more. For additional information visit www.sriniketanfoundation2015.org.



VIDUSHI KANKANA BANERJEE GAVE A SPLENDID PERFORMANCE AS A SENIOR VOCALIST

One of the attendees, Mr. Rohit Pandya, who was literally mesmerized by the superb music and dance performances, felt impelled to send to The Indian Panorama his appreciation and comments on the Mahotsav. Here are some excerpts.



LIVE KATHAK RECITAL DIRECTED BY PANDIT SATYA NARAYAN CHARKA WITH NAREN BUDHAKAR ON TABLA AND ROHAN MISRA ON SARANGI WITH KATHAK DANCERS POOJA BHARDWAJ AND NISHITHA SOBRIN AND PANDIT CHARKA JI HIMSELF.

As the curtain of the grand stage slowly unveiled, the mellifluous notes of a flute, as sweet as honey, began to



A GREAT VIOLINIST PALLAB BANDOPADHYAY WITH TABLA PLAYER SHANKH LAHIRI JUGALBANDI WAS SUPERB.



BHARATNATYAM DANCE BY STUDENTS OF LAKSHMI KURUP

dance through the air. The melodious tunes, as delicate as a blooming lotus, evoked a sense of tranquility that wrapped the audience in a soothing embrace. The flutist performance, like a gentle zephyr, carried the promise of a day filled with musical magic.



ROHIT PANDYA JI SPOKE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SANGEET MAHOTSAV EVERY YEAR

The momentous journey continued as classical dancers, resplendent in vibrant attire, graced the stage with their artistry. Their graceful movements were as exquisite as the petals of a thousand roses, each step echoing the rich traditions of Indian classical dance. Their expressions painted stories of love, devotion, and celebration, captivating the audience's hearts.



DR. KOMAL AND TEJAL APPRECIATED THE MANIPURI DANCE RECITAL BY THEIR MOTHER PURNIMA JI

The transition to classical vocal performances was seamless, and the vocalists transported the audience to another realm with their voices that were as ethereal as a monsoon downpour in the desert. Their renditions, passionate and resonant, were nothing short of divine. The words and melodies, like rare jewels, shone brightly in the hearts of the listeners.

The stage then welcomed the maestro of the violin, who painted vibrant ragas that were as vibrant as a peacock's plumage. The notes resonated with depth and emotion, taking the audience on a journey through the landscapes of classical music. The violinist's skill and precision were as sharp as a katana blade, creating an exquisite tapestry of sound.

The soul-stirring performance continued with the enchanting strains of the sarod, which were as

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PURNIMA JI PERFORMING MANIPURI DANCE AS RADHA



PARTIAL EMCEE BY KAYHAN IRANI ON IMPORTANCE OF MANIPURI DANCE - A DIVINE FORM OF DANCE OF RADHA - KRISHNA AND GOPIS.



FLORA PAREKH ONE OF THE EMCEES APPRECIATED RADHA KRISHNA MANIPURI DANCE RECITAL

different disciplines united to create an otherworldly experience. The music and dance, like shooting stars in the night sky, left the audience spellbound.

In the midst of this magical day, the heart and soul of the event was the visionary and dedicated Purnima Dasai, the founder and president. Her passion and commitment to preserving and promoting Indian classical arts were as boundless as the ocean. Her leadership, like the North Star, guided this magnificent event to its zenith.

Purnima Dasai's unwavering dedication, like a lighthouse in the storm, has illuminated the path for countless artists and enthusiasts,

ensuring the continued glory of Indian classical arts. Her vision and tireless efforts have been instrumental in weaving this tapestry of musical and visual splendor.

As the event came to a close, the audience rose to their feet, their applause a thunderous testament to the day's sheer brilliance. Purnima Dasai, a true luminary in the world of Indian classical arts, stood at the heart of it all, radiating with grace and poise. Her name will forever be etched in the annals of classical excellence, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.



JAGANNATH A GREAT MANIPURI DANCER WITH ALL THE ARTISTS WERE RECOGNIZED BY SRINIKETAN FOUNDATION

evocative as a sunrise over the Himalayas. The sarod's timbre, like liquid gold, flowed through the hearts of the listeners, enveloping them in a cocoon of musical ecstasy.

The sitar, played with a finesse that was as delicate as a spider's silk, followed suit. The artist's nimble fingers plucked the strings, conjuring melodies as intricate as a spider's web. The sitar's resonant tones, like the soft caress of moonlight, filled the air with enchantment.


Throughout the performances, the tabla and harmonium provided a rhythmic canvas that was as sturdy as the roots of ancient banyan trees. The interplay of beats and chords was a testament to the synchronicity and harmony that permeated the entire day's program, binding it together like a string of pearls.

And then, as the day turned to night, the grand finale, a celestial performance, unfolded. The stage seemed to transcend earthly boundaries as artists from


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Challenge to Hindutva

The clamour for a caste census can redefine political equations and alliances in the run-up to Lok Sabha polls



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

IT'S PREMATURE TO CONJECTURE IF CASTE IS A ROBUST COUNTER TO THE BJP'S HINDUTVA. BUT THE BJP'S STRATEGY OF EMPLOYING RELIGION TO HEIGHTEN A PAN-HINDU IDENTITY AMONG THE NON-UPPER CASTES MIGHT BE PAST ITS SHELF LIFE, AT LEAST IN THE STATE ELECTIONS.

"The belated wisdom of a national party such as the Congress plunging headlong into sectional politics discomfited some of its insiders, who believed that it should focus on the economy's big picture, inflation and livelihood and leave matters like a caste count to the identity-wedded entities it is aligned with in the regions. Insiders said that would be more in keeping with the 'character' of these players, some of whom, incidentally, are products of the post-Mandal period."

The upcoming Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana have got inextricably linked with three factors - the Bihar Government's release of a comprehensive caste survey (CCS), the Congress' promise to conduct a similar caste count if elected to power in these states and the BJP's response to frame the discourse in a different idiom, featuring leitmotifs drawn from the Hindutva ideology.

As the BJP garnered a little over 40 per cent of the OBC votes in the 2019 elections, largely by projecting Modi both as an OBC mascot and a Hindu icon, the Congress was bereft of any such attribute.

A little before and immediately after the Bihar CCS demonstrated the potential of resurrecting the issue of the empowerment of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) or backward castes, the Congress strongly advocated for a caste count. Former party president Rahul Gandhi described it as an 'X-ray' that would reveal the socioeconomic condition of the OBCs, Dalits and Adivasis and challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay bare the findings of a socioeconomic caste survey undertaken during then PM Manmohan Singh's tenure. Rahul claimed that the Congress governments in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had initiated a process to carry out a CCS - brave words from the Congress, which belatedly recognized and acknowledged the seriousness of OBC empowerment in shaping the politics of the Hindi heartland.

Successive Congress Prime Ministers - from Jawaharlal Nehru to Rajiv Gandhi - did not pursue the recommendations of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission, the first Backward Classes panel, which submitted its report in 1955. It identified 2,399 backward castes in the country, with 837 of them classified as 'most backward'. The commission also recommended undertaking a caste-wise enumeration of the population during the 1961 census and establishing a connection between the social backwardness of a caste and its low position in the traditional caste hierarchy, among other suggestions.

The Congress ignored the Mandal Commission's report mandated to identify the socially and educationally backward castes and adopt ameliorative measures to bring them on a par with the upper and intermediate castes. While the BJP was quick to grasp the political ramifications of the Mandal report and co-



The new caste template gained momentum after CM Nitish Kumar released the findings of Bihar's caste survey.

Photo credit / PTI

opted large OBC sub-groupings under the Hindutva umbrella, the Congress was convinced that its time-tested coalition of the upper castes, Muslims and Dalits/Adivasis would endure an epic churn. As it happened, the amalgam came apart and the party lost its base in the heartland, except in pockets. As the BJP garnered a little over 40 per cent of the OBC votes in the 2019 elections, largely by projecting Modi both as an OBC mascot and a Hindu icon, the Congress was bereft of any such attribute. Now, the party is making a concerted effort to position, front and center, its OBC Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah (Karnataka), Bhupesh Baghel (Chhattisgarh) and Ashok Gehlot (Rajasthan), despite the high command's express misgivings about Gehlot.

The belated wisdom of a national party such as the Congress plunging headlong into sectional politics discomfited some of its insiders, who believed that it should focus on the economy's big picture, inflation and livelihood and leave matters like a caste count to the identity-wedded entities it is aligned with in the regions. Insiders said that would be more in keeping with the 'character' of these players, some of whom, incidentally, are products of the post-Mandal period.

There is more than a grain of truth in this belief if the rejoinder coming from a regional party is an indication. Flagging the caste count issue in Telangana, Rahul contextualized his rationale with the alleged corruption by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi government, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and his family. A caste survey, Rahul claimed, would bring to light the extent to which the KCR clan had 'looted' Telangana. Can caste become a synonym for corruption, considering that the party of Lalu Prasad, whose household is enmeshed in graft charges, is a Congress ally and the Rashtriya Janata Dal draws its sustenance from identity politics? Can the RJD survive without its Muslim-Yadav support?

The Telangana Government was not in slumber. In 2014, it carried out a household survey of the OBCs which showed that they made up 51 per cent of its 3.6 crore population. With the Dalits and Adivasis, the

figure went up to 85 per cent.

The Chief Minister is from the Velama community, a dominant caste of agriculturists, but in his two stints in office, he made space for OBCs such as the Gouds, Yadavs, Munnuru Kapu and Padmashali as ministers and Rajya Sabha MPs. Having been vociferous about a caste count, the Congress might be hoist by its own petard because its OBC leaders have clamored for three Assembly seats each in Telangana's 17 Lok Sabha constituencies that add up to 51 OBC candidates in the 119 Assembly segments.

The Chhattisgarh Government's OBC survey in 2022 puts their population at 43.5 per cent, while as per the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Backward Classes Commissions, the figures stand at 48 per cent and 42 per cent, respectively. Confronted with the data, the three governments - Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are Congress-ruled, while MP is BJP-helmed - have made OBCs the centerpiece of their policies and welfare initiatives.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan set up dedicated welfare boards for specific sub-castes, as have Gehlot and Baghel. Rajasthan earmarked 64 per cent reservation in government employment and educational institutions with 16 per cent for the Dalits, 12 per cent for the Adivasis, 26 per cent for the OBCs and most backward castes and 10 per cent for the 'economically weaker' sections. In MP, despite the BJP high command's manifest distrust of Chouhan, he was nominated again from his Budhni seat shortly after the caste census and the accent on OBC empowerment gained currency. Chouhan is from a backward caste. In Chhattisgarh, Baghel legislated an increase in the OBC reservation quota from 14 to 27 per cent and that of the Adivasis (a sizeable population) from 12 to 13 per cent in public employment and educational admissions.

It's premature to conjecture if caste is a robust counter to the BJP's Hindutva. But the BJP's strategy of employing religion to heighten a pan-Hindu identity among the non-upper castes might be past its shelf life, at least in the state elections.

(The author is a Senior Journalist)

The voice of a Gaza under occupation

THERE MAY BE MERIT IN THE CLAIM FROM GAZA - OF A KNOCKING ON EVERY DOOR AND TRYING EVERY PATH, FOR PEACE, RIGHTS AND FREEDOM, BUT TO NO AVAIL

"WHILE BIDEN IS RIGHT TO SUPPORT ISRAEL, HE MUST GET CLEAR ANSWERS FROM NETANYAHU NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE: ONCE ISRAEL TOPPLES HAMAS, WHO WILL GOVERN GAZA? IF ISRAEL INTENDS TO GOVERN GAZA, WILL IT PAY FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IT IS DESTROYING? AND IF NOT, WHO WILL? HOW LONG DOES ISRAEL INTEND TO ALLOW THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS TO UNFOLD IN SOUTHERN GAZA? DOES ISRAEL PLAN TO BUILD SETTLEMENTS IN GAZA? DOES ISRAEL RESPECT GAZA'S BORDERS? DOES IT HAVE A PLAN TO HELP REBUILD THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IN THE WEST BANK?"

While the conflict rages in Gaza amidst allegations and counter-allegations, and in the midst of unabashed American partiality, it is relevant to recall what the senior leader of Hamas, Mousa Abu Marzouk, told The New Yorker magazine (October 13) about the political approach: "We rolled down all of the pathways to get some of our rights - not all of them. We knocked on the door of reconciliation and we weren't allowed in. We knocked on the door of elections and we were deprived of them. We knocked on the door of a political document for the whole world - we said, 'We want peace, but give us some of our rights' - but they didn't let us in." He added, "We tried every path. We didn't find one political path to take us out of this morass and free us from occupation... We spoke to the Americans, Europeans and all of the people in order to achieve the Palestinian people's rights, without any benefit. Nothing has been achieved towards the idea of two states, from 1948 until today. We are a people under occupation."

Abu Marzouk added that in earlier



We spoke to the Americans, Europeans and all of the people in order to achieve the Palestinian people's rights, without any benefit' Photo Credit / AP

conflicts, the Israelis waged wars outside their borders; "This is the first time that the Palestinians are crossing the borders and fighting in their historic land." The conflict has shattered the aura of invincibility.

TEL AVIV'S RESPONSE

The Israeli response to the Hamas attack has been to order the evacuation of the northern half of Gaza, to enforce it by a blockade, by the cutting off of food, water and electricity as also by the massing of 3,00,000 troops on Gaza's border. The objective presumably is to occupy the northern zone and expand space for new settlements. The Palestinians see it as such and recall the manner in which the state of Israel came into existence on May 14, 1948 when 6,56,000 Arabs inhabited of the Mandate Territory of Palestine were made to flee by what the historian, Paul Johnson, called (History of the Jews, p.521) as 'the scientific use of terror to break the will of liberal rulers'. Palestinians were thus made to pay for the genocide of Jews in Europe, which was committed by Germans, not Arabs.

Nor should the ideological motivation, particularly of the present Israeli leadership, be overlooked. It has repeatedly equated the Palestinians with the Nazis who should be eliminated. This is a reiteration of what Vladimir Jabotinsky, a respected predecessor in right-wing Zionism said in 1923: Zionism 'is a colonizing adventure and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force.' He predicted that the Palestinian will not leave his land unless confronted 'by a wall of Jewish bayonets so that a new race, proud, generous and cruel, shall arise.'

The reality of this perception has been reinforced by decades of connivance by world powers. Innumerable United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions have remained unimplemented. Each reiterated the earlier ones and some even indicated

new goalposts; each sought to explain away the guilt of the culprits. Resolution 2334 of December 2016, for instance, outlawed all settlement activity and reiterated the desirability of implementing the two-state solution.

A departure from the UNSC route was attempted in September 2020 by the Abraham Accords seeking, piously, to 'end radicalization and conflict' while ignoring the causes of both. An expectation of expanding the ambit of both has not materialized.

NO MORE INVINCIBLE

Israel's objectives for the Gaza operation have been officially identified with precision: toppling Hamas and destroying its military capabilities; eliminating the threat of terrorism emanating from the Gaza strip; exerting maximum pressure to find a solution to the hostage issue, and defending the borders of the state and its citizens. These would require going into Gaza. Informed Arab columnists like Abdel Bari Atwan are of the opinion that the most recent fighting has deprived Israel of its two most effective weapons: its scariness and its deterrent power. Such a move, he says, would be more far reaching than Ehud Olmert's foray and Ariel Sharon's venture.

The response of the United States and some of its allies to the present crisis raises the question of motivation. Did they know more about the chink in Israel's armor? Did they apprehend the implications of conflict going beyond Gaza and its adverse impact on Israel?

PERTINENT QUESTIONS

The prognosis of Thomas L. Friedman in The New York Times of October 16, 2023 sheds light on the prospects: "If Israel goes into Gaza now, it will blow up the Abraham Accords, further destabilize two of America's most important allies (Egypt and Jordan) and make normalization with Saudi Arabia impossible - huge strategic setbacks. It



BY HAMID ANSARI

U.S. PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN WAS EMPHATIC IN HIS CONDEMNATION OF HAMAS FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOSPITAL ATTACK. ITS TIMING IS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED AND PROFESSOR ANTHONY H. CORDESMAN OF THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE ONLY WAY TO CONVINCE THOSE WHO DO NOT TAKE SIDES IS TO ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION THAT IS LED BY NATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CREDIBLE.

will also enable Hamas to really fire up the West Bank and get a shepherd's war going there between Jewish settlers and Palestinians. Altogether, it will play directly into Iran's strategy of sucking Israel into imperial overstretch and in that way weakening the Jewish democracy from within."

Friedman adds: "While Biden is right to support Israel, he must get clear answers from Netanyahu now, before it's too late: Once Israel topples Hamas, who will govern Gaza? If Israel intends to govern Gaza, will it pay for the rebuilding of the infrastructure that it is destroying? And if not, who will? How long does Israel intend to allow the humanitarian crisis to unfold in southern Gaza? Does Israel plan to build settlements in Gaza? Does Israel respect Gaza's borders? Does it have a plan to help rebuild the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank?"

U.S. President Joe Biden was emphatic in his condemnation of Hamas for the responsibility of the hospital attack. Its timing is yet to be established and Professor Anthony H. Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies is of the opinion that the only way to convince those who do not take sides is to establish some form of international investigation that is led by nations or individuals who are credible.

Clearly, there may be merit in Abu Marzouk's claim. Hasty resort to partiality may not be the option.

(Hamid Ansari is a former Vice President of India)

A middle path needed to resolve Israel-Palestine conflict



BY PRITAM SINGH

With not even Europe fully supporting the US-UK stance on Israel, these two powers stand isolated globally.

"The immediate need is to take four steps - a ceasefire, release by Hamas of all Israeli hostages, uninterrupted flow of international humanitarian aid into Gaza and complete abandonment by Israel of aerial bombing of Gaza and its stated aim of a ground offensive in Gaza. The emergence of powerful Jewish voices in the US and the UK, especially among the younger generations, against the current and intended military action by the Israeli state in Gaza, and the growing chorus within Israel against the warmonger President Netanyahu, are signs of revival of hope in a seemingly hopeless situation."

The Israel-Palestine conflict has been arguably the most intractable conflict in the world ever since Israel was created as a state in 1948 and projected as the homeland of Jewish people from all over the world. The creation of this state was accompanied by the displacement of 7,50,000 Palestinians, the original inhabitants of the place. This simultaneous possession and dispossession created the physical and cultural conditions for an enduring conflict. The dispossessed Palestinians want their homeland decolonized. Jewish settlers perceive Palestinian economy, politics and culture as a persistent threat to the security of the land they have possessed.

The seeming resolvability of the conflict arises from a combination of two forces: moral and economic-geographical. Both sides claim that morality is on their side. The Jews, especially those who are committed to the Zionist variant of the faith, claim that the persecution of the Jews over centuries - culminating in the Nazi Holocaust that caused the slaughter of six million of them - entitles them morally to have a state of their own where they can be secure from discrimination and persecution. Non-Zionist Jews considered the Zionist perspective as vulgarization of the faith, but their views were marginalized, especially in light of Holocaust sufferings. The Palestinians claim that they never committed atrocities on Jews and had, in fact, lived in peace with the Palestinian Jews, but they were still punished by being thrown out of their homeland.

The economic-geographic location of Israel in West Asia confounds the conflict. An Oxford geographer once made a pithy remark that has become a quotable quote. He argued that the one who controls West Asia controls oil and the one who controls oil controls the world. West Asia is the most oil-rich region in the world and when petroleum, also called liquid gold, became the critical source of energy for running modern capitalist economies, the US, the UK and France became involved in the region to have access to that liquid gold. The creation of Israel by these powers as their permanent strategic ally in West Asia was aimed to create a firm foothold in this resource-rich region. This strategic alliance is the source of Israel's military and economic



Dispossessed Palestinians want their homeland decolonized

power.

The vulnerability of Israel despite this powerful military-economic alliance lies in its geographic location. It is surrounded by Muslim-majority countries whose populations, if not their autocratic rulers, are deeply sympathetic to the Palestinians. Though some Palestinians are Christians (including the world-famous Palestinian intellectual, the late Edward Said), most are Muslims. Israel's geographical vulnerability is the Palestinians' strength.

There are three 'perfect' solutions that can be imagined, but none is feasible. The 'perfect' solution for the hardcore Zionist Israelis is the complete elimination of all signs of Palestinian life. This is not possible at all because of the growing global revulsion against Israeli bombing of Gaza. The changing global order, with declining military and economic powers of old imperialist countries and the rising economic and military powers of newly emerging economies, means that the global balance of forces is pitted against Israel taking any action remotely resembling annihilation of Palestinians. With not even Europe fully supporting the US-UK stance on Israel, these two powers stand isolated globally.

The 'perfect' solution for the hardcore Palestinians is the liquidation of the state of Israel. Hamas, the organization that carried out the deadly attack on Israeli territory on October 7, is committed to this aim. However unjustified the creation of Israel might be from any point of view, Palestinian or non-Palestinian, the liquidation of the Israeli state is not possible. The global history of at least the last two centuries shows that no state once created has been destroyed. The territory of a state does shrink because of secession of some region from it but the state does not disappear. Russia, Serbia, Pakistan, Indonesia and Ethiopia are some recent examples of this. The Hamas agenda is a dangerous delusion and, therefore, not feasible.

The 'perfect' solution from a democratic point of view would be the creation of an integrated Israel-Palestine

or Palestine-Israeli state where all citizens - Jews, Muslim, Christians or non-believers - have equal rights and they can, through a democratic process, choose their form of economic governance - capitalist, socialist or social democratic. This certainly is the most sensible way but let the perfect not be the enemy of the good. This most desirable solution is also not feasible, not only in the immediate future, given the current polarization, but also in the medium term. This does not, however, mean that the transitional path cannot be imagined. That transitional path is the two-state solution - a sovereign Palestinian state existing alongside the Israeli state. It is a feasible solution. However, it has not been sincerely tried out despite the Oslo Accords, which were the most hopeful sign of progress in this direction.

The learning experience of the two states existing side by side might lead them eventually to build an integrated state - the truly ideal solution.

The immediate need is to take four steps - a ceasefire, release by Hamas of all Israeli hostages, uninterrupted flow of international humanitarian aid into Gaza and complete abandonment by Israel of aerial bombing of Gaza and its stated aim of a ground offensive in Gaza. The emergence of powerful Jewish voices in the US and the UK, especially among the younger generations, against the current and intended military action by the Israeli state in Gaza, and the growing chorus within Israel against the warmonger President Netanyahu, are signs of revival of hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

India and other countries have a stake in a peaceful West Asia because all past military conflicts in the region have led to a rise in oil prices, inflation and adverse economic conditions, such as the rise of Third World debt in petroleum-importing countries like India after the 1973 oil price rise. This conflict sharply highlights the link between global oil business and military confrontations.

(The author is Professor Emeritus, Oxford Brookes Business School)



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DHS proposes changes to H-1B work visas

OCTOBER 23, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): The Biden administration Monday rolled out a series of proposals to change how work visas are granted and what rights they convey to foreign nationals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published the changes "to modernize and improve the efficiency of the H-1B program, add benefits and flexibilities, and improve integrity measures" in the Federal Register.

But the proposals are hit-and-miss for many advocates and researchers.

"The regulation is a very modest attempt to make the H-1B program work a little bit better than it does now," said David Bier, associate director of immigration studies at the Cato Institute.

In balance, the proposal liberalizes certain aspects of the H-1B, while tightening regulations that lawyers worry could make the application process more difficult.

The H-1B is directed toward specialty occupations: engineers, doctors and journalists, for instance, who are foreign nationals with U.S.-based jobs.

The visa is often granted to graduates of U.S. universities, and for many it serves as a bridge between college or graduate school in the United States and permanent residency or naturalization.

But for many others, the H-1B is a trap.

The H-1B in principle is granted for three years and renewable for another three, after which beneficiaries can either move to another status, such as a green card, or leave the country.

Green cards, however, are subject to a per-country cap, where no one country can receive more than 7 percent of the annual allocation. That leaves nationals of countries such as India, which is a heavy user of H-1Bs, stuck in decades-long backlogs, renewing their H-1Bs yearly after the two three-year periods end.

"The fact going forward is that there aren't enough green cards, that the cap is going to be filled very quickly for green cards this year, and it's not going to be just



Image for representation

Indians anymore. Everybody's going to be starting to face increasing wait times," said Bier.

Because current regulations make it risky and difficult to switch employers, workers on green card backlogs are at heightened risk for labor abuses.

The new regulation does not address that issue, said Bier, and it adds language that could make it more difficult to obtain the visa in the first place.

Immigration lawyer Cyrus Mehta wrote that the new regulation's tightening of rules to match college and graduate school degrees with occupations "will make the H-1B program more restrictive and will negate all the good features." "The proposed regulation seeking to amend the definition of 'specialty occupation' is of great concern as it would incentivize [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] examiners to issue requests for evidence, which in turn would be burdensome on employers," wrote Mehta. The administration's new proposal would adopt language similar to a Trump administration proposal saying an applicant's job needs to be "directly related" to their studies, and to the needs of any given job.

Because people often study one thing and end up working in a different field, immigration law experts are worried this measure could create unnecessary red tape.

But the administration's proposal also makes it less risky to apply for an H-1B.

The visa is granted to a set number of people, regardless of how many apply; the winners are chosen at random from the pool of eligible applicants.

That's made many would-be applicants reconsider the expenses and effort of an application, while other applicants enter the system on repeated occasions sponsored by different companies, getting more tickets for the lottery.

Under the new system, each individual applicant would count once for the lottery system, regardless of how many applications they filed.

The new proposal would also codify a way for entrepreneurs to self-sponsor, whereas only U.S.-based companies can sponsor applicants now.

"That whole thing was thrown out by a court, so the rule should be right now that any entrepreneur who wants to sponsor themselves for an H-1B should be able to do so, but in practice, I've been told that that is not what is happening. They are still making it difficult to do that," said Bier.

The proposal would also extend the time recent graduates of U.S. universities can work before requiring an H-1B to continue working, a process known as Optional Practical Training, making it easier to time applications to avoid interruptions in work eligibility.

And it would require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that grants work permits, to defer to its prior decisions, meaning that renewals for people with unchanged underlying circumstances would be virtually guaranteed.

In parallel, the State Department is mulling a proposal to allow H-1B applicants to receive their visa stamps without leaving the United States. Currently, applicants must leave the country to get stamps at a U.S. consulate abroad.

Indian American Satish Garimella Morrisville, NC, Town Councilman, seeks another term based on his record



Satish Garimella is seeking a third term, based on his record

OCTOBER 25, 2023

MORRISVILLE, NC (TIP): Indian American Satish Garimella, who is on the verge of completing his eighth year on the Morrisville, NC, Town Council, is seeking a third term, counting on voters to recognize his eight-year record in office.

"Earning the trust of our residents is a cherished privilege," he told The

American Bazaar. "Serving on the town council brings me enormous satisfaction. The community holds great importance for me. Addressing the concerns and needs of individual residents and their families inspires me, as I truly value the positive contributions I can make.

The election is scheduled for November 7. Early voting began on October 19 and will conclude on November 4.

Garimella, who was raised in Mumbai, India, is running for an at-large seat on the council, allowing all eligible voters of the town to cast their votes for the candidate.

Primarily situated within Wake County, North Carolina's most populous county, Morrisville is a key town of the Research Triangle metropolitan region, which is anchored by the cities of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill.

Morrisville is one of the very few U.S. towns where Indian Americans make up the largest ethnic group. Approximately 46 percent of the town's nearly 32,000 residents are of Indian American descent, while 35 percent are white, and 10 percent are African American.

In addition to a mayor and pro team mayor, there are five members on the town council. The current council also includes

another Indian American, Steve Rao.

Garimella, the son of two university professors, arrived in the Research Triangle area in 2003. An engineer by training - he holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's in computer science and serves as a senior manager at a large pharmaceutical company - it was his passion for community service and politics that inspired the Indian American to run for the town council in 2015.

Since taking office as a council member in December of that year, Garimella has had a significant impact on both the council and the town. He found particular satisfaction in his role when he secured vaccinations for 17,000 individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an Indian American, the councilman often receives requests for assistance from community members in need of help with visa and consular matters. Through nurturing strong relationships with the Embassy of India in Washington, DC, as well as U.S. missions in India, he has been able to provide vital support to those seeking assistance. Over the past eight years, he has also coordinated numerous camps and events to benefit the

community.

The councilman said that his role as a council member has provided him with the opportunity to serve on multiple boards and committees, further enhancing his ability to serve his constituents effectively.

Some of the influential boards and council-appointed committees he has served in the past eight years include the Board of Directors for WakeMed Health and Hospitals, the Board of Directors for the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), the North Carolina League of Municipalities Legislative Policy Committee, the Cary/Morrisville Joint Issue Subcommittee, and the Wake County Fire Commission.

"I'm deeply grateful for the enriching experiences and insights gained," he said, reflecting on these experiences. "I ventured into unfamiliar territories by joining various boards, expanding my understanding of community needs. Forming friendships with diverse individuals has been particularly rewarding."

Read full story
at www.theindianpanorama.news

Mike Johnson elected speaker of US House of Representatives

OCTOBER 26, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Republican Congressman from Louisiana Mike Johnson has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, bringing an end to three weeks of uncertainty in US politics. He is the 56th Speaker of the Chamber.

The position of Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most powerful political chairs in the country and is third in the line of succession after the US President.

Johnson on Wednesday October 25, was elected by 220 to 209 votes in a bitterly divided Congress, three weeks after his predecessor Kevin McCarthy was unceremoniously voted out of the seat for the first time in US history. In the 435-member House, the Republicans hold a slender majority with 221 seats against 212 of the Democrats.

The 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives, Johnson, 51, a lawyer by profession, is a four-term Congressman from the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana.

In his maiden address to the Congress, Speaker Johnson said his first legislative agenda would be to bring a resolution in support of Israel, a country that was hit by a terrorist attack by Hamas early this month.

"We are going to show not only Israel but the entire world that the barbarism of Hamas that we have seen play out on our television screens is wretched and wrong," he said.

"We want our allies around the world to know that this body of lawmakers is reporting again to our duty stations. Let



Mike Johnson, Republican Congressman from Louisiana has been elected 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives

the enemies of freedom around the world hear us loud and clear: The people's house is back in business," Johnson said.

However, his main challenge at hand would be to avoid a government shutdown by passing the spending bill and approving the USD100 billion request by President Joe Biden to fund the war in Israel and Ukraine.

Johnson, whose candidature was supported by former president Donald Trump, said that he would propose a short-term measure to fund the government through January 15 or April 15.

"So, at this time yesterday, nobody was thinking of Mike and then we put out the word and now he's speaker of the House, so I wanted to thank all of the supporters that I have and I want to thank all of the supporters Mike has, and again he will be a great speaker," Trump said after the election of the new speaker.

In his speech, Johnson indicated that he is getting down to business immediately. "The American people's business is too urgent at this moment," he said.

"We're in the majority right now. We've gone through a little bit of suffering. We've gone through a little bit of character building. And, you know what it's produced? More strength, more perseverance, and a lot of hope. And that's what we are about to deliver to the American people," Johnson said, adding that he would have an aggressive schedule in the days and weeks ahead. US President Joe Biden said he is looking forward to working with the Speaker Johnson.

According to the White House, this afternoon, Biden called Johnson to congratulate him on his election, and expressed that he looks forward to working together to find common ground on behalf of the American people. "While House Republicans spent the last 22 days determining who would lead their conference, I have worked on those pressing issues, proposing a historic supplemental funding package that advances our bipartisan national security interests in Israel and Ukraine, secures our border, and invests in the American people. These priorities have been endorsed by leaders in both parties," Biden said in a statement.

"We need to move swiftly to address our national security needs and to avoid a shutdown in 22 days. Even though we have real disagreements about important issues, there should be mutual effort to find common ground wherever we can," he said. (Source: PTI)

US Senator moves resolution on 'religious bias' in India: Wants govt to push New Delhi to take action



"I am calling on the United States to continue pushing the government of India to reverse course on the systematic religious and political persecution that is endangering and disenfranchising innocent civilians," Senator Tammy Baldwin said.

OCTOBER 26, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US Senator Tammy Baldwin has introduced a resolution in the Senate, urging the Biden administration to engage with India to "reverse" its policies that allegedly discriminate on the basis of religion and push for an end to violence against peaceful protesters in the country.

"Religious freedom is a fundamental human right, and when any country infringes on it, the United States must stand up and speak out," Senator Tammy Baldwin said in a statement after introducing the resolution this week.

"I am calling on the United States to continue pushing the government of India to reverse course on the systematic religious and political persecution that is endangering and disenfranchising innocent civilians," she said.

India has previously trashed "motivated" and "biased" reports by the US State Department on religious freedom that criticized the country for alleged attacks on minorities.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in May this year such reports continue to be based on "misinformation and flawed understanding".

The resolution urges the government to engage with the Indian government to end the persecution of, and violence against, religious minorities and human rights defenders in India, and work to reverse government policies that discriminate against Muslims and Christians on the basis of faith.

It also calls for an end to the demolition of homes, businesses, and places of worship belonging to Muslims and Christians.

Welcoming the resolution, Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director of the Indian American Muslim Council, said rising social conflict and democratic backslide in India will weaken and not strengthen India's relevance as a global bulwark against anti-democratic forces.

(Source: PTI)

INDIAN AMERICAN FOOD DELIVERY DRIVER ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT ON MINOR IN CALIFORNIA



OCTOBER 26, 2023

SAN JOSE, CA (TIP): A 21-year-old Indian American food delivery driver has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl after forcefully getting into her motel room in California, police said.

Identifying Sandeep as "primary suspect", the San Jose Police Department (SJPD) said on Wednesday, October 25, that the incident occurred on October 21 in the 1000 block of The Alameda in San Jose city.

The girl was staying with her mother in the motel and had ordered a pizza.

The mother was not in the room at the time of the incident, the KTVU news channel reported. Investigations by the SJPD Sexual Assault Investigations Unit (SAIU) revealed that Sandeep forced his way into the motel room and sexually assaulted the female juvenile.

SAIU detectives and patrol officers located and arrested Sandeep on the same day in the city of Campbell late in the evening. He was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail for assault with intent to commit a sex crime, sexual battery, and false imprisonment. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Detective Bolduc of the department's Sexual Assault Investigations Unit.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMPANY FROM SILICON VALLEY ENTERS BIHAR



Mahesh Kumar, Founder and CEO at Tiger Analytics

OCTOBER 26, 2023
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): A Silicon Valley-based Artificial Intelligence company has opened an office in Bihar, making it the first IT company from the US to enter the state.

Tiger Analytics, headquartered in Santa Clara, has opened its first office in Patna this month. "We are hoping that the initial step that we are taking, can lead to a lot of progress down the road," Mahesh Kumar, founder and CEO of Tiger Analytics, told PTI in a recent interview. The company currently has some 4,000 employees in India, but they are mostly in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Kumar, who is himself from Bihar, said during the COVID crisis a large number of its employees went back home to Bihar and started working remotely. "We have close to a hundred people between Bihar and Jharkhand right now. They're working remotely and they were happy there, they didn't want to come back," he said.

"So, we realized that they're very good talented people, young people, they want to stay close to home but there are no opportunities in Bihar for them to work.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India begins 'quiet efforts' after 8 ex-navy veterans get death penalty in Qatar

India has quietly launched efforts to find a resolution to the issue of the eight former Indian Navy personnel given the death sentence by a Qatari court, though authorities in both countries remained tight-lipped on the matter on Friday, October 27.

The authorities in Qatar maintained a complete silence on the case, which found no mention in the country's media. People familiar with the matter said a copy of the verdict from Qatar's Court of First Instance was yet to be formally received by the Indian side.

There was also no further comment from the Indian side after the external affairs ministry issued a statement on Thursday expressing deep shock at the Qatari court's verdict and pledging to look at all legal options.

The people said quiet efforts had been launched through diplomatic and official channels to find a resolution to the matter. Among the possibilities being look at is filing an appeal against the verdict or using an agreement signed by India and Qatar in 2015 for the transfer of convicted prisoners so that they can complete their sentence in their home country. The agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons was ratified by the Qatari side the same year, and it was one of six pacts signed during a state visit to India by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar. There is also the possibility of approaching the International Court of Justice, as was done in the case of former naval officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was detained by Pakistani authorities in 2016 and subsequently sentenced to death by a military court on charges of alleged espionage.

After 5G success, India aims to lead in 6G: PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, October 27, praised the rollout of 5G telecom networks in the country and the progress of the technology sector, calling them crucial for India's transition to a developed economy.

Modi, speaking at the India Mobile Congress with several industry leaders in attendance, launched the government's 5G Use Case Labs for educational institutes, which will help drive innovation in 5G-based applications for domains such as agriculture, education and health.

"Internet connectivity and improvement in speeds also improves ease of living. When internet speed increases, a student connects with a teacher, a patient connect with a doctor, and farmers learn new techniques to improve their productivity," he said, linking connectivity to improvements in "social and economic well-being".

"India is not only expanding the 5G network in the country but also laying emphasis on becoming a leader in 6G," Modi added.

The PM said that in the year since the first 5G, or fifth generation, mobile communications were rolled out, 97% of the cities and 80% of the population has been covered. "But we did not stop at that success, and we began to work on making sure every citizen had access to it. From roll-out, we went to the reach-out stage."

This, he added, tied into the government's focus on "democratising every sector". "We believe in democratising every sector, and we are working to ensure that the benefits of technology reach everyone. For me, that is the greatest social justice."

At IMC, Modi launched the labs first announced in the Union Budget presented by Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman this year.

The telecommunications department has set up the labs for which the government will provide 80% of the capital expenditure and 100% of operational expenses for the next four years. Institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, National Institutes of Technology, and other selected higher education institutions, will foot 20% of capital expenditure for the labs.



Each lab will have at least 10 faculty members and 50 students and at least five start-ups or Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises will be engaged with each to test or develop solutions. Each lab must develop or test at least 10 products or solutions annually.

All the labs are expected to be fully functional by March 2024, an official said on the condition of anonymity.

In his address, Modi said India is among the world's top three start-up ecosystems and the second largest mobile phone manufacturer. "Our electronics exports are upwards of Rs 2 lakh crore now," said Modi.

Modi also spoke about cybersecurity and said threats to it were discussed during the G20 summit in New Delhi in September. "If our entire value chain resides within India, it will be easier to secure it."

Liking 'obscene' content on social media no crime, sharing is: HC

PRAYAGRAJ (TIP)

The Allahabad High Court recently held that liking an "obscene" post on social media does not constitute an offence, however, sharing or reposting such content will attract penal consequences.

The court in its observations on Wednesday said sharing such a post would amount to "transmission" under Section 67 of the Information Technology (IT) Act and will be punishable.

Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal made the remarks as he quashed the criminal proceedings pending against Mohd Imran Kazi of Agra filed under section 67 of IT Act and other sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Kazi was under trial for liking another person's post for unlawful assembly.

"I do not find any material which could connect the applicant with any objectionable post, as there is no offensive post available in the Facebook and WhatsApp accounts of the applicant. Therefore, no case is made out against the applicant," the judge noted.

He said though under the IT Act transmitting obscene material is an offence, in the present case "the applicant has liked the post of one Farhan Usman for unlawful assembly, but liking a post will not amount to publishing or transmitting the post,



therefore, merely liking a post will not attract section 67 IT Act."

"Even otherwise section 67 of the IT Act is for obscene material and not for provocative material," the court said.

A criminal case was registered against petitioner Mohd Imran Kazmi and a charge sheet was filed against him for liking "provocative" messages on social media, which resulted in the assembly of about 600-700 persons belonging to the Muslim community for arranging procession without permission.

The court of CJM, Agra, took cognisance of the charge sheet and issued a non-bailable warrant against him on June 30, 2023.

West Bengal minister held in ration scam

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested West Bengal Forest Minister Jyoti Priya Mallick in the wee hours of Friday, October 27, in connection with the alleged ration scam in the state and produced him in a Kolkata court that granted his remand for 10 days.

Mallick (65), a senior Trinamool Congress leader, was taken into custody under Sections 19 and 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after he was interrogated for nearly 20 hours when searches starting Thursday were carried out on properties belonging to him and his associates.

Meanwhile, the minister, who held the Food and Supplies portfolio from 2011 to 2021, fainted in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court and even vomited before he was taken in an ambulance to a private hospital where he was admitted later. He told the judge that his blood sugar level was high and he had swelling in his feet.

The court ordered that though Mallick will be in ED custody till November 6, the period during which he will remain in hospital will be excluded from the remand period. The court also ruled that the hospital will set up a medical board within 24 hours and the minister's lawyer can meet him for an hour every day.

The agency had prayed for a 14-day remand of the accused. Earlier, when being taken by the ED officials and CRPF personnel from his Salt Lake residence to the agency's office in CGO Complex in Kolkata, the minister said, "I am a victim of a huge conspiracy. Suwendu Adhikari (Leader of Opposition in Assembly) and the BJP are behind this."

Shocked and ashamed that India abstained from voting for ceasefire in Gaza, says Priyanka

Slamming the BJP government at the Centre for abstaining from voting in the UN for a truce in Gaza, Congress on Saturday, October 28, said the stand went "against everything our country has stood for throughout its life as a nation".

"I am shocked and ashamed that our country has abstained from voting for a ceasefire in Gaza," Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi said in a statement posted on X.

Gandhi wrote that India was founded on the principles of non-violence and truth for which freedom fighters laid down their lives. "These principles form the basis of the Constitution that defines our nationhood. They represent the moral courage of India that guided its actions as a member of the international community," the Congress leader said. Gandhi said that to refuse to take a stand and watch in silence as every law of humanity was being pulverised, food, water, medical supplies, communication and power cut off to millions of people and thousands of men, women and children in Palestine annihilated, went against everything India stood for.

Gandhi cited Mahatma Gandhi saying 'an eye for an eye makes everyone blind' to remind the warring parties of the dangers of retribution.

Air India deploys new Boeing 777 aircraft to all 3 US destinations from Mumbai

Air India has deployed its newly inducted B777 aircraft to all three US destinations it serves non-stop from Mumbai to New York JFK, Newark Liberty Airport (New Jersey), and San Francisco.

"This ensures that, for the first time, all North American cities served by Air India from Mumbai have been upgraded to aircraft with modern-generation seats and inflight entertainment systems in all classes," said an airline spokesperson.

In addition, one of the two daily Air India flights between Mumbai and London Heathrow (AI130/AI131) will now also operate on the new B777 aircraft, offering modern generation interiors, as well as introducing First Class cabins.

The B777-200LR aircraft serving San Francisco and New York-JFK has 28 Business, 48 Premium Economy and 212 Economy Class, while the B777-300ER serving Newark-Liberty and London offers eight First Class, 40 Business and 280 Economy Class seats.

The Boeing 777-300ER is a long-range wide-body aircraft that is capable of flying non-stop from India to the US.

Terrorism is a 'malignancy', knows no borders, India tells UN as it abstains on resolution on Israel-Hamas conflict

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

Terrorism is a "malignancy" and knows no borders, nationality or race and the world should not buy into any justification of terror acts, India has told the UN General Assembly as it abstained on a resolution on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

India on Friday, October 27, abstained in the UN General Assembly on a Jordanian-drafted resolution titled 'Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations' that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict and unhindered humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution that called for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities.

The resolution, which garnered 121 votes in favour, 44 abstentions and 14 member states voting against it, also demanded the immediate, continuous, sufficient and unhindered provision of essential goods and services to civilians throughout the Gaza Strip.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Yojna Patel, in Explanation of Vote here said in a world where differences and disputes should be resolved by dialogue, this august body should be deeply concerned at recourse to violence.

"That too, when it happens on a scale and intensity that is an affront to basic human values," Patel said.

Patel said that violence as a means to



Voting results are displayed as the United Nations General Assembly voted on a nonbinding resolution calling for a 'humanitarian truce' in Gaza and a cessation of hostilities between Israel and the Palestinian armed group Hamas on Friday, October 27. AP Photo

achieve political objectives damages indiscriminately and does not pave the way for any durable solutions.

Describing the terror attacks in Israel on October 7 as shocking, Patel said they deserve condemnation. India's explanation of the vote did not mention Hamas.

"Terrorism is a malignancy and knows no borders, nationality or race. The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts. Let us keep aside differences, unite and adopt a zero-

tolerance approach to terrorism," she said.

India expressed hope that the deliberations of the General Assembly will "send a clear message against terror and violence and expand prospects for diplomacy and dialogue while addressing the humanitarian crisis that confronts us." Patel said India is "deeply concerned" at the deteriorating security situation and astounding loss of civilian lives in the ongoing conflict.

Source: PTI

Cash-for-query row: Mahua Moitra seeks more time to appear before ethics panel

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra has sought more time to appear before the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha in the ongoing cash-for-query row. Taking to X (formerly Twitter), she posted her request letter to the ethics panel, in which the TMC MP stated that due to the "seriousness of the allegations" levelled against her and the "principles of natural justice", she should be allowed to "cross-examine" businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

"Chairman, Ethics Comm announced my 31/10 summons on live TV way before official letter emailed to me at 19:20 hrs. All complaints & suo moto affidavits also released to media. I look forward to deposing immediately after my pre-scheduled constituency programmes end on Nov 4," Moitra wrote on the microblogging site.

In the letter, the TMC MP said that owing to Vijaya Dashami meetings scheduled between October 30 and November 4, she cannot be in Delhi on October 31. Moitra also cited the example



Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra.

of BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who was summoned by the Lok Sabha's Privileges Committee on October 10 due to a row with Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) Danish Ali, but was later permitted to appear at a later time as per his request.

Moitra further said that Hiranandani should also be present before the ethics panel, and provide "verified lists" of all alleged gifts and favours that the TMC MP is claimed to have received from him.

"I wish to place on record that any enquiry without the oral evidence of Hiranandani will be incomplete, unfair

and akin to holding a proverbial 'kangaroo court'..." the TMC MP's letter said.

Her statement comes after it was reported that Hiranandani, the CEO of real-estate conglomerate Hiranandani Group, is unlikely to be called by the ethics panel in the probe into the cash-for-query row. It was also reported that after Moitra's deposition, the panel could proceed to recommend its action in the matter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Earlier in the day, India Today reported that the ethics panel will write to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to authenticate Hiranandani's 'sworn affidavit' by way of an apostille that will make it a legal document, so that it can be read as his statement in the ongoing cash-for-query row against Moitra.

In his 'affidavit', Hiranandani has claimed that Moitra gave him her Parliament login details to raise questions about the Adani Group, in a bid to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The TMC MP has refuted the claim, saying the businessman was forced to write it by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Source: India Today

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 27, 2023, TO NOVEMBER 2, 2023

27 OCTOBER

1920 The 10th and first Dalit President of the country, K.K. R. Narayan was born in 1920.

1952 Anuradha Paudwal, who created a special identity with the hymns along with the film world, was born in 1952.



2008 The Central Government issued a notification of interim relief to journalists and non-journalists of the newspaper industry.

1947 Raja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir accepted the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into India.

28 OCTOBER

1867 Birth of Swami Vivekananda's disciple Bhagini Nivedita in Ireland



1913 Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Sabha was established

1851 The British Indian Association was established in Bengal.

29 OCTOBER

1985 Boxer Vijendra Singh, who won India's first Olympic medal in boxing, was born.



1999 About 150 people died and five lakh people were affected by the Mahatufan, which came at a speed of 250

km on the east coast of India.

2005 Two days before Deepawali in Delhi, 62 people died in the serial blasts in busy areas Paharganj and Sarojini Nagar.

1920 Jamia Millia Islamia was established by the efforts of former President Zakir Hussain.

2008 Assam bombings killed 69 people and injured 350 people.

30 OCTOBER

1945 India joined the United Nations.

1909 Famous scientist Homi Jahangir Bhabha was born.

1883 The great thinker and social reformer Swami Dayanand Saraswati died.



1956 India's first five-star hotel 'Ashoka' opened.

31 OCTOBER

1875 The freedom fighter of India and the first Home Minister of independent India Sardar Vallabh Patel was born



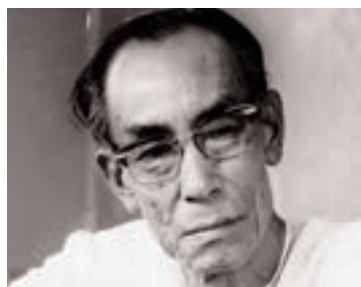
1984 The then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was shot dead by her bodyguards.

1966 India's famous swimmer Mihir Sen floated and crossed the Panama Canal.

1943 Indian scientist and former chairman of 'ISRO' G. Madhavan Nair was born.

1960 The cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal killed about 10,000 people.

1975 Sachin Dev Burman, a famous musician / music director and singer of Bengali and Hindi cinema, passed away.



01 NOVEMBER

1950 The first steam engine in India was built at the Chittaranjan Rail factory.

1984 After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, anti-Sikh riots broke out in the country.



1858 The rule of India went from the East India Company to the ruler of Britain and now the Viceroy was appointed to replace the Governor General.

1956 The state of Madhya Pradesh was formed on the basis of language.

1956 The capital of the country, Delhi became a union territory.

1960 Kalyani University was established in West Bengal India.

1966 The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab.

1973 The name of Mysore was changed to Karnataka.

2000 The state of Chhattisgarh was formed.

02 NOVEMBER

1833 Mahendra Lal Sarkar, the First Homeopathic Practitioner in India, was born.

1834 The ship named Atlas had reached Mauritius with Indian laborers. Which is celebrated as immigrant day there.

1534 The fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas was born.



2012 Indian-American mathematician Shriram Shankar Abhyankar died.



AMERICA'S LARGEST DOC FEST RETURNS TO NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening

Director DHEERAJ AKOLKAR's 'Liv Ullmann - A Road Less Travelled'
 Director/Co-Producer VINAY SHUKLA's 'While We Watched'
 Director/Co-Producer ANDREW NADKARNI's 'Between Earth & Sky'
 Director/Co-Producer VARUN CHOPRA's 'Holy Cowboys'
 Director/Co-Producer AMAR WALA's 'Witness'
 Director/Co-Producer VEENA RAO's 'You Can't Shrink Love'
 Director KARLA MURTHY's 'Love, Jamie'
 Co-Producer AINS PRASAD's 'The Orchestra Chuck Built'
 Director-Producer TALHA JALAL's 'Rite of Passage'
 Director/Producer ARUN BHATTARAI's 'Mountain Man'
 Co-Director Geeta GANDBHIR's 'How We Get Free'
 Director/Producer ROOPA GOGINENI's 'Suddenly TV'
 Producer RUCHI MITAL's 'Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow'
 Co-Producer GANNESH RAJAH's 'Puffling'

And many more

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival that runs annually presents its 14th edition in-person November 8-16 at the IFC Center, SVA Theatre and Village East by Angelika and continues online through November 26, 2023. The 2023 festival presents 114 feature-length documentaries and 129 short films in its 14th edition, including 33 world premieres and 29 U.S. premieres with filmmakers expected in-person at most screenings.

"We are beyond proud to be celebrating the international documentary community's incredible work this year," said the festival's artistic director Jaie Laplante. "These films reveal new insights into our interior lives and the world around us in complex, engaging and often prescient ways."

THE FESTIVAL FILMS ARE ARRANGED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

SPECIAL EVENTS, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, U.S. COMPETITION, INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, METROPOLIS COMPETITION, KALEIDOSCOPE COMPETITION, AMERICAN STORIES, FIGHT THE POWER, GAME FACE CINEMA, INVESTIGATIONS, PORTRAITS, SONIC CINEMA, VOICE OF CANADA, SHORTS (in 20 programs). The complete list is given below.

THE SPECIAL EVENTS CATEGORY HAS THE OPENING NIGHT, CLOSING NIGHT AND CENTERPIECE FILMS.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT

THE CONTESTANT (New York Premiere)
 Director: Clair Tittley
 Producers: Andee Ryder, Megumi Inman, Ian Bonhote

In the earliest days of "reality TV" in the 1990s, an aspiring Japanese comedian found himself trapped alone and naked in an apartment for 15 months, unaware that his participation in a twisted reality show was being broadcast weekly to millions of viewers, transforming him into a TV superstar.

CLOSING NIGHT

SOUTH TO BLACK POWER (World Premiere)

Directors: Sam Pollard, Llewellyn Smith
 Producers: Sam Pollard, Kelly Thomson, R.J. Cutler, Elise Pearlstein

New York Times columnist Charles Blow calls for a "reverse Great Migration" of African Americans from the North back to the South to reclaim the land and culture they left behind, while building political representation. (HBO Documentary Films)

CENTERPIECE SCREENING

UNCROPPED (World Premiere)

Director: D.W. Young

Producer: Judith Mizrachy

A portrait of longtime Village Voice photographer James Hamilton, whose work during the heyday of alternative print journalism brilliantly captured some of the most remarkable people and stories of the past half century.



South to Black Power, Closing Night.

Credit / Courtesy DOC NYC 2023

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

ANSELM (NYC Premiere)
 DAVID HOLMES: THE BOY WHO LIVED (World Premiere)
 DEFIANT (NYC Premiere)
 FLIPSIDE (US Premiere)
 JUNE (World Premiere)
 PATRIA Y VIDA: THE POWER OF MUSIC (New York Premiere)

U.S. COMPETITION

36 SECONDS: PORTRAIT OF A HATE CRIME (World Premiere)
 THE COWBOY AND THE QUEEN (World Premiere)
 HAPPY CAMPERS (World Premiere)
 HOW TO COME ALIVE... WITH NORMAN MAILER (World Premiere)
 MEDIHA (World Premiere)
 OBSESSED WITH LIGHT (North American Premiere)
 THE RIOT REPORT (World Premiere)
 SHAKEN (World Premiere)
 TAKING VENICE (North American Premiere)
 TOMORROW, TOMORROW, TOMORROW (World Premiere)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

AL DJANAT - THE ORIGINAL PARADISE (US Premiere)
 THE CARAVAN (US Premiere)

DALTON'S DREAM (North American Premiere)
 DANCING ON THE EDGE OF A VOLCANO (North American Premiere)

THE DMITRIEV AFFAIR (US Premiere)
 THE HOME GAME (US Premiere)
 LE SPECTRE DE BOKO HARAM (US Premiere)
 NEIRUD (International Premiere)
 SOMEONE LIVES HERE (International Premiere)
 TOTAL TRUST (US Premiere)

METROPOLIS COMPETITION NEW YORK STORIES

ASHIMA (World Premiere)
 CONFESSIONS OF A GOOD SAMARITAN (NYC Premiere)
 DIVERSITY PLAZA (World Premiere)
 HOLDING BACK THE TIDE (World Premiere)
 LUCHA: A WRESTLING TALE (World Premiere)

NATHAN-ISM (NYC Premiere)
 PSYCHEDELICIZED: THE ELECTRIC CIRCUS STORY (World Premiere)
 SCOOTER LAFORGE: A LIFE OF ART (World Premiere)

KALEIDOSCOPE COMPETITION NEW DOCUMENTARY VISIONS

GRASSHOPPER REPUBLIC (NYC Premiere)
 MEGAHEARTZ (North American Premiere)
 THE WALK (World Premiere)
 A WOLFPACK CALLED ERNESTO (US Premiere)
 ZINZINDURRUNKARRATZ (New York Premiere)

AMERICAN STORIES STATES OF BEING IN THE UNION

BETWEEN LIFE & DEATH (New York Premiere)
 CATERPILLAR (New York Premiere)
 A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE (New York Premiere)
 NAKED AMBITION: BUNNY YEAGER (World Premiere)
 ONE WITH THE WHALE (New York Premiere)
 TIME BOMB Y2K (NYC Premiere)
 UNBROKEN (NYC Premiere)
 UNSEEN (NYC Premiere)

FIGHT THE POWER STORIES OF ACTIVISM

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IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? (NYC Premiere)
NO ONE ASKED YOU (World Premiere)
RAINBOW WARRIOR (North American Premiere)
THE COST OF INHERITANCE (World Premiere)
THREE PROMISES (New York Premiere)
WE ARE FIRE! (DRAW FOR CHANGE) (International Premiere)
YOURS IN FREEDOM, BILL BAIRD (World Premiere)

**GAME FACE CINEMA
THE DRAMA OF SPORT**

CANDACE PARKER: UNAPOLOGETIC (World Premiere)
INTO THE SHAOLIN (New York Premiere)
JESSZILLA (NYC Premiere)
THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE (World Premiere)
RIDERS ON THE STORM (New York Premiere)
RIGHT TO FIGHT (International Premiere)
UNSYNCABLE (International Premiere)



Liv Ullmann: A Road Less Travelled.

Credit / Courtesy DOC NYC 2023

**INVESTIGATIONS
EXPOSING THE TRUTH**

BULL RUN (International Premiere)
EAT BITTER (NYC Premiere)
HOW TO HAVE AN AMERICAN BABY (New York Premiere)
POLISH PRAYERS (North American Premiere)
SEARCHING FOR NIKA (North American Premiere)
WHO I AM NOT (New York Premiere)

**PORTRAITS
PROFILES OF SINGULAR INDIVIDUALS**

BYE BYE TIBERIAS (New York Premiere)
THE LADY BIRD DIARIES (New York Premiere)
LIV ULLMANN - A ROAD LESS TRAVELLED (North American Premiere)
Director: Dheeraj Akolkar; Producers: Hege Christensen, Kaare Hersoug
MERCHANT IVORY (World Premiere)
SHARI & LAMB CHOP (World Premiere)
THE TRIALS OF ALAN DERSHOWITZ (World Premiere)

**SONIC CINEMA
MOVIES ABOUT MUSIC**

FANNY: THE OTHER MENDELSSOHN (New York Premiere)
FAMOUDOU KONATE - THE KING OF DJEMBE (US Premiere)
GARLAND JEFFREYS: THE KING OF IN BETWEEN (World Premiere)
PAUL MULDOON: LAOITHE'S LIRIC/A LIFE IN LYRICS (New York Premiere)
PLAY WITH THE DEVIL - BECOMING ZEAL & ARDOR (North American Premiere)
PRETTY UGLY - THE STORY OF THE LUNACHICKS (World Premiere)
THEY SHOT THE PIANO PLAYER (NYC Premiere)

VOICES OF CANADA

A showcase of the Canadian titles that are represented throughout the festival's sections. Co-presented by the Consulate General of Canada in New York.

FEATURE FILMS:

EAT BITTER
SOMEONE LIVES HERE
THE TRIALS OF ALAN DERSHOWITZ
UNSYNCABLE
WHO AM I NOT

SHORT FILMS:

A Bear Named Jesus
Boat People
Grape Soda in the Parking Lot
Radio Bingo
Two One Two
Zug Island

SHORTS PROGRAMS

There are 104 shorts participating in the juried Shorts Competition, in the following 20 programs:

SHORTS: ANIMAL FARM

These docs feature the dynamic relationships between humans and entertaining, sentient, magnificent animals.
Frank and His Dogs (Dir/Prod: Owen Markham)
Happy (Dir/Prod: Laura Rindlisbacher)
Not Wasting My Time (Dir /Prod: Derek Howard)
Visible Mending (Dir: Samantha Moore/Prod: Tilley Bancroft)
Willie's Wings (Dirs: Alberto Vignati, Reina Daniels/Prod: Andrea Italia)
You Can't Shrink Love (Dir/Prod: Veena Rao)

SHORTS: ARTSCAPES

A glimpse into the artistic process behind brilliant creators across disciplines.
Forbidden Pond (Dir/Prod: Eric Jenkins-Sahlin)
Love, Jamie (Dir: Karla Murthy/Prod: Andrew Fredericks)
The Promise of Spring (Dir: Anna Andersen/Prod: Katie Rose Vaughan)
Whitney Houston in Focus (Dir/Prod: Benjamin Alfonsi/Prod: Audra McDonald)

SHORTS: CARETAKERS

A selection of tenderhearted films taking care of memories, heirlooms, and family members.
Behind the Mask (Dir/Prod: Håvard Bustnes)
Caretaker (Dir/Prod: Verónica Rose Wood)
The Echo of Her Voice (Dir/Prod: Rodrigo Guzmán Espindola/Prods: Daniela Contreras, Nicolas Défossé)
The Medallion (Dir: Ruth Hunduma/Prods: Lily Usher, Tolu Stedford)
My Cure and Me (Dir/Prod: Alan Bradley)

SHORTS: CHANGING TIDES

This program captures the shifting currents when we have a change of heart and forge a new outlook on life.
The Cities I Live In (Dir: Rabie Mustapha/Prod: Michael Hewitt)
I See You (Dir: Adam Weingrod/Prod: Kobi Mizrahi)
Looking Forward (Dir/Prod: Steven Ascher/Prod: Jeanne Jordan)
Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped in Black) (Dirs: Matthew Thorne, Derik Lynch/Prods: Matthew Thorne, Patrick Graham)
When a Rocket Sits on the Launch Pad (Dir/Prod: Bohao Liu/Prod: Gene Gallerano)
Whiteness at Work (Dir: Peter Nelson/Prod: Evan Weselmann)

SHORTS: COLLATERAL DAMAGE

The outcomes of war go beyond the physical as these short documentaries capture the implications of modern warfare.
Between Me and the Sea (Dir/Prod: Mohsin Mohi-Ud Din/Prod: Rafe Scobey-Thal)
Boat People (Dirs: Thao Lam, Kjell Boersma/Prods: Justine Pimlott, Jelena Popovi?)
Dictionary of Emotions in a Time of War (Dir/Prod: Leah Loftin)
Enemy Alien (Dir: Gabriel Murphy/Prod: Andrew McMartin)
Stones (Dir: Arman Ayvazyan/Prod: Vardan Hovhannisyan)
The Syrian Cosmonaut (Dir: Charles Emir Richards/Prod: Enis Ozkul)

SHORTS: COMMUNITY

Whether by nature or necessity, we find solace and support in our communities.
74 Messages Sent & Received (Dir/Prod: Danya Abt)
Addresses (Dirs: María Luisa Santos, Carlo Nasisse/Prod: Natalia Quesada)
Empress Nicole the Great (Dir/Prod: Dara Bratt)
Everything's Fine, Potatoes in Line (Dir: Piotr Jasi?ski/Prod: Ond?ej Šejnoha)
If Dreams Were Lightning (Dir/Prod: Ramin Bahrani/Prods: Pamela Ryan, Jason Orans, Ramin Bahrani)
Radio Bingo (Dir/Prod: Shelby Adams)

SHORTS: FAMILY MATTERS

Shorts about families we are born into, and those we choose.
A Bear Named Jesus (Dir: Terril Calder/Prods: Christa Couture, Michelle St. John)
Buttons and Dumplings (Dirs: Calvin Sang, Mei Ling Lee/Prod: Mei Ling Lee)
Grape Soda in the Parking Lot (Dirs: Megan Kyak-Monteith, Taqralik Partridge/Prod: Christa Couture, Michelle St. John)
MnM (Dir: Twiggy Pucci Garçon/Prods: Colleen Cassingham, Jess Devaney)
Parker (Dirs: Sharon Liese, Catherine Hoffman/Prods: Sharon Liese, Funmi Ogunro, Samantha Hake)
Trenton: To the Moon & Back (Dir/Prod: Josh Leong/Prods: Sam Gollob, Will Nelson, Sofia Bara)

SHORTS: HIDDEN HISTORIES

The backstories of under-recognized people and stories.
Black Godfather of Scuba (Dir: Matt Kay/Prod: Andrew Carver)
Jack & Sam (Dir/Prod: Jordan Matthew Horowitz/Prod: Andrew Carlberg)
Taking Back the Groove (Dir/Prod: Celia Aniskovich/Prod: Roddy Lindsay)
Tracing History (Dir: Jalena Keane-Lee/Prod: Rea Puri)

SHORTS: INSIDE AND OUT

Honest vignettes of the prison industrial complex.
Breaking Silence (Dirs: Amy Bench, Annie Silverstein/Prods: Amy Bench, Monique Walton)

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The Bus (Dir: Sandra Reina/Prods: Valérie Delpierre, Jaume Fargas Coll)
 Ike Brown (Dir: Caleb Clowe/Prod: Matthew Veeder)
 Rocko (Dirs: Emma Bergman, James Jones/Prod: Emma Bergman)
 Tito (Dirs: Kervens Jimenez, Taylor McIntosh/Prods: Corbin J. Stone, Jean Roody St. Vilien, Taylor McIntosh)

SHORTS: LOVE LETTERS

Stories all about love.
 And Then I Was Here (Dir/Prod: Alex Stergiou)
 Blue Dots (Dir/Prod: Lorenzo Squarcia/Prods: Manuel Grieco, Simone Spampinato)
 Freedom Waders: The Struggle to Integrate Chicago's Rainbow Beach (Dir/Prod: Alex S. Hinton)
 Pigeons Mate for Life (Dir/Prod: Tabitha Yong)
 Ted & Noel (Dir: Julia Alcamo/Prods: Dan Hodgson, Mary Pattison)
 Tidal (Dir: Katrina Lillian Sorrentino/Prods: Bryn Silverman, John Condne, Alexandra Liveris)

SHORTS: THE MEANING OF WORK

This collection of shorts unpack capitalism through the process of labor:
 Chronicle of a Summer Day (Dir: Bronzeville Collective/Prods: Mike David Thomas, Kira Helm, Erica Duffy, Andrew Skalak, Kevin Cagnoletti)
 Dust to Light (Dir/Prod: Erika Houle)
 Fitting (Dir: Caitlin McMullan/Prod: Marissa Keating)
 Fleshwork (Dir/Prod: Lydia Cornett)
 The Last Carnival (Dirs/Prods: Tucker Morrison, Samuel Ott, Anthony Wilson/Prod: David Brown)
 Ramboy (Dirs: Matthias Joulaud, Lucien Roux/Prods: Lionel Baier, Nicolas Wadimoff)

SHORTS: MUSICAL MEDLEYS

A loaded program for lovers of instruments, musicians, and music!
 Do You See Me? (Dir: Camille Gottscheck/Prod: Ailed Cazares)
 Last Song From Kabul (Dir: Kevin Macdonald/Prod: Lawrence Elman)
 The Orchestra Chuck Built (Dir/Prod: Christopher Stoudt/Prods: Ryan Suffern, Maryann Garger, Bob Logan, Ains Prasad)

SHORTS: NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Our beloved city through the eyes of many.
 The Fish Doctor (a doc about the fish doc) (Dirs/Prods: Adam Levin, Riley Patterson)
 Friendly Fridges (Dir/Prod: Ilja Willems)
 Kingdome (Dir/Prod: Shawn Antoine II)
 Rite of Passage (Dir/Prod: Talha Jalal)
 Through Sunless Ways (Dirs/Prods: Kira Dane, Katelyn Rebelo/Prods: Andrea Yu Chieh Chung, Gretta Wilson)

SHORTS: OUR CLIMATE / OUR CRISIS

The inventive solutions and devastating realities of our climate crisis on film.
 Conceiving Our Future (Dir/Prod: Annie Pancak Vogt)
 Frozen Harvest (Dir: Mark Fleming/Prod: Lone Spruce Creative)
 I am the Nature (Dir: Taliesin Black-Brown/Prods: Ramiro Vargas Chumpí Washikiat, Helena Sardinha, Rafael Thomaseto)
 Mountain Man (Dir/Prod: Arun Bhattarai)
 School of Fish (Dirs/Prods: Oliver Sutro, Colin Arisman)
 The Shelmecca Serpent (Dir: Laura Bermúdez/Prod: Luis Flores Alvarenga)
 When the Grass Must Go (Dir: Ilja Willems/Prod: Bert Janssens)

SHORTS: THE PEOPLE VS.

Stories that command attention about those who fight

for a better future for all.

Banned Book Club (Dir: Sinead Keirans/Prod: Em Shapiro, Mary-Elizabeth Esquibel)
 How We Get Free (Dirs: Geeta Gandbhir, Samantha Knowles/Prods: Kathleen Lingo, Sweta Vohra, Jess Devaney)
 The Menstruation Station (Dir/Prod: Miguel Luis/Prod: Nicole Olwagen)
 Sanctuary (Dirs/Prods: John Haley, Julia Szromba)
 Suddenly TV (Dir/Prod: Roopa Gogineni)

SHORTS: PHYSICAL PURSUITS

Athletic feats and strong bonds build this program of films on sport from across the globe.
 Gloves Without Ring (Dir/Prod: Karen Sotolongo Menendez)
 Kemonito: The Final Fall (Dir/Prod: Teresa de Miguel)
 Outside Line (Dir/Prod: Jack Gordon)
 Queen of the Sea (Dir: Kate Cox/Prod: Danielle Wright, Emory Ruegg)
 The Ugandan Quidditch Movement (Dir: Ben Garfield/Prod: Kristina Budelis)

SHORTS: PROFILES

Portraits and profiles of unique individuals with filmmaking to match.



Between Earth & Sky (see above in google link).
 Credit / Courtesy DOC NYC 2023

Denial (Dir/Prod: Paul Moakley/Dir: Daniel Lombroso)
 Echo (Dirs: Ben Wolin, Michael Minahan/Prods: Michael Yuchen Lei, Melissa Fajardo)
 Funny Not Funny (Dirs/Prods: Marc D'Agostino, Ben Feldman)
 House of Tulip (Dir: Cydney Tucker/Prod: Zaferhan Yumru)
 Pitch Black (Dir/Prod: Guillym Davenport)

SHORTS: SHE STORIES

Women share their stories from in front of, and behind, the camera.
 A Home on Every Floor (Dir/Prod: Signe Rosenlund-Hauglid)
 Bear (Dir: Morgane Frund/Prod: Volko Kamensky)
 Daughter of the Sea (Dirs: Nicole Gormley, Nancy Kwon/Prods: Min Chul Shin, Sooyoung Kim, Nicole Gormley)
 The Only Girl in the Orchestra (Dir/Prod: Molly O'Brien/Prod: Lisa Remington)

SHORTS: VANTAGE POINT

Films taking a different perspective or way of viewing the world.
 Incident (Dir/Prod: Bill Morrison/Prod: Jamie Kalven)
 Landline (Dir/Prod: Samuel Wright Smith)
 Of Dreams in the Dream of Another Mirror (Dir: Yunyi Zhu/Prod: Eric Prigent)
 There's Not Much We Can Do (Dir: Erica Monde/Prod: Clara Harris)
 Two One Two (Dir/Prod: Shira Avni)
 Zug Island (Dir/Prod: Nicolas Lachapelle/Prod:

Guillaume Collin)

SHORTS: THE WISE ONES

A lovely program dedicated to our wise, wonderful elders.
 Bubjan (Dir/Prod: Nicholas Mihm/Prod: Lisa Rudin)
 N?i Nai & Wai Pó (Grandma & Grandma) (Dir/Prod: Sean Wang/Prods: Sam Davis, Malcolm Pullinger)
 The Queen Vs Texas (Dir/Prod: Emil Lozada/Dir: Raemonn James)
 The Silent Witness (Dirs/Prods: George Kunhardt, Teddy Kunhardt/Prods: Aleks Gezentsvey, Matthew Henderson)

DOC NYC U COMPETITION

DOC NYC U features 10 short documentaries from students across the five boroughs. Restyled as a competition for the first time this year, these two programs showcase finalists from Brooklyn College, Columbia University, Hunter College, The New School, New York Film Academy, New York University, Pratt Institute, and the School of Visual Arts.

DOC NYC U: PORTRAITS

Student documentaries that profile unique individuals and the lives they lead.
 Allies Welcome (Dirs/Prods: Tavleen Tarrant, Shakeeb Asrar, Columbia University)

I Told You So (Dir/Prod: Malak AlSayyad/Prods: Amann Stewart, Loren Townsley, Columbia University)
 Just Story Hour (Dir/Prod: Lu Yao, School of Visual Arts)
 Second Act (Dir/Prod: Britney Bautista, New York University)
 Slice of Goodness (Dir/Prod: Usman Chohan, Brooklyn College)

DOC NYC U: REBIRTH

Student documentaries that document the metamorphosis when things start anew.
 A Good Death (Dirs/Prods: Boya Sun, Jean Chapiro, Columbia University)
 It Smells Like Springtime (Dir/Prod: Mackie Mallison, Pratt Institute)
 Land (Dir/Prod: Satoko Saito, Hunter College)
 More Than Brothers (Dir/Prod: Andrea von Siebenthal, New York Film Academy)
 Through a Glass Eye (Dir/Prod: Lola Granger-Jourdan, The New School)

For updates and more information on the festival, visit docnyc.net.

TICKETS AND PASSES

Festival Tickets and Passes for individual films or packages for in-person and online access are available. Seniors, Children and IFC members get discounted rates. Learn more at docnyc.net/tickets-and-passes.

DOC NYC

Learn more at docnyc.net.
 Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, Education, Cuisine, Health & Wellness, and Business.



Shraddha Kapoor buys Lamborghini Huracan Tecnica

Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor is the proud owner of a swanky red Lamborghini Huracan Tecnica. Shraddha added the car to her collection on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra. Pictures of the actor posing with the vehicle has surfaced on several social media accounts.

Shraddha looked radiant as she posed with the car, whose showroom price in India, according to CarDekho is Rs 4.04 crore. Check out pictures of the actor with her car:

Shraddha Kapoor went to Mumbai's ISKON temple on Tuesday. While talking to the paparazzi on her way out of the house, a cameraman complimented her on the Lamborghini Huracan Tecnica being great. To this, Shraddha said, "Gaadi nahi rath hai ye mera. (It's not a car, it's my chariot)."

Fans cheered for Shraddha Kapoor in the comment section of the post. A follower wrote, "Shraddha onwards and upwards only for u," while another one wrote, "happy always." An ardent fan wrote, "Many many congratulations Shraddha Kapoor. u deserve many many more ur sincerity n hardwork always pays off."

Shraddha was recently seen on the big screen with Ranbir Kapoor in the film Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar. The actor will next be seen in Stree 2, a sequel to Amar Kaushik's 2018 horror comedy.

Are Gigi Hadid & Bradley Cooper Rrally dating?

The month of October has been abuzz with news surrounding Gigi Hadid and Bradley Cooper. Their frequent public appearances together have ignited rumors of a possible romance. The most recent sighting of the A Star is Born actor had him donning a shirt from one of Gigi's fashion lines, further fueling speculation.

Throughout the first week of October, the Maestro star and the catwalk queen were seen spending time together in New York City. Their first public outing was at the celebrity hotspot Via Caroto in the West Village, where they appeared to be on a dinner date. Days later, Brad was photographed driving while Gigi was in the passenger seat as they arrived in the city.

Nonetheless, it remains uncertain from where they had returned, given that Gigi Hadid and Bradley Cooper were observed carrying numerous overnight bags upon their arrival. The duo was recently seen strolling together in the rain on Friday. This makes netizens think, are they actually dating? Scroll down to know.

PEOPLE magazine disclosed that Gigi Hadid and Bradley Cooper are currently enjoying each other's company and having a good time, although their relationship is not at a serious stage as of now. The publication quoted a source as saying, "She's independent, busy, and her days are filled with responsibilities, so I don't see anything serious happening right away if at all." The insider further added that the model has "had sort of a crush on [Brad] for a while"

The source continued, "[They have] things in common, so it's possible to see [their romance] progress. It appears super casual now, but they



both have kids, big careers, and busy lives and understand what life is like in these circles. It's cute, and there is an attraction."

Moreover, as per a report by Mirror, it was suggested that Taylor Swift, a close friend of Gigi Hadid, generously provided her Rhode Island home for the two of them to enjoy as a retreat. "Even though Gigi and Bradley have their own properties in New York, they wanted somewhere more private to

spend time getting to know each other and Taylor was only too happy to help. She said the door to her home is always open for them to use," the insider said.

In addition to their rumored meetup in Rhode Island, Bradley was spotted in New York sporting a cashmere shirt from one of Gigi's fashion collections. The actor confidently donned a gray Plaid Work Shirt, which is part of his alleged girlfriend's Guest In Residence line.

Salman-Katrina shine in the song 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' from 'Tiger 3'

The first song from 'Tiger 3' is out. Titled 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam', the song has had the audience's attention ever since it was announced because it marks the first collaboration between Salman Khan and Arijit Singh. The peppy dance number also boasts of Salman and Katrina's sizzling chemistry! And, it gives major 'Mashallah' vibes.

The first song from 'Tiger 3', 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam', is now out. Just like 'Tiger Zinda Hai' had 'Swag Se Swagat', 'Tiger 3' also got its very own peppy dance number. And if it has been sung by Arijit Singh, can it even go wrong? The song marks Arijit Singh's first collaboration with Salman Khan, marking the end of

their 9-year-old feud.

The song, just like all the other songs featuring Salman and Katrina, boasts of their crackling chemistry. On top of that, it has been shot in a picturesque location, which just makes it a visual treat besides being an aural treat.

Salman Khan opened up about the song and said, "Katrina and I have some great songs together and I understand that the expectation from people every time we do a song together will be sky high! I'm very confident that 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' will make people happy."

He added, "It is a dance track that I personally love. It is probably one of the best dance

tracks of my career! Katrina and I have been fortunate to have chartbusters that have entertained people across the world. I hope 'Leke Prabhu Ka Naam' does this too and becomes a global hit!"

'Tiger 3' has been produced by Aditya Chopra. Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, it is the third part of the 'Tiger' franchise. The first two films, titled 'Ek Tha Tiger', and 'Tiger Zinda Hai', were blockbusters. It's the fifth film of YRF's spy universe after 'War' and 'Pathaan'.

Emraan Hashmi plays the primary antagonist in it. The film is slated for release on November 12.





Reese Witherspoon wants to make optimistic stuff

American actress and film producer Reese Witherspoon opened up about her obsession with comedy during a panel discussion at Hello Sunshine's inaugural Shine Away Event in Los Angeles.

"I came to this realisation and I'm sure you guys are going to find this shocking: I'm not meant to be doing dark, heavy, intense, horror, gore, darkness movies. People like to see me do light movies. And I was like, okay..." she said.

"I want to make optimistic stuff that excites girls to be women in this world because it is a wonderful thing to be a woman in this world," added Witherspoon.

Even while Witherspoon has been seen in darker, more serious roles (Election, Wild), she is best known for her comedy work with films like Legally Blonde and her most recent Netflix rom-com Your Place or Mine, alongside Ashton Kutcher.

Source: ANI

Veteran actor Richard Roundtree, star of Shaft, Dies At 81

American actor Richard Roundtree, heralded as "the first Black action hero" for his starring role in the iconic 1971 hit Shaft, died Tuesday at 81, US media reported. Hollywood publication Deadline said that the actor, known for opening doors for other Black artists in the industry, died with his family at his bedside, "after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer." Shaft, in which Roundtree played the eponymous private eye John Shaft, sparked a series of sequels and a TV spinoffs.

Five decades later, Roundtree was still acting, appearing in the television romance drama Cherish the Day and film comedy Moving On just last year.

"Richard's work and career served as a turning point for African American leading men in film," his manager Patrick McMinn said in a statement to Variety. "The impact he had on the industry cannot be overstated."

Roundtree's major debut, Shaft was hailed as a founding classic in the "Blaxploitation" genre the 1970s were known for - which boosters say tackled race relations while critics blast the style for trafficking in stereotypes.

Either way, the genre was critical to pushing Hollywood to finally cast Black Americans in starring roles.

"I used to look at it as a double-edged sword. But I've had so many people from all over the country - and all over the world actually - come up and say what that film meant to them back in '71,"



Roundtree told broadcaster NPR in 2019.

"It's heavy." "The other side of it is I got typecast for quite some time, and then I've gone out of my way to establish a different side of my acting," he said. He was largely successful in that endeavor, with "his trailblazing

career (changing) the face of entertainment around the globe," his agency told Deadline.

"His enduring legacy will be felt for generations to come. Our hearts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

Paris Hilton says 'unacceptable' to target her child

Social media mogul and reality TV star Paris Hilton welcomed her first child, with her husband, venture capitalist Carter Reum, in January this year. Recently, she posted a few pictures with her son, Phoenix, as he was on his first trip to New York. However, several internet users criticised the eight-month-old baby's appearance and the size of his head. Hilton took to her Instagram story and called it "unacceptable". She informed Phoenix is "perfectly healthy".

Hilton took to Instagram on October 20 and shared a carousel of photos with her child. In the pictures, she is seen sitting on a white couch and holding baby Phoenix, who is adorably looking at the camera. "My precious angel baby Phoenix's first time in NYC," she wrote in the caption.

However, some people posted nasty comments on the social media platform. "Does he have encephalitis? Like what is actually going on I'm not trying to be rude that doesn't seem normal," said a user.

"Y'all he's just got a lot on his mind leave the kid alone," said another person.

"Beautiful baby has brain inflammation. This can be an autoimmune reaction. Please take your baby to an integrative functional paediatrician," commented a user.

However, some users were equally disgusted by such comments and sided with Ms Hilton.

"She was so kind to share a precious photo of her son with us. I don't understand why people have to make fun of him or make comments about the way she is holding him," said a user.

Another person added, "Adults making fun of a Baby.. wow shame on you."

"What a beautiful boy!!! Also I am so ashamed that there are so many adults here bullying not alone Paris but her son who is a baby. Remember if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all," said another person.

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The hotel heiress called these users out and said that it hurts her "more deeply than words can describe." "Living life in the spotlight, comments are inevitable, but targeting my child, or anyone else's for that matter, is unacceptable. This hurts my heart more deeply than words can describe. I've worked hard to cultivate an environment that is all about love, respect and acceptance and expect the same in return," she wrote.

Hilton continued, "If I don't post my baby, people assume I'm not a great mother and if I do post him, there are some people who are cruel and hateful I'm a proud working mom and my baby is perfectly healthy, adorable and angelic. I've dreamt of being a mom for as long as I can remember."



IRAN SAYS MILITANTS HAVE 'FINGER ON TRIGGER' IN ANTICIPATION OF ISRAELI GROUND OFFENSIVE IN GAZA



UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Iran's foreign minister warned on October 27 that Lebanese and Palestinian militants had their "finger on the trigger" in anticipation of an Israeli ground offensive in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

Iran's clerical state backs Hamas, whose bloody assault inside Israel on October 7 triggered major retaliation, and has a close relationship with Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia that frequently fires into Israel.

"What I gathered from what I heard from them and the plans that they have -- they have their finger on the trigger," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said of Lebanese and Palestinian militants he has met.

Speaking to US National Public Radio from the United Nations, where he was attending a General Assembly session on the crisis, Amir-Abdollahian said the militants' actions would be "much more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed."

"Therefore I believe that if this situation continues and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible," he said.

Amir-Abdollahian insisted, however, that militants would decide on their own rather than at the behest of Iran. "We don't really want this conflict to spread out," he said.

His remarks came after US President Joe Biden ordered air strikes on two sites in Syria said to be used by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

The Pentagon cast the strikes as measured retaliation after strikes by Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria that left one US citizen contractor dead from a cardiac incident and 21 US military personnel with minor injuries.

On October 7, Hamas militants stormed across the Gaza Strip's border, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking more than 220 hostages in the worst bloodshed in Israel's history.

Israel has struck back with a relentless bombing campaign which Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says has killed 7,326 people, mostly civilians, among them 3,038 children. (AP)

Israel says Gaza ground operation is expanding as UN warns of 'growing misery'

GAZA (TIP): Israel pounded northern Gaza and said it was "extending" its ground operation late on October 27 amid UN warnings of an "avalanche of human suffering" in the battered Palestinian territory.

"Following the series of strikes of the last days, the ground forces are extending the ground operation tonight," military spokesman Daniel Hagari told reporters.

His announcement followed two straight nights of tank incursions into Gaza.

Earlier, the military said it had increased its strikes "in a very significant way", as AFP live footage captured intense bombardment of northern Gaza.

The armed wing of the Islamist group Hamas said it responded with "salvos" of rockets aimed at Israel.

Hamas said all internet connections and communications across the territory had been cut, and accused Israel of taking the measure "to perpetrate massacres with bloody retaliatory strikes from the air, land and sea."

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas gunmen stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping over 220 others, according to Israeli officials.

The Hamas-run health ministry said Friday Israeli strikes on Gaza had now killed 7,326 people, mainly civilians and many of them children.

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned that Gaza faces "an unprecedented avalanche of human suffering" because of the lack of food, water and power



Palestinians carry Hamas flags during a protest against Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip in the West Bank city of Nablus on Friday, October 27, 2023. (Photo | AP)

during Israeli bombing in response to the October 7 attack.

The UN human rights office also raised the alarm over "war crimes" being committed as the Israel-Hamas conflict raged into its 21st day.

Concern is growing about regional fallout from the conflict, with the United States warning Iran against escalation while striking facilities in Syria it says were used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and others.

The war, now in its 21st day, is the deadliest of five Gaza wars for both sides. The Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry

said Thursday that more than 7,000 Palestinians have been killed so far — more than three times the number killed in the six-week-long Gaza war in 2014.

The Israeli army said it will extend "ground operations" in the Gaza Strip on Friday night after significantly intensifying its air strikes on the Palestinian territory.

"Following the series of strikes of the last days, the ground forces are extending the ground operation tonight," military spokesman Daniel Hagari told reporters. The announcement followed two straight nights of tank incursions into Gaza. (AP)

Israel-Hamas war: 'Many more to die' from Gaza siege, UN warns on day 21 of war

JERUSALEM (TIP): The UN warned on October 27 that "many more will die" in Gaza from catastrophic shortages after nearly three weeks of bombardment by Israel in response to Hamas staging the deadliest attack in its history.

As the conflict raged into its 21st day, the Israeli army said its soldiers backed by fighter jets and drones mounted a land incursion into the Gaza Strip, as it prepared for a ground offensive.

Concern is growing about regional fallout from the conflict, with the United States warning Iran against escalation while striking facilities in Syria it says were used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and others.

Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas gunmen stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping more than 220 others, according to Israeli officials.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says the strikes have killed more than 7,000 people, mainly civilians and many of them children, leading to

growing calls for protection of innocents caught up in the conflict.

"People in Gaza are dying, they are not only dying from bombs and strikes, soon many more will die from the consequences of (the) siege imposed on the Gaza Strip," Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), told reporters in Jerusalem.

Israel has cut supplies of food, water and power to Gaza, notably blocking all deliveries of fuel saying it would be exploited by Hamas to manufacture weapons and explosives.

"Basic services are crumbling, medicine is running out, food and water are running out, the streets of Gaza have started overflowing with sewage," he said of the devastated territory where around 45 percent of all housing has been damaged or destroyed, according to the UN which cited local authorities.

A first tranche of critically needed aid was allowed in at the weekend but since then only 74 trucks have crossed in via the Rafah border with Egypt, which aid

agencies say is just a tiny fraction of what was needed.

Before the conflict, an average of 500 trucks entered Gaza every working day, UN figures show.

Gaza needed a "meaningful and uninterrupted aid flow" and a "humanitarian ceasefire to ensure this aid reaches those in need", Lazzarini said, echoing a similar call by European Union leaders.

European Union leaders had on Thursday evening demanded "continued, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and aid to reach those in need through all necessary measures including humanitarian corridors and pauses for humanitarian needs".

Between the bombardments and the fuel shortages, 12 of Gaza's 35 hospitals have been forced to close, and UNRWA said it has had to "significantly reduce its operations". "What needs more support? Bakeries, water stations, life support machines in a hospital -- all this needs fuel to function," the head of the agency said on Friday. (AFP)

Mass arrests target LGBTQ+ people in Nigeria while abuses against them are ignored, activists say

ABUJA, NIGERIA (TIP): Law enforcement authorities in Nigeria are using the country's same-sex prohibition law to target the LGBTQ+ community while ignoring abuses against them, rights groups and lawyers say, in the wake of fresh mass arrests of gay people.

Nigeria is one of more than 30 of Africa's 54 countries where homosexuality is criminalized in laws that are broadly supported by the public, even though the constitution guarantees freedom from discrimination and the right to private and family life.

Mass arrests and detention of queer Nigerians that continued this week were done without proper investigations and could further expose them to danger amid the anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments in Africa's most populous country, rights groups said.

The country's paramilitary agency on Monday announced the arrest of more than 70 young people – 59 men and 17 women – in the northern Gombe state, accusing them of “holding homosexual birthdays” and having “the intention to hold a same-sex marriage.”

Following a similar detention of more than 60 people at what the police called a gay wedding in the southern Delta state in August, the arrests show “an uptick in this trend of witchhunt and gross violation of human rights” of the individuals, Isa Sanusi, director of Amnesty International Nigeria, told The Associated Press.

The arrests also suggest states are emulating one another “to get accolades” under the law, according to Anietie



Ewang, Nigerian researcher with the Human Rights Watch's Africa Division. She said concerns highlighted by the organization in a 2016 report — about the abuse and stigma that gay people face in Nigeria — have remained.

Nigeria's Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act of 2013, which has been condemned internationally but is supported by many in the country of more than 210 million people, punishes gay marriage with up to 14 years in prison and has forced many Nigerian gays to flee the country, according to human rights activists. Arrests under the law have been common since it came into effect but the largest mass detentions yet have been in recent weeks in which some of the suspects were falsely accused and subjected to inhumane conditions, according to lawyers and rights groups.

After dozens were arrested at what the police called a gay wedding in a Delta state

hotel, the suspects were paraded in front of cameras in a live social media broadcast despite a ruling by a Nigerian high court last year that pretrial media parades violate the nation's constitution.

One of those paraded said he was at the hotel for another engagement. Another suspect said he does not identify as a gay individual and was arrested while on his way to a fashion show.

In Gombe, where the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) said its personnel arrested people who “intended” to organize a gay wedding, the prime suspect identified as Bashir Sani denied the allegation.

“There was no wedding, only birthday,” he said in a broadcast aired by local media.

Among those arrested were the photographer and the disc jockey at the event, Ochuko Ohimor, the suspects' lawyer, told The Associated Press. (AP)

A SHOOTING BETWEEN MIGRANTS NEAR THE SERBIA-HUNGARY BORDER LEAVES 3 DEAD AND 1 WOUNDED

BELGRADE, SERBIA (TIP): A shooting between migrants near Serbia's border with Hungary early on October 27 left three people dead and one other person seriously wounded, Serbia's state RTS television reported on Friday.

The shooting happened at abandoned farming warehouses near the village of Horgos, the report said. A large number of police officers were sent to the scene, RTS said. Police have yet to issue an official statement.

Reports of violence and gunbattles have become common near the border between Serbia and European Union member nation Hungary. Thousands of migrants have been camping in the area, looking for ways to cross with the help of people smugglers.

The Serbia-Hungary border area lies on the so-called Balkan land route of migration toward Western Europe, which leads from Turkey to Greece and Bulgaria, and then on to North Macedonia, Serbia, or Bosnia.

Hungary's staunchly anti-immigrant government has put up razor wire fence on the border with Serbia to stop the influx. People smuggling gangs, however, have multiplied in the border area, often clashing for control.

Serbian police have raided the border area on several occasions over the past several months. They later reported rounding up hundreds of migrants, arresting people smugglers and finding various weapons in the forested area. (AP)

Former Premier Li Keqiang, China's top economic official for a decade, has died at 68



BEIJING (TIP): Former Premier Li Keqiang, China's top economic official for a decade, died on October 27 of a heart attack. He was 68.

Li was China's No. 2 leader from 2013-23 and an advocate for private business but was left with little authority after President Xi Jinping made himself the most powerful Chinese leader in decades and tightened control over the economy and society.

CCTV said Li had been resting in Shanghai recently and had a heart attack on Thursday. He died at 12:10 a.m. Friday.

Li, an English-speaking economist, was considered a contender to succeed then-Communist Party leader Hu Jintao in 2013 but was passed over in favor of Xi. Reversing the Hu era's consensus-oriented leadership, Xi centralized powers in his own hands, leaving Li and others on

the party's ruling seven-member Standing Committee with little influence.

As the top economic official, Li promised to improve conditions for entrepreneurs who generate jobs and wealth. But the ruling party under Xi increased the dominance of state industry and tightened control over tech and other industries. Foreign companies said they felt unwelcome after Xi and other leaders called for economic self-reliance, expanded an anti-spying law and raided offices of consulting firms.

Li was dropped from the Standing Committee at a party congress in October 2022 despite being two years below the informal retirement age of 70.

The same day, Xi awarded himself a third five-year term as party leader, discarding a tradition under which his predecessors stepped down after 10 years.

Xi filled the top party ranks with loyalists, ending the era of consensus leadership and possibly making himself leader for life. The No. 2 slot was filled by Li Qiang, the party secretary for Shanghai, who lacked Li Keqiang's national-level experience and later told reporters that his job was to do whatever Xi decided.

Li Keqiang, a former vice premier, took office in 2013 as the ruling party faced growing warnings the construction and export booms that propelled the previous decade's double-digit growth were running out of steam.

Government advisers argued Beijing had to promote growth based on domestic consumption and service industries. That would require opening more state-dominated industries and forcing state banks to lend more to entrepreneurs. (AP)

Pakistan should apologise for 1971 liberation war, says Bangladesh minister

NEW DELHI / DHAKA (TIP): : Pakistan should apologise to Bangladesh for its actions during the 1971 liberation war, said AKM Mozammel Haque, the country's minister for Liberation War Affairs, during his visit to New Delhi on October 26.

The Bangladeshi minister went further to state that Pakistan's apology was the only way their relationship would improve with Bangladesh, adding that they can never forget the role India played to help them find their own country where they got back the respect that had been lost.

"Pakistan should apologise to us for 1971. They were barbaric with Bangladeshis and we are grateful that Indians came to our rescue. That is how we got liberated. To commemorate the Indian soldiers who fought for us we are making a monument in Bangladesh which will have their names engraved so that people remember their sacrifice. It would be completed by December," said Haque.

"Pakistan supports terrorists that is why they could do well in their economy.



Bangladesh's Liberation War Affairs minister AKM Mozammel Haque visits the Army Hospital (Research and Referral) in Delhi on October 26. (Photo | X@SpokespersonMoD)

In the name of Islam what they have done and are doing they cannot be supported. No Islam-loving nation will like Pakistan. It is not a democracy and this is why they haven't progressed," Haque added.

The Awami League leader also condemned Canada for giving shelter to the killers of the country's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "It

is not acceptable that countries like Canada are giving asylum to killers who should be handed over to Bangladesh," he said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh today honoured the families of 10 Indian war veterans and also gave away scholarships to the kin of the veterans in Delhi. Bangladesh will be giving out a total of 200 scholarships of \$1000 each to

young students who are mostly grandchildren of Indian war veterans.

"We don't want to forget the contribution of Indian war veterans and these scholarships would ensure that not just the families of the Indian veterans remember their sacrifice but also Bangladeshis," Haq said.

Meanwhile, Haq visited the Army Hospital in Delhi and interacted with Bangladeshi freedom fighters (muktijodhas) who are undergoing treatment there. Three Bangladesh freedom fighters are undergoing treatment in Army Hospital Research and Referral. The Muktiyodhas have been extended the facility as a special gesture by the Indian government.

A marching contingent of the Bangladesh army took part in the Republic Day parade of 2021, the third time foreign soldiers marched down Rajpath (now Kartavya Path) as part of India's biggest ceremonial event. The contingent was invited to take part in the parade at a time when the two countries were celebrating the golden jubilee of the birth of Bangladesh. (ENS)

Blast kills at least four people and injures others in a Shiite neighbourhood of the Afghan capital



KABUL (TIP): A police spokesman on October 27 raised the death toll from an explosion in a mostly Shiite Muslim neighbourhood of the Afghan capital, Kabul, to four, with seven people critically injured.

The cause of the Thursday evening blast at a boxing club is still not known. Kabul police chief spokesman Khalid Zadran said the injured are in a critical condition and that the investigation into the blast is ongoing. He initially said two people died and nine were injured.

Video taken after the explosion shows part of a building with its windows blown out, flames billowing inside. Shattered glass and other debris are strewn across the street below.

The scale of the damage was clearer Friday morning. There are craters in the ground and most of the club's interior has been gutted. Workers picked their

way through boxing gloves and gym equipment on the blood-splattered floor.

Eyewitness Sultan Ali Amini said that at least six people died and more than 15 were injured. "As you see, the walls are destroyed and all the glass and metal are broken," he said.

The reason for the lower death toll provided by the Taliban was not immediately clear. In the past, they have at times been slow to confirm casualty figures in the aftermath of attacks.

The Dashti Barchi area of Kabul has been targeted in the past by the Islamic State group affiliate in the country, which has carried out major, horrific assaults on schools, hospitals and mosques. The group has also attacked other Shiite areas of Afghanistan in recent years.

IS has been waging a campaign of violence since the Taliban took power in August 2021. (AP)

Ethnic rebels launch attacks across northern Myanmar



YANGON (TIP): An alliance of Myanmar ethnic rebel groups launched coordinated attacks on the military across the north of the country on October 27 morning, rebels and media said. The military's 2021 putsch sparked renewed fighting with powerful, China-backed ethnic rebel groups in northern Shan state, home to a planned billion-dollar rail link, part of Beijing's Belt and Road global infrastructure project.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Arakan Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) launched a "military operation", they said in a statement.

The operation aims to block the military's ability to send reinforcements to Shan state and target its ability to launch air strikes on the region, it said, without giving details.

The three groups -- which analysts say can call on at least 15,000 fighters between them -- have clashed regularly with the military since the coup that toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's government.

A separate statement from the MNDAA said its fighters had closed the

roads from the trade hub of Lashio to Chinshwehaw and Muse on the China border ahead of a "major offensive".

A rescue worker in Lashio who requested anonymity for safety reasons told AFP that rebels had begun shelling the military base in the town from 4:00 am local time (2130 GMT Thursday) and that the military had responded with artillery fire.

Local media footage showed what it said was a destroyed toll gate on a road in Lashio.

Pro-military Telegram channels said the rebels were attacking 12 towns or settlements across a swathe of Shan state around 100 kilometres (62 miles) across. Those included Lashio, as well as Muse, Chinshwehaw and Laukkai, the latter of which lies near the border with China.

A junta spokesman did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment. The three ethnic rebel groups had "launched joint force attacks against the Myanmar Army", Brigadier-General Tar Bhone Kyaw of the TNLA told AFP. (AFP)

Bishan Bedi, the spin maestro



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH



Legendary cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi died at the age of 77 on Monday, October 23



Isn't it in Dad's character to bowl us over with the ultimate spin ball, one that even we never saw coming?" Son Angad with Dad Bishan Bedi. | Photo Credit: Rajeev Bhatt

Can there be a better tribute to a departed soul than what his immediate near and dear ones - the family - have to say:

"Isn't it in Dad's character to bowl us over with the ultimate spin ball, one that even we never saw coming?"

While we are in shock and overcome with grief, we find solace in knowing that he lived a rich, fearless, and full life that inspired many. We are moved by each and every message of love we have received, publicly and personally,

Thank you to everyone for celebrating his grit, humor and a giant heart. It is heartwarming to see how many generations Dad inspired through his life. Every day of his life was spent in devotion to his family and faith and in service of his Waheguru. He epitomized living a life that was Nirbhau Nirvair and we are comforted in knowing that he is with his beloved now.

Dad, we are blessed to have you as our fearless leader. We will strive to live by your motto- to observe and absorb. Keep guiding us from the great beyond.

In love and faith

Anju Bedi, Angad, Mehar, Guriq, Neha, Gautam, Suhavi."

One is left with no words to say anything more to a

man who was recognized in his lifetime as the "king of spin". Bishan may have left us after 77 eventful years of his worldly life but the memories we have of him are forever.

A man who created his own identity with accurate spin bowling combined with variation and flight that dreaded even the mightiest of the batters of his time. He was a fighter, a great challenger and above all a wonderful human being and a true sportsman.

His innings of 67 Test matches got him 266 wickets, the maximum by any Indian bowler till his time. He also had the distinction of capturing more than 1250 wickets in county cricket while playing for Northamptonshire. This is the maximum by any Indian player in English-county cricket.

He led India in 22 Test matches and won six of them. The first-ever win for India in One Day Internationals also came under his captaincy when India beat East Africa. And Bishan was the main tormentor of East African batting.

He was a fighter. Though not a great batter, he played some superb innings, including as a night watchman, and once hit a Kiwi spinner - Peter Petherick - for a flurry of sixes for a well-made half-century. At times he

loved swinging his bat around for some useful runs to the teams' total.

He was a superb human being. While in Pakistan he could not wait to donate blood to a young boy fighting for life in a Karachi hospital. Bishan went unnoticed and saved the life of the child with his great humanitarian gesture.

After retiring from active cricket, Bishan wanted to give back to the game that had made him a superstar. He not only coached India but also his home State of Punjab. It was he who trained the young Punjab team to the victory podium in the prestigious Ranji Trophy in 1992-93, a performance that is yet to be repeated. He was also instrumental in making Delhi Ranji champions for four years in a row.

Bishan was bold, honest and a true sportsman to the core of his heart. As an active member of the Arjuna Awardees Association, he took up several projects for the well-being of sportspersons for their post-retirement life. He was a fitness freak and all his trainees, including national and state players, knew that Bishan was a hard taskmaster and would never compromise on fitness. Because of his principles and trust in doing things in a professional and ethical manner, he would never hesitate to call a spade a spade. It is why he was known as a rebel and preferred to part ways with people and organizations rather than compromise on his principles. That made Bishan stand apart from the rest of his class.

Those who valued his principles and professionalism would vow by him. One such admirer had been his former Test colleague and Pakistan allrounder Intikhab Alam. "Inti", as he is known in cricket circles, also remained associated with the Punjab Ranji Trophy.

It may be a mere coincidence that months before, Bishan said goodbye to all of us, he had a meeting with Intikhab Alam at historic Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib. Though in a wheelchair, Bishan was all excited for his reunion with his long-time friend Inti.

He was a great friend. I used to interact with him regularly. Lately, we have been in touch over the phone. I still remember when I persuaded him to resume his column in The Tribune. He had stopped writing after his bold and fearless writing ruffled many feathers, especially high-ups, both in the Cricket Control Board and the government. He never relented as he was the lone fighter for the players and the game.

(Prabhjot Paul Singh is a senior journalist. His articles can be read at www.probingeye.com and https://www.facebook.com/PrabhjotSingh.Journalist/?ref=pages_you_manage)



Bishan Singh Bedi visited Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan last year and met former Pakistani cricketer and captain Intekhab Alam and Shafiq Rana. It was a reunion and an opportunity for them to go down memory lane. Photo / Courtesy Angad Bedi

How to wash your hair after coloring

Stepping out of the salon with your hair freshly dyed in a gorgeous shade of brown or blue is one of the best feelings ever! It completely transforms your look and puts you in a good mood. But watching it fade in just about a few weeks can be upsetting. I mean, getting your hair coloured in a salon is an expensive affair and watching all that money go down the drain is no fun.

You need to pay extra attention to your color treated hair if you want the dye to last longer. How you wash it and what products you use are the most important factors. In this article, we will guide you through the right way to wash your hair after coloring.

Wait for 72 hours before washing

While dyeing, the hair's cuticle layer is opened, allowing easy penetration of colour into the shaft. Washing your hair too soon may lead to your colour getting washed down the drain as the cuticle layer may still be open. It takes approximately three days for the cuticle layer to go back to its original form. Therefore, it is advised to wait for 72 hours before shampooing your tresses after colouring.

Use a sulphate free shampoo and conditioner

Sodium Laureth Sulfate or SLS is a common ingredient found in shampoos. It is a cleansing agent and makes your product lather. However, this ingredient can strip off natural oils from your hair along with your hair colour, which you spent hours and money on at the salon. Using a sulphate free shampoo and conditioner can prevent your colour from fading. The Tresemme Pro Protect Sulphate Free Shampoo and Conditioner range is perfect for all hair types. Infused with Moroccan argan oil, it imparts a healthy shine to your gorgeous mane.

Avoid hot showers

Hot water opens your hair cuticle and makes it easy for the hair colour to get washed off easily while shampooing and conditioning. Decrease the water temperature and rinse off with cold water to help seal in the moisture from your conditioner and prevent



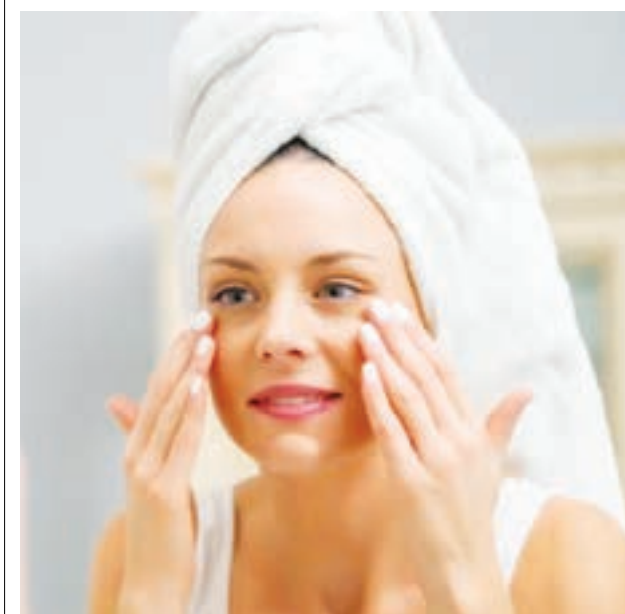
color from fading.

Wash hair less often

If you want your hair colour to last longer, avoid washing your hair every day. Every time you wash your hair, a little bit of natural oil and dye goes down the drain, so stick to 2-3 washes per week. If your hair gets greasy or dirty in between washes, use a dry shampoo. It will refresh and revive your coloured hair and make it look voluminous.

Stay away from chlorine

Lazing in the pool on a sunny day while sipping pina colodas may sound great, but chlorine is your hair's worst enemy, especially when it's color-treated. Light shades may develop a greenish tint, while darker shades may lose their shine and appear dull. Avoid chlorinated water as much as possible, or wear a swimmer's cap before diving into the pool.



Beauty tips for busy women

Here are some beauty tips that can slash minutes off your routine, but still leave you feeling satisfactorily.

CLEAN SKIN

With a cleaner and healthier skin, you will find little need for too much makeup. So, start your day with a thorough face wash; keep your skin-cleansing products within reach on your sink, so you don't forget.

USE A MULTI-PURPOSE MOISTURIZER

With a lotion that carries a SPF of 30 and contains antioxidants, you can achieve a threefold function of a moisturizer, sunscreen and anti-aging cream. The antioxidants in the lotion have an anti-aging and skin tightening benefits.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR TANGLES

Wrestling with knots and tangles in your hair when you're hard pressed for time can be frustrating, not to mention, destructive to your hair strands.

To save time, run a large-toothed comb through your tresses when you're conditioning them.

DON'T BLOW-DRY AFTER A SHOWER

Don't blow-dry your hair immediately after stepping out of a shower. Instead, wrap your hair up in a towel, and get started on your make-up.

Once your hair is about 80% dry, you can use the blow-dryer to set and style your hair.

NO TIME TO BLOW-DRY?

Simply run anti-frizz serum or cream through your tresses, and braid them. Get on with the rest of your routine. When your hair is completely dry, you'll be left with naturally wavy, yet manageable tresses, that you can leave down or wrap into a ponytail.

SWAP YOUR ROUTINE UP

Do your eyes before your face, that is, before you apply your foundation. That way, you won't lose precious time cleaning or rubbing off any eye-makeup mishaps from your face after you've made it up.

AVOID APPLYING MAKEUP EVERY DAY

Having to spend more than 8 hours in makeup can be harmful to your skin. If you go to the office with full makeup, it is not the healthiest practice. It is not healthy to keep chemical-rich products on the skin for 9-10 hours as makeup particles can get accumulated in your skin pores, which can lead to skin problems. If possible, go to the office without wearing any makeup and give light coverage to your skin. It is necessary to give your skin some time to breathe freely. If you decide to go sans makeup, don't forget to properly cleanse your face and moisturize it. Also, don't forget to apply sunscreen.

FOOD CORNER

Methi Malai Matar Paneer

Ingredients

150 gm paneer, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/4 cup coconut cream, 1/2 tablespoon ghee, 1 teaspoon, driedfenugreek leaves, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1 clove minced garlic, salt as required, 1 cup fenugreek leaves, 1/2 inch ginger, 1/2 teaspoon kasoori methi powder, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, 6 tablespoon peas, 1/2 tablespoon tomato puree, sugar as required, 2 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1/2 teaspoon coriander powder, 1/2 cup minced onion, 1/2 bay leaf, 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder, 60 ml water.

Method

To prepare this mouth-watering matar paneer recipe, put a kadhai on medium flame and heat vegetable oil in it. To the heated oil, add 1/2 teaspoon of sugar and let it caramalise. Once done, add cumin seeds and saute until they crackle. Then, add bay leaves in the hot oil and cook for a few seconds and add minced garlic to it. Stir for a while until the raw smell of garlic goes away and then add minced onions and ginger in the pan. Saute over medium flame for a few minutes until the onion are pink in colour. Afterwards, add tomato puree and yoghurt in the pan along with salt as per your taste. Stir the ingredients well and cook for about a minute. Now,



add peas in the pan and mix well with the puree. Cook for a minute and add a little water in the pan. Stir to mix once again and prepare the puree for the methi malai matar paneer. On the other hand, while the gravy is getting cooked, take a small bowl and mix together cumin powder, coriander powder and red chilli powder. Add a little water to make a smooth paste. Now, transfer this paste to the gravy along with fenugreek leaves and mix once again all the ingredients. Cook for about 4-5 minutes and add the coconut cream in the kadhai. Stir to mix well and add paneer, ghee, garam masala, and kasoori methi in the kadhai. Stir once again to mix well. When the gravy is cooked and the consistency looks good, remove the kadhai from flame

Consuming ultra-processed foods can spike depression risk, says a study

Living or dealing with depression can be challenging. It not only affects your mind but hinders normal functioning in every aspect of your life. Depression is to do with psychological and emotional issues, but your diet can play a major role in driving and curbing it. A new study indicates that consuming high amounts of ultra-processed foods (UPFs)—particularly those with artificial sweeteners—may increase the risk of developing depression.

The study, co-authored by researchers at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, was published in JAMA Network Open. It assessed the link between ultra processed foods such as packaged snacks and frozen meals, and depression, based on diet and mental health data from 31,712 middle-aged women.

As per the study inferences, participants who were in the top fifth of consumers of ultra processed foods, consuming nine or more servings per day—had a 50 percent higher risk of developing depression than those in the bottom fifth of consumers, eating four or fewer servings per day. The researchers also identified a link between artificial sweeteners and depression: Participants in the top fifth of consumers had a 26 percent higher risk of developing depression than those in the bottom fifth. The study highlighted that when people curbed their consumption of ultra processed foods by three servings a day, they reported lesser chances of feeling depressed.

Health Shots got in touch with Dr. Gautami Nagabhirava, Senior Neuropsychiatrist at Bengaluru-based Kamineni Hospitals, to understand the link between consumption of ultra processed foods and depression.

What are ultra processed foods?

Ultra processed foods have a lot of additives and include fats, starches, added sugars and hydrogenated fats. These foods are high in calories, palatable and are ready-to-eat. The study also told that people who consume more unprocessed foods have a tendency towards having greater Body Mass Index, higher smoking rates, and have a high risk of catching diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, and also are physically less active.

The relationship between diet and depression is complex and not fully understood. But there are several reasons why ultra-processed foods and artificial sweeteners may contribute to or exacerbate symptoms of depression.



Lack of essential nutrients

“Firstly, these foods tend to be nutritionally deficient, lacking essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants necessary for optimal brain function and mood regulation,” says Dr Nagabhirava.

High sugar and fat content

Secondly, the high sugar and unhealthy fat content of UPFs often leads to chronic inflammation. This has been linked to depressive symptoms by negatively impacting neurotransmitter function and overall brain health.

Gut bacteria equilibria

“Furthermore, the gut-brain connection, and both ultra-processed foods and artificial sweeteners may disrupt the delicate balance of gut bacteria, potentially causing inflammation and mood disturbances. These foods can also cause rapid fluctuations in blood sugar levels, leading to mood swings and feelings of irritability and depression,” shares Dr Nagabhirava.

While some artificial sweeteners such as aspartame might affect neurotransmitter levels in the

brain, the research in this area remains inconclusive.

Overconsumption and binge eating

Additionally, the convenience and palatability of ultra-processed foods can contribute to overconsumption, leading to feelings of guilt or dissatisfaction with one’s diet, which can, in turn, impact mood.

Improper diet and sedentary lifestyle

A diet high in ultra-processed foods and artificial sweeteners is often associated with other unhealthy lifestyle factors, such as a sedentary lifestyle and reduced intake of fruits and vegetables, which can independently contribute to depression.

Genetics and other factors

It is important to recognise that these dietary factors are just one piece of the complex puzzle of mental health, and individual responses can vary. It is important to emphasize that while there is evidence linking diet to mental health, including depression, other factors like genetics, life circumstances, and individual responses to food play a significant role. *Source: Health Shots*



Scientists decode what drives obesity

Nutritional experts have for years debated on the primary culprit for increasing obesity. While diets that are high in fat and carbohydrates contribute to the condition, it turns out, fructose may be one true driver of obesity, according to a study.

According to Richard Johnson, from University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the primary problem in obesity is fructose -- which is present in table sugar and high fructose corn syrup.

Fructose can also be made in the body from carbohydrates (particularly glucose).

When fructose is metabolised, it lowers the active energy in the body (known as ATP, or adenosine triphosphate) which causes hunger and food intake.

What Johnson calls the “fructose survival hypothesis” brings together most of the dietary hypotheses of obesity, including the two that have been most incompatible with each other -- the energy balance theory, which proposes too much food (and primarily fat) drives obesity, and the carbohydrate-insulin model, which puts carbohydrates at the centre of weight gain.

“Fructose is what triggers our metabolism to go into low power mode and lose our control of appetite, but fatty foods become the major source of calories that drive weight gain,” Johnson said.

Obesity is a known risk factor for various diseases including heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia. Data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) shows that worldwide, more than 1 billion people are obese -- 650 million adults, 340 million adolescents, and 39 million children.

The World Obesity Federation predicts that by 2030, one in five women and one in seven men will have obesity.

The new study published in the research journal Obesity suggests various obesity causing theories are not incompatible with each other, and that they can all be brought together in one unified pathway that centres around one true driver: fructose.

Fruits are high-fructose foods, and fructose significantly stifles active energy. Fat acts as stored energy, but eating high-fructose foods blocks the replacement of active energy from fat storage, keeping active energy low like a bear preparing for a long winter's nap. *Source: IANS*

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Instagram sued over harm to young people's mental health

Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, has been accused of misleading the public about the risks of using social media and contributing to a mental health crisis among youth.

The claims were made in a federal lawsuit, which was announced by dozens of US states.

They say the company used addictive features to "ensnare" users, while concealing the "substantial dangers" of its platforms.

Meta said it was "disappointed".

The lawsuit said Meta had broken consumer protection laws by engaging in "deceptive" conduct.

It also said that the company collected data on children under the age of 13, flouting its obligations under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

"Social media companies, including Meta, have contributed to a national youth mental health crisis and they must be held accountable," said New York Attorney General Letitia James, one of 33 attorneys general who signed the lawsuit. Another nine states also made similar claims in lawsuits of their own.

A spokesperson for Meta said the company shared the commitment of the attorneys general to "providing teens with safe, positive experiences online" and had "already introduced over 30 tools to support teens and their families". "We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path," the spokesperson added.

Motorola wants you to wear its new bendable phone around your wrist, but you can't

Motorola has shown off a new bendable phone and it wants you to wear it around your wrist, but you can't because it is a concept device. In a show-stopping moment at Lenovo's annual Global Tech World event, Motorola revealed a game-changing concept phone featuring a flexible pOLED display. This visionary device has the remarkable ability to wrap around your wrist or transform into a tripod, paving the way for a truly hands-free mobile experience.

While intricate specifications are still under wraps, some key features have emerged. The flexible phone sports a 6.9-inch diagonal screen with FHD+ resolution, albeit with noticeable bezels. It has a unique fabric material at the back panel, which seemingly offers a good grip on the hand.

While the exact details about how the device works are unknown, it is being said that the smartphone can quickly be worn on the user's wrist, presumably through magnetic links to a metal cuff. What sets it apart is its adaptive user interface, which adjusts itself based on the screen's alignment. For instance, when you keep the phone on a table in a stand mode with the unit's bottom part bent, the apps displayed on the lower part will automatically shift to the upper portion of the screen. The navigational gesture options will also move up.

The prototype of this flexible device also showed generative AI features optimized for the flexible form factor. A built-in feature,



The Lenovo-owned brand has created a concept phone display that can literally wrap around your wrist. The device, which Motorola unveiled on Tuesday and which it refers to as an adaptive display, is designed to showcase future phone possibilities allowed by a flexible screen. The company says the screen can be "bent and shaped into different forms" depending on what you want.

MotoAI, empowers users to personalize their phone's wallpaper and theme simply by capturing an image of their outfit. In return, they receive AI-generated images ready to match their screen as wallpaper. As of now, there is no information on how Motorola will incorporate a battery in this flexible phone. The company might decide to incorporate two small cells under the hood.

It is also unknown whether a flexible body will offer users the same level of experience that one gets with a flagship phone these days because the new tech will likely be very expensive. The foldable phones that Samsung is

selling are already pretty expensive and the latest one costs around Rs 1,54,999. OnePlus also took the wraps off its first foldable phone in India, which is priced at Rs 1,39,999.

Although Motorola has remained tight-lipped about a commercial release or pricing details for this revolutionary device, one thing is clear—it underscores the company's commitment to pushing the envelope in mobile technology. The concept phone's interesting design and potential for hands-free operation have ignited substantial enthusiasm across the tech community. Motorola is soon expected to reveal more about its concept phone.

Burnt-up rockets, satellites are polluting Earth's atmosphere, with unknown consequences



Scientists at the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) investigated the stratosphere, a layer of the atmosphere, and found that it is peppered with particles containing many different metals from satellites and used rocket boosters vapourised by the heat of re-entry.

They made the discovery using analysis of data collected by a high-altitude research plane that flew over the Arctic region for an NOAA mission called Stratospheric Aerosol Processes, Budget and Radiative Effects or SABRE in short.

"Two of the most surprising elements we saw in these particles were niobium and hafnium. These are both rare elements that are not expected in the stratosphere. It was a mystery as to where these metals are coming from and how they're ending up there," said Daniel Murphy, lead author of a study on the pollution published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, in a press statement.

These elements, niobium and hafnium, do not exist as free elements in nature. They are used in superalloys and semiconductors and have to be refined

from mineral ores.

Apart from these two rather rare and unusual elements, a large number of particles found in the stratosphere contained copper, lithium and aluminium at concentrations that are far higher than can be found in "natural space dust." "The combination of aluminium and copper, plus niobium and hafnium, which are used in heat-resistant, high-performance alloys, pointed us to the aerospace industry," explained Murphy. The scientists estimate that up to 10 per cent of the stratospheric sulphuric acid particles contain traces of metals from rockets and satellites. But they believe that it could grow to more than 50 per cent as space traffic grows. Also, space agencies and private companies around the world are ramping up efforts to reduce space debris by burning it up in the atmosphere.

While all of that could increase the amount of metal pollution in the stratosphere, it is still not clear what the effects of that pollution will be. "There will be a lot of work to understand the implications of these novel metals in the stratosphere," concluded Murphy.

Source: Indian Express



Accounting regulator probing member firm of Adani's auditor EY

India's accounting regulator is investigating an EY member firm that audits five companies that are part of billionaire Gautam Adani's eponymous conglomerate, a source familiar with the matter said.

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) started an inquiry into S.R. Batliboi a few weeks ago, the source said, declining to be named as the person is not authorised to talk to the media on the matter.

S.R. Batliboi currently audits three listed Adani group firms -- Adani Power, Adani Green Energy and Adani Wilmar -- as well as recently acquired cement companies ACC and Ambuja Cements.

"The inquiry is a part of the investigation going on regarding Adani companies and all auditors who have audited Adani companies will go through the same process," the source said, without sharing further details.

EY India, S.R. Batliboi and the NFRA did not respond to Reuters' requests for comments. Bloomberg News first reported the news.

The Bloomberg News report said the regulator had requested files and communications related to Batliboi's audits on some Adani-controlled companies going as far back as 2014, citing people familiar with the matter.

Chevron buys Hess Corp for \$53 billion

Chevron is buying Hess Corp. for \$53 billion and it's not even the biggest acquisition in the energy sector this month as major producers seize the initiative while oil prices surge.

Crude prices rose sharply in early 2022 with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and are hovering around \$90 per barrel after ticking another 9% higher this year, meaning big drillers are flush with cash and looking for places to invest piles of cash.

The Chevron-Hess deal comes less than two weeks after Exxon Mobil said it would acquire Pioneer Natural Resources for about \$60 billion.

Tata to be first Indian iPhone maker after \$125 million Wistron buy

BENGALURU

It's official. Tata Group will commence production of Apple iPhones in India for both domestic and global markets, Union Minister of State for Electronics & Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, has announced on social networking platform X.

This makes Tata India's first homegrown iPhone maker, after Wistron Corporation agreed to sell a plant in the southern part of the country to the conglomerate.

In a meeting held earlier today, the Taiwanese electronics manufacturer, Wistron, announced that its board has approved the sale of Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Private Ltd. to Tata for \$125 million.

Apple's iPhones are mainly assembled by Taiwanese manufacturing giants like Pegatron Corp. and Foxconn Technology Group.

While announcing the scheme, Chandrasekhar posted on X (formerly Twitter), "Now within just two and a half years, Tata Companies will now start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India. Congratulations to the Tata team for taking over Wistron operations."

"Thank you Wistron for your contributions, and great going for Apple in building a global supply chain from India with Indian companies at its helm, the union minister also said.

"Ministry of Electronics & IT stands fully in support in growth of Global Indian Electronics companies that will in turn support global Electronic brands that want to make India their trusted manufacturing & talent partner and to



realize PMs goal of making India a global electronics power," he added.

After the mutual signing of the relevant agreements by all parties, the transaction will then proceed to secure the required approvals. Upon the finalization of the transaction, Wistron will fulfill the necessary announcements and filings in compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements.

According to a Bloomberg report published in July this year, citing sources familiar with the matter, Tata Group was approaching an agreement to acquire a factory from a supplier of Apple Inc. The introduction of an Indian-manufactured iPhone is expected to boost Apple's endeavors to expand its product range beyond China and strengthen its technology manufacturing presence in the South Asian country, the report said.

At the beginning of this year, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said Apple Inc wants India to account for up to 25% of its production from about 5%-7% now.

Cupertino, California-based Apple, in

alignment with the Indian government's focus on promoting domestic manufacturing, initiated iPhone assembly in India in 2017 through partnerships with Wistron and later Foxconn.

India's PLI Scheme surpasses expectations: Rs 6,887 cr investments attracted by June 2023

The production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing has attracted investments of Rs 6887 crore till June 2023. The number has breached the ministry's target which had aimed for an investment of Rs 5,488 crore till the end of FY24.

Launched in 2021, the output-linked programme covers 14 sectors such as telecommunication, white goods, textiles, and manufacturing of medical devices with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore.

It offers financial incentives to companies that manufacture products in India in the 14 said sectors. The incentives are based on parameters such as incremental sales, export generation, and job creation.

The Tata Group is involved in a wide array of businesses, from selling salt to providing tech services. In recent years, the conglomerate has embarked on a journey to enter the realms of electronics manufacturing and e-commerce.

The group currently produces iPhone chassis, which forms the metal framework of the device, at its factory in the state of Tamil Nadu. Additionally, Chairman N Chandrasekaran has previously expressed the group's aspirations to venture into chipmaking.

Indian economy to be 3rd largest by 2030: S&P Global Market Intelligence

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India, the world's fifth largest economy, may overtake Japan by 2030 to become the world's third-largest economy, says S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Currently, Japan is the third biggest economy with a GDP of \$4.2 trillion, followed by Germany with GDP of \$4 trillion. The US' GDP is \$25.5 trillion and that of China is about \$18 trillion. After two years of rapid economic growth in 2021 and 2022, the Indian economy has continued to show sustained strong growth during the 2023 calendar year. If this trend endures, India will have a GDP of \$7.3 trillion by 2030. There will, however, be a huge gap with the first two economies. China by 2030 is projected to have a GDP of \$43 trillion to become the biggest economy and the US' economic size will be about \$28 trillion.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow 6.2-6.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2024, making it the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year. India grew by 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter.

"The near-term economic outlook is for continued rapid expansion during the remainder of 2023 and for 2024,



underpinned by strong growth in domestic demand," said S&P Global. "India's nominal GDP measured in USD terms is forecast to rise from \$3.5 trillion in 2022 to \$7.3 trillion by 2030.

This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of the Indian GDP exceeding Japanese GDP by 2030, making India the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region," it said.

Source: TNS

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone +91-9638770377 ; www.bejandaruwalla.com

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCT 30, 2023 TO NOV 5, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, you won't be allowed to assign responsibilities to others, and if you tried to handle things on your own, your work might be less productive. It's a terrific week to launch a venture in the leisure and tourism sector. You will have a really tough time in your romantic life. This week, your partner will doubt your loyalty, so you'll need to defend oneself. You'll be capable of maintaining discipline in your marital relationships. Your wellness will suffer this week as a result of uneven resting patterns that will disturb your calmness.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, this week, external pressure to produce quick results will impede your thoughts, yet you should keep your composure with coworkers. You'll start to see results from your prior commitments this week. This week, hospitality companies will generate a significant amount of revenue. Your love life will demand forbearance this week. Individuals who are wedded will enjoy one other's company, while those in new connections may quarrel over somebody else's advice. Take care of oneself this week since you will exaggerate your health issues, which are actually sensitivities.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, if you operate in marketing or promotion, your imaginative approaches will be praised. You may put your funds in suitable projects in the works. You will squander all you have if you are hungry for rapid money. You can decide to invest some precious time with your partner while planning a treat for them. Jupiter will help you overcome any psychological barriers that exist between you and your partner. You'll feel smarter once you understand how your companion believes about you. This week, you'll receive a lot of health advice, and you must abide by it. It won't be simple for you to deal with your worry this week, but mindfulness may be able to assist.

CANCER



Ganesha says, you will gain the help of somebody this week that will open doors for you ahead. Considerable wise judgments will need to be made this week but being overly definite will make your conversation difficult. This week, Venus will be in an adverse attitude, so be certain to take the required measures. You will meet somebody at cultural occasions and business activities this week with whom you will communicate deeply, but maturity will be a problem for you. You'll need to be more grounded this week. You won't need to worry about your wellness this week since everything will be Alright. Ensure that you adhere to the exercise programmed you've created.

LEO



Ganesha says, there are rewards and a walk on the schedule for this week. You will select the best options when generating judgments at business. Your business component will grow this week, which might conflict with your schedule because you won't have enough of it. You will become connected to your romantic interest by engaging in a straightforward endeavor together. While accusations are not yet on the topic, you two will develop communication, which will help you communicate your emotions more clearly. Eat only home-cooked dishes and stay away from unhealthy foods and frozen cuisine. Ensure that you take good care of your gastrointestinal issues this week.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, you will pay close attention to every little aspect of your work this week. You'll be prepared to implement a tenacious approach that will let you close the holes in your objectives. Be cautious not to generate too many forecasts this week if you purchase shares. You'll commit the mistake of picturing your partnership too much on your own this week, which will result in uncomfortable arguments among you and your partner. Traveling should be prevented at all expenses this week since it is an elevated week for accidents. This week, be sure you're not terrified of cliffs.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is a great time to make significant investments in component shares. Consider creating a corporation this week and obtain the counsel of a skilled economic professional rather. A mortgage for a home or a company will be authorized this week. Keep clear of the financial markets this week. It is always too late to prevent a decent guy from leaving. You will be possible to reestablish contact with your beloved throughout this week. If one chooses to maintain silence about small concerns, this week's marital appearances will also hold strong. Take a brisk walk this week and practice breathing. Keeping close to the outdoors can assist you to unwind this week.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, you will be joining the workforce this week, and networking with a few influential people will present you with fresh opportunities. These days, if you operate alone, you may earn a comfortable income. The share marketplace is not a terrific place to trade this week. You will encounter somebody this week, but you will mistakenly evaluate them too quickly. This week, ensure you're in control of your thoughts. The ideal time to preserve your vitality is during this week. This week, practice meditation and good sleep. This week don't worry over slight matters.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says you may need to postpone a few of your projects this week due to a technical gap in your personnel. It's a great week to bring in new employees. Avoid engaging in immoral conduct if you operate for a partnership firm because you could find yourself embroiled in a conflict this week. Your charming demeanor will act as a gateway to a more substantial collaboration this week. You will surely meet new people this week and make new friends, but it would be premature to have high expectations. If you have an optimistic outlook, you'll be able to continue. You'll feel anxious in the afternoons this week, so look after oneself.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, this week, your bosses will motivate you. You'll also do a review of the fatalities in your present line of work. This week, you'll be capable of maintaining a significant degree of esteem at the workplace. You will also benefit from the fortunate arrangement of factors in your 6th sector. Your partner will be able to tell that you are worried about them. Your relationship will be guided in the right direction this week. You'll be able to maintain a strong marital stance this week. A daily walk will help you a lot this week. You'll experience a change in your mental well-being this week.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, you'll be fairly forthright about your goals since you were raised with desire; others will trust you owing to the conviction in your words, which will be a benefit on its own. Businesspersons must avoid the financial markets this week. This is the perfect time of the week to confess to somebody your secret admiration for their sincere feelings. You'll need to be a little harsh with your partner in order to get them to realize their mistake. You should travel very carefully this week. Ask your kids to prevent consuming excessive amounts of liquid and to prevent going into unsafe situations.

PISCES



Ganesha says, your present expenditure will be impacted by high inflation for the goods and resources you need to operate your business. Avoid starting any intimate connections this week. Additionally, you will act very frequently if you have a vocation. You can squander a jewel of a personality if you don't take care of your connection. They've started to think that this connection is ending, therefore you need to act right away. You'll be compelled to establish fresh, beneficial behaviors this week. The aim for this week is to stop bad habits.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 5 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

OCTOBER 30

Ganesha says as dawn breaks on the 30th, the universe seems to hold its breath, waiting for you to tune into its frequency. The celestial bodies, in their infinite wisdom, suggest a profound day of introspection. This isn't just about surface-level reflection; it's about diving into the very core of your being. Perhaps there's a memory you've suppressed or an ambition you've shelved, thinking it's too grandiose. Today is the day to confront these hidden aspects of yourself. The stars hint at revelations that could reshape your understanding of your journey and purpose.

OCTOBER 31

Ganesha says the last day of the month comes charged with an electrifying energy that's palpable in every gust of wind and every rustling leaf. The universe seems to be playing a game of chance, and you're at the centre of it. While the day might seem like any other, there's a whirlwind of opportunities swirling around you. A

conversation with a stranger, a book left on a park bench, or even a song on the radio could be the key that unlocks a new dimension of possibilities. The cosmos encourages you to be receptive, to be curious, and most importantly, to be fearless in the face of the unknown.

NOVEMBER 1

Ganesha says as a new month unfolds, the stars realign, emphasising the importance of grounding. In the relentless hustle of life, it's easy to lose oneself. But today, the universe gently reminds you of the power of stillness. It's in these moments of quiet contemplation that you'll find clarity. Whether it's meditating by a serene lake, revisiting old journals, or simply sitting in silence, today is about reconnecting with your essence. The celestial energies hint at profound insights that can only be accessed when you're truly present.

NOVEMBER 2

Ganesha says the second day brings with it a symphony of collaboration. The universe isn't just suggesting

teamwork; it's emphasising the magic that arises when diverse minds converge. Today, seek out those who challenge you, who offer a fresh perspective, who see the world through a different lens. It's in these intersections of thought that innovation is born. The stars hint at a project or endeavour that, when approached collectively, has the potential to be groundbreaking.

NOVEMBER 3

Ganesha says transformation is the theme of the day. The cosmos, in its infinite expanse, witnesses countless cycles of birth, death, and rebirth. Today, you're at the cusp of such a transformative phase. While change can be unsettling, it's also the universe's way of propelling you forward, of telling you that you're ready to shed old skins and embrace a new avatar. This isn't just about external changes; it's about internal evolution. Embrace this metamorphosis with grace and courage.

NOVEMBER 4

Ganesha says on the fourth day, the celestial tapestry weaves a narrative of introspection. This isn't the passive contemplation of days gone by; it's an active engagement with your deepest self. The universe prompts you to ask the tough questions, to challenge your beliefs, to confront your fears. Today, let your soul be your guide. Dive deep, explore the uncharted territories of your psyche, and emerge with a renewed sense of purpose.

NOVEMBER 5

Ganesha says as this period draws to a close, the stars shimmer with a special brilliance. They speak of realisations, of moments of crystal-clear clarity, of epiphanies that have the power to redefine your path. Today, the universe seems to be in perfect harmony, singing a song of hope, resilience, and destiny. Trust in this cosmic dance, lean into the rhythm of life, and know that every twist and turn is leading you to your true north.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥



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Karwa Chauth

Karwa Chauth is considered to be a very special day in the life of a married woman. It is a one day festival in which married women observe fast from sunrise to moonrise with much fervor and gaiety. The day falls on the fourth day of Kartik month in Hindu calendar, about nine days before Diwali in the month of either October or November. On this day, the married women specially pray to Goddess Gauri (Parvati) seeking the well-being, prosperity and safety of their husband.

The preparations of Karwa Chauth begin well in advance. Women buy special ornaments and dresses for this special occasion. On this day, married women get up early in the morning before sunrise and pray for the longevity and prosperity of their husbands. They then take a special meal called as Sargi, which consists of grains, sweets and fruits, generally given by women's mother-in-law.

Their fast begins at sunrise. On this special occasion, women dress up in beautiful traditional attires like sari, lehenga, salwar-kameez etc. They also adorn themselves with bangles, bindis on forehead and decorate their hands with hennas. The fast continues throughout the day until moonrise.

Origin

Karva is another word for 'pot' (a small earthen pot of water) and chauth means 'fourth' in Hindi (a reference to the fact that the festival falls on the fourth day of the dark-fortnight, or krishna paksh, of the month of Kartik).

The festival originated and came to be celebrated only in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent. The hypothesis is that military campaigns were often conducted by Hindus who were defending India against Mughal invaders, they would often leave their wives and children to go off to war. Their wives would often pray and celebrate a day of socialising, with other women, by preparing special meals, and dressing up in their finest regalia, and having what would today be deemed as a romantic evening with their husband before he went off to war.

Women whose husbands had already gone off to war, join the fast to pray for the safety of their husbands at this time as they ventured away from home to defend India. The festival coincides with the wheat-sowing time (i.e., the beginning of the Rabi crop cycle). Big earthen pots in which wheat is stored are sometimes called Karvas, so the fast may have begun as a prayer for a good harvest in this predominantly wheat-eating region.

There is another story about the origin of this festival. Earlier, girls sometimes barely teenagers used to get married, go and live with their in-laws in very remote villages. Everyone would be a stranger there for the new bride. In case she had any problems with her husband or in-laws, she would have no one to talk to or seek support from. Her own parents and relatives would be quite far and unreachable. Telephones, buses and trains were not heard of in those days. People had to walk almost a whole day to go from one place to other. Once the girl left her parent's home for in-laws, she might not be back before long. Thus the custom started that, at the time of marriage, when bride would reach her in-laws, she would befriend another woman there who would be her friend (kangan-saheli) or sister (dharam-behn) for life. It would be similar to god-friends or god-sisters.

Their friendship would be sanctified through a small Hindu ceremony right during the marriage. The bride's friend would usually be of the same age (or slightly older), married into the same village (so that she would not go away) and not directly related to her in-laws (so there was no conflict of interest later).

Emotionally and psychologically, it would be very healthy and comforting for the bride to have her own 'relative' near her. Once the bride and this woman had become god-friends or god-sisters, they would recognize their relation as such. They would treat each other like real sisters. During any issues later in life, involving even the husband or in-laws, these women would be able to confidently talk or seek help from each other. Moreover, the bride's parents would treat her friend just like their own daughter. Thus Karva Chauth started as a festival to celebrate this special bond of friendship between the brides and their god-friends. A few days before Karva Chauth, married women would buy new karvas (spherical clay pots) - 7"-9" in diameter and 2-3 litres capacity and paint them on the outside with beautiful designs. Inside they would put bangles and ribbons, home-made candy and sweets, make-up items, and small



Important information

Karwa Chauth 2023

Wednesday, 01 November 2023.

Karwa Chauth Puja Muhurat : 05:36 PM to 06:54 PM

Karwa Chauth Vrat Time : 06:33 AM to 08:15 PM

Moonrise on Karwa Chauth Day : 08:18 PM

Chaturthi Tithi Begins - 31 October 2023 at 09:30 AM

Chaturthi Tithi Ends - 01 November 2023 at 09:19 PM

Begins: Fourth day of the waning moon fortnight (Krishna paksha) in the month of Kartik

clothes. The women would then visit each other on the day of Karva Chauth and exchange these karvas.

Rituals

Women begin preparing for Karva Chauth a few days in advance, by buying cosmetics (shringar), traditional adornments or jewelry, and puja items, such as the Karva lamps, matthi, henna and the decorated puja thali (plate). Local bazaars take on a festive look as shopkeepers put their Karva Chauth related products on display. On the day of the fast, women from Punjab awake to eat and drink just before sunrise. In Uttar Pradesh, celebrants eat soot feni with milk in sugar on the eve of the festival. It is said that this helps them go without water the next day. In Punjab, sargi is an important part of this pre-dawn meal and always includes fenja. It is traditional for the sargi to be sent or given to the woman by her mother-in-law. If the mother-in-law lives with the woman, the pre-dawn meal is prepared by the mother-in-law.

The fast begins with dawn. Fasting women do not eat during the day. In traditional observances of the fast, the fasting woman does no housework. Women apply henna and other cosmetics to themselves and each other. The day passes in meeting friends and relatives. In some regions, it is customary to give and exchange painted clay pots filled with put bangles, ribbons, home-made candy, cosmetics and small cloth items (e.g., handkerchiefs). Since Karva Chauth follows soon after the Kharif crop harvest in the rural areas, it is a good time for community festivities and gift exchanges. Parents often send gifts to their married daughters and their children.

In the evening, a community women-only ceremony is held. Participants dress in fine clothing and wear jewellery and henna, and (in some regions) dress in the complete finery of their wedding dresses. The dresses (saris or shalwars) are frequently red, gold or orange,

which are considered auspicious colors. In Uttar Pradesh, women wear saris or lehengas. The fasters sit in a circle with their puja thalis. Depending on region and community, a version of the story of Karva Chauth is narrated, with regular pauses. The storyteller is usually an older woman or a priest, if one is present. In the pauses, the Karva Chauth puja song is sung collectively the singers perform the feris (passing their thalis around in the circle).

The fera ceremony concluded, the women await the rising of the moon. Once the moon is visible, depending on the region and community, it is customary for a fasting woman, with her husband nearby, to view its reflection in a vessel filled with water, through a sieve, or through the cloth of a dupatta.

Water is offered (arka) to the moon (som or chandra, the lunar deity) to secure its blessings. She then turns to her husband and views his face indirectly in the same manner. In some regions, the woman says a brief prayer asking for her husband's life. It is believed that at this stage, spiritually strengthened by her fast, the woman can successfully confront and defeat death (personified by Yama). In Rajasthan the women say "Like the gold necklace and the pearl bracelet, just like the moon may my suhaag always shine brightly."

The husband now takes the water from the thali and gives his wife her first sip and feeds her with the first morsel of the day (usually something sweet).

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 27, 2023, TO NOVEMBER 2, 2023

27th October

1676 A GurSikh flung two bricks at Aurangzeb. This was one of first acts of militancy at people's level after Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom. The attempts by common man to punish the imperious ruler of Delhi blazed a new trail of commitment to an open struggle against organised oppression of the state.

1761 Sikhs gathered in Amritsar for Diwali celebration and decided to attack Lahore. Khawaja Abed Khan was the then Governor of Lahore.

1969 Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman died after fasting for 74 days. The objective of his fast was to seek Chandigarh for Punjab. Even after his death and numerous other sacrifices Punjab has not been given her capital city, Chandigarh which was explicitly constructed for her. During all these years a deliberate discrimination campaign against the Sikhs has been the cause of several agitations which resulted in destruction of the holiest of the holy shrine Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and the desecration of the holy Harmandir Sahib, besides the massacre of thousands of Sikhs in Punjab and elsewhere throughout India. This fast was undertaken to tell the world that a Sikh never falters after he has once taken a vow to accomplish a deed. Sant Fateh Singh and Master Tara Singh before him, had broken their vows.

1972 Sant Fateh Singh Ji passed away.



1995 Human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra was killed around 8 pm at the Chhabal police station of Amritsar district, India and his body was thrown into the Harike canal. This was disclosed by Kuldip Singh, special police officer and prime witness in the sensational Khalra disappearance case. The entire operation at the Chhabal police station where Khalra had been kept after being kidnapped by the police under orders from SSP Ajit Singh Sandhu, was supervised by Deputy Superintendent of Police Jaspal Singh. Ajit Singh Sandhu had later committed suicide. Jaswant Singh Khalra had been collecting information on extra-judicial killings by the police. He was kidnapped and kept under illegal police custody despite order to the contrary by the Supreme Court of India. Kuldip Singh narrated the scene before Khalra was killed. "He was made to stand, thrashed and pushed onto the ground. His legs were stretched apart, more than 180 degrees. Seven policemen kicked him in the abdomen and chest. Save me. Please give me some water, he cried. As I was about to fetch some water, I heard two shots. I ran back into the room and found him bleeding profusely. He had stopped breathing."

28th October

1688 Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji visited Jagadhri near Delhi.

1708 Emperor Bahadur Shah confers a "khillat", robe of honour, on Guru Gobind Singh's family. Surprisingly, he had bestowed the same honor upon Jamshed Khan, Guru Gobind Singh's assassin, only two days earlier. By treating the assailant and the victim at par, Bahadur Shah lend credence to the theory that he, apart from the Subedar of Sirhind, was involved in the

surreptitious attack on Guru Sahib.

1978 The 18th All India Akali Dal Conference was held in Ludhiana. At this conference, the Anandpur Sahib resolution was adopted by the Akali Dal.

1979 Gurdwara at Merrut was sealed.

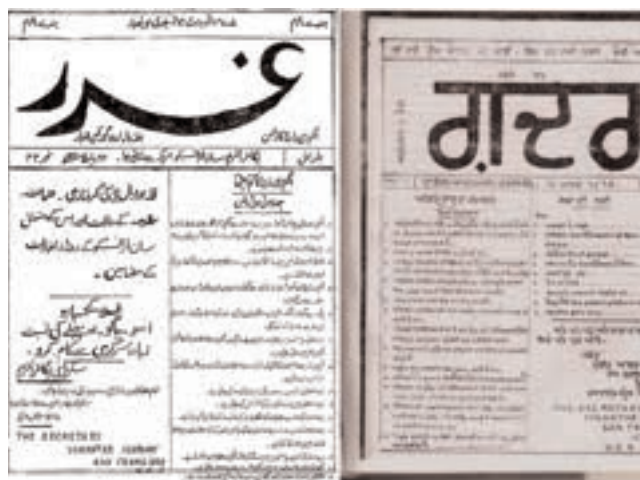
29th October

1921 SGPC asked the Sarbrah of the Golden Temple to hand over the keys to its President. Instead, the Deputy commissioner of Amritsar seized them to forestall the SGPC's decision. This led to the popular agitation known as the "Key's affair".

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

1977 Prof. Sahib Singh, an eminent scholar of GurSikhism passed away.

1st November



1916 Punjabi Americans and the Ghadar Party established a Punjabi newspaper "Ghadar." It advocated armed revolutionary struggle for India's freedom. GHADAR PARTY, a revolutionary group, founded in United States of America (USA) for the independence of India. Its members were Indian residents, primarily Sikhs, settled in USA. Their prime objective was to actively cause rebellion among members of the British forces, thereby forcing the fall of the British empire and hasten their departure from India.

1921 Gurdwara Hothian was forcibly captured and brought under SGPC's control. As the movement of non-cooperation gained momentum among Sikhs, the Akali leaders began their tour of the provinces urging the Sikhs to join the Akali Dal and rise as one man to liberate their Gurdwaras. On this day a large number of Akalis suddenly appeared at Gurudwara Hothian and captured it.

1921 Karam Singh of Daulatpur leads a jatha of 50 Akalis at the call of SGPC to capture the Gurudwara of Hothian.

1925 The Punjab Gurudwara Act established on July 8, 1925 was enacted. Speaking on the occasion, Tara Singh said that during the Gurudwara reform movement, Akalis suffered 30,000 men and women behind bars, 400 dead and 20,000 injured, besides dismissals from services, withdrawal of jagirs and pensions, confiscation of properties and imposition of

finances, etc. These numbers were never refuted. Giani Nahar Singh, a contemporary, put the figures at 40,000 behind bars and 500 dead. With the enactment of Gurudwara Act, came to fruition, the Sikh efforts to assert its identity. However, this came only after a bitter struggle and a great deal of sacrifices.

1966 Punjab Suba came into existence.

2nd November



1708 Gur Gadhi, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB: No institutionalized religion is safe from erosion till its tenets and doctrines have been enshrined in some tangible, though, permanent form. Great religions of the world, therefore, have taken care to prepare or compile one volume which is sovereign and supreme in its authority. Assuredly, it will employ the medium of poetry to reach out to infinity. Such a volume then, is the Guru Granth, the sacred book of the Sikhs – a volume that takes its place alongside the world's greatest scriptures, the Vedas, the Zind-Avesta, the Bible and the Koran. Its power is the power of the puissant and winged word, and no exegesis or commentary or translation can ever convey the full beauty of its thought and poetry. In all mystic literature the appeal of the numinous and the ineffable is inexplicable, if not incommunicable. And yet the great Sikh scripture is not a knot of metaphysical riddles and abstract theorizings. On the contrary, since for the most part it employs the idiom of the common people, and draws its imagery, metaphors and symbols from the home, the street and the market-place, its poetry has a rare kind of immediacy, concreteness and urgency. To see a Sikh congregation intoning the sacred hymns in unison is to see massed spiritual energy take shape before your eyes. That's how the ordinary word changes into the logos and becomes oracular. The Sikhs indeed regard the Granth as a complete, inviolable and final embodiment of the message of the Guru. There is to be no word beyond the Word. And that's how Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Guru, spoke to the congregation shortly before his ascension.

1780 Shaerae-Punjab, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born.





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contd from page 1

Israeli forces conduct 2nd ground raid...

The Palestinian death toll has soared past 7,000 as Israel has carried out waves of devastating air strikes in response to a bloody Hamas incursion into southern Israel on October 7. The Health Ministry in Gaza, which tracks the toll, released a detailed list of names and identification numbers on Thursday. The toll includes more than 2,900 minors and more than 1,500 women.

The overall number of deaths far exceeds the combined toll of all four previous wars between Israel and Hamas, estimated at around 4,000.

More than 1,400 people in Israel, mostly civilians, were slain during the initial Hamas attack, according to the Israeli government. Hamas is holding at least 229 captives inside Gaza, including men, women, children and older adults.

The air strikes have flattened entire neighborhoods, causing a level of death and destruction unseen in the last four wars between Israel and Hamas. More than a million people have fled their homes, with many heeding Israeli orders to evacuate to the south, despite continuing Israeli strikes across the sealed-off territory.

The military said ground forces raided inside Gaza, striking dozens of militant targets over the past 24 hours. It said aircraft and artillery bombed targets in Shijaiyah, a neighborhood on Gaza City's outskirts that was the scene of an urban battle in the 2014 Gaza war.

The military said the soldiers exited the territory without suffering any casualties. It reported an earlier, hours long raid into northern Gaza early Thursday.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, said the raids enable forces to "uncover the enemy," to kill militants and to remove explosives and launch pads. The aim is "to prepare the ground for the next stages of the war," he added.

The damage to Gaza from nearly three weeks of bombardment showed in satellite photos of several locations taken before the war and again in recent days.

Entire rows of residential buildings simply disappear in the photos, reduced to smears of dust and rubble. A complex of 13 high-rises by the sea was pounded to dust near Gaza City's al-Shati refugee camp, leaving only a few tottering bits of facade, according to the photos by Maxar Technologies.

The military says it only strikes militant targets and accuses Hamas of operating among civilians in an attempt to protect its fighters. The Israeli military said that an airstrike killed one of two masterminds of the October 7 massacre, Shadi Barud, the head of Hamas' intelligence unit.

Palestinian militants have fired thousands of rockets into Israel since the war began.

Hamas' military wing said Thursday that Israeli bombardment has so far killed about 50 of the hostages. There was no immediate comment from Israeli officials, who have denied previous, similar claims.

The conflict has threatened to ignite a wider war across the region.

Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed ally of Hamas in Lebanon, has repeatedly traded fire with Israel along the border, and Israel has carried out air strikes targeting Iran-linked groups in Syria. The United States has sent two aircraft carrier strike groups to the region, along with additional fighter jets and other weaponry and personnel, in part to deter Iran and its allies from entering the war on the side of Hamas.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said that the strikes in eastern Syria were "a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against US personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-backed militia groups that began on October 17." He said the operation was separate from the Israel-Hamas war.

Iran-backed fighters later fired rockets at an oil facility housing US troops in eastern Syria, according to Syrian opposition activists. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the US strikes had wounded seven Iran-backed Iraqi fighters.

Egypt's military said a drone crashed into a building

in the Red Sea town of Taba, on the border with Israel, slightly wounding six people. State media had initially said it was a rocket. In a separate incident, the state-run Al-Qahera news said a "strange object" landed near a power station in the Red Sea town of Nuweiba, further south. Footage showed debris and smoke rising from the side of a nearby mountain.

Hagari, the Israeli military spokesperson, said "an aerial threat was identified in the area of the Red Sea," which appeared to be the source of the Taba incident. He said that fighter jets were dispatched to the area and that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. were tightening their defenses in the region.

Last week, a US Navy destroyer in the northern Red Sea shot down three cruise missiles and several drones launched toward Israel by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in northern Yemen.

The war has also sparked protests across the region, and more demonstrations were held Friday in cities across the Middle East after weekly Muslim prayers.

In Gaza, supplies of food, medicine and fuel for powering emergency generators are running low. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which provides basic services to hundreds of thousands of people, including operating schools turned into shelters, has said it may run out of fuel within days.

Gaza's sole power station shut down because of a lack of fuel days after the start of the war, and Israel has barred all fuel deliveries, saying it believes Hamas would steal them for military purposes.

About 1.4 million of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have fled their homes, with nearly half of them crowding into UN shelters. Hundreds of thousands remain in northern Gaza, despite Israel ordering them to evacuate to the south and saying that those who remain might be considered "accomplices" of Hamas.

Over the past week, Israel has allowed more than 80 trucks with aid enter from Egypt through the Rafah crossing, the only entry point into Gaza not controlled by Israel. But aid workers say the convoys meet only a tiny fraction of the territory's mounting humanitarian needs. Before the war, an average of 500 trucks entered Gaza each day, according to the United Nations.

The US has been working with other mediators to send in more humanitarian aid, but Israel is insisting on strict screening procedures for all trucks that enter. Washington says Hamas has refused to open the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing to let hundreds of foreign passport holders leave.

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said that its aid operations were crumbling, citing distressing reports from local staff.

"For the first time ever, they report that now people are hungry," Philippe Lazarini told reporters in Jerusalem. "Civil order is collapsing." (Source: Agencies)

Young Indians should work 70 hours...

He is also the father-in-law of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

"Somehow our youth have the habit of taking not so desirable habits from the West and then not helping the country," Murthy said. "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world."

He added that Indians should learn from policies that helped other emerging markets, particularly China.

The tech tycoon said that corporate leaders in India should motivate young people to "work very hard" by telling them that "for the first time India has received certain respect (globally). This is the time for us to consolidate and accelerate the progress."

India, one of the fastest growing major economies in the world, is projected to expand 6.3% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Murthy's comments on putting in longer hours professionally come at a time when there has been a drastic shift in the way people think about work in the West and in China.

For a few years now, many young people in China have embraced a new philosophy they've called "lying flat," to fight against the country's "996" excessive work

culture, or the practice of working from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week.

In the United States, quiet quitting became a workplace trend last year, in which people decided to stop doing work that is beyond what they were hired to do. Murthy's comments were slammed on social media. Over the past few years, several surveys have shown that Indians feel they are among the most overworked and underpaid people in the world. (Source: CNN)

Faith leaders and elected officials...

The press conference was called by an upcoming Sikh politician Japneet Singh who had earlier in 2022 contested election for NY State Senate to represent District 15 and lost in Democratic Primary in August 2022.

Present at the press conference were the wife and son of Jasmer Singh, 66, who was punched to death in a hate crime earlier this week. Also present was Mani Singh Sandhu a 19-year-old turbaned Sikh who was subjected to a hate attack on an MTA bus last week. "I don't feel safe ... when I come out from home," said Mani Singh Sandhu.

Subeg Multani, son of the deceased Jasmer Singh described how brutally his father was hit. "He just hit my father so intense, like so hard on his head. His two front teeth were taken out," he said.

NYPD came for a bitter criticism. While NYPD numbers show overall hate crimes in the city are lower than last year, Japneet Singh says hate crimes against Sikhs are rising.

"They (NYPD) are making as many excuses as possible to make sure it doesn't get investigated as a hate crime. I don't know why that is," Japneet Singh said.

For a community who has been dealing with bias and hate since 9/11 because of their religious attire, the fear is back once again.

"This is the NYPD's job to protect us. They failed to do so. They failed to do so," said Subeg Multani.

There was consensus that the incidents of hate, discrimination and bullying must stop, and that the faith leaders, the politicians and the community leaders should come together to educate people about the Sikhs and the Sikh faith to create a better understanding about the Sikh community.

Suspect in Maine mass shootings is...

Officials briefed on the matter said the discovery was made at a recycling center where the man used to work.

The news brought an end to a sweeping two-day manhunt that put people across much of the state's southern tier under threat.

Officials said the man, Robert R. Card II, 40, had opened fire on Wednesday, October 25, on crowds at a bowling alley in Lewiston and a bar several miles away, where patrons were playing cornhole. The hunt for him had extended across a vast swath of a largely rural state with many potential hiding places.

Mike Sauschuck, Maine's public safety commissioner, said that Mr. Card's body was found at 7:45 p.m. on Friday in Lisbon Falls at a location near the Androscoggin River, but he did not specify when officials think he died. Lisbon Falls is about 11 miles southeast of Lewiston.

"Our community can now breathe a sigh of relief," said David St. Pierre, the Lewiston police chief.

The authorities had warned residents not to approach the suspect under any circumstances, saying he was armed and dangerous. Pentagon records suggest that he spent more than two decades in the Army Reserve.

The shooting turned a night of socializing into one of panic and forced family members to suffer through excruciating waits to learn their loved ones' fates. It also prompted a Democratic congressman from Maine who had previously opposed a ban on assault-style weapons to reverse his position.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Patnitop: Photographer's paradise

Patnitop it is a famous hill station in the Udhampur district of Jammu & Kashmir, known for endless meadows and panoramic views of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. Along with the widespread abundance in sceneries, Patnitop is known for activities like skiing and trekking as well as water springs.

Patnitop offers adventure activities like paragliding, trekking, skiing etc.

Sanasar, located 17 kms away is also popular for a paragliding base, golf courses along with extended sightseeing options.

Nathatop, located approximately 14 km away from Patnitop is known for panoramic view of the snow-covered peaks and also as the take off site for Paragliding.

Shiva Garh is situated around 11 kilometres away from Patnitop, at an altitude of almost 3500 meters. It makes for a short but an exhilarating trek experience.

Nathatop

Nathatop is a short trek away from Patnitop 2 kms away from Jammu. The hill station is covered with snow during winters thereby enhancing its beauty. Nathatop is a famous for paragliding and skiing activities that has been becoming popular over the years. The hill station has a variety of roadside food stalls selling local cuisine. It also embraces a pleasant weather throughout the year.

One gets an excellent and clear view of the Himalayas from the peak of these hills. It has an altitude of about 2711m. Nestled away from the fast paced cities, it is a must-visit for the nature lovers and for those seeking serenity. Pir Panjal Mountains, when visited during winters, are filled with snow all over and are a treat for the eyes! Snow is replaced by lush green grass in summers.

Skiing in Patnitop

Winter months in Patnitop are marked by a number of skiing courses and setups coming up in the area. Given the modest and gentle slopes in Patnitop, it tends to be an ideal destination for skiing for people with no prior experience.

Madha Top (5-6 kms from Patnitop on the Sanasar Road) has good possibilities for all levels of skiing.

Paragliding in Patnitop

Patnitop is a hilltop tourist destination offering a paragliding joyride perched at an altitude of 2024 m above the sea level. The ride is conducted at a 2 km landmark, Dawariyai, situated on Patnitop-Sanasar Road, also known as Billoo Di Powri point.

One can reach the point by ascending through 400 plus steps carved out of rock. The organizers, apart from providing safe and thrilling ride, also

offer a good quality video. After a flight of about 7-15 minutes, depending upon the wind conditions, you will land at Kud, all excited and enchanted.

Madhatop

Situated at an altitude of 2,024 m, Madhatop is easily accessible by road and is a 5 km trek away from Patnitop. Surrounded by pristine natural beauty, Madhatop is a great getaway destination for trekkers, honeymooners, winter sport aficionados and pretty much everyone else in between.

Madhatop, with its salubrious climes and silver mountains is almost a haven for honeymooners and adventure tourists.

Naag Mandir

The Nag (Cobra) Temple near Patnitop is more than 600 years old. During the Nag Panchami Festival, it sees hundreds of Shiva devotees, who throng to this temple to pay respects and worship the snake King Cobra.

Predominantly made of wood, this temple has weathered several centuries although it is not a conventional solid temple construction. Standing amidst lush green surroundings, the temple is not only a significant religious center for the area, but also a site which leaves its visitors fascinated by the sceneries around.

Shiva Ghar

Lying at an altitude of around 3500m, and a 11km trek from Patnitop, Shiva Ghar makes for an exciting one day trek. Trekking equipments can be hired from the tourist department shops in Jammu.

Source: Holidayfy



Indian American elderly Sikh punched after NYC car crash, dies

OCTOBER 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): New York Mayor Eric Adams has vowed to protect the city's Sikh community after a 66-year-old Sikh man was killed after being pummeled following a car crash in Queens.

"Jasmer Singh loved his city and deserved so much more than his tragic death," Adams wrote on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday, October 22, after Singh succumbed to his injuries from the accident last week.

"On behalf of all New Yorkers, I want our Sikh community to know you have more than our condolences," he wrote. "You have our sacred vow that we reject the hatred that took this innocent life and we will protect you."

Gilbert Augustin, 30, was arrested and charged in the death of Jasmer Singh. However, NYPD's Hate Crime Task Force is not yet investigating the incident, which they believe was sparked by a car crash, media reported citing a police spokesperson.

Both cars had dents and scratches, but when Singh went to call 911, witnesses heard a man say, "no police, no police" and watched as a man ripped the victim's phone from his hands as he sat in his car, according to prosecutors.

Singh got out of the car and followed Augustin in an attempt to get his phone back as the two argued. The older man got his phone back and was walking back to his car when Augustin punched him three times in the head and face, they added.

Singh fell to the ground and hit his head, while



Jasmer Singh (right) in the hospital fighting for life (left).

Augustin hopped back into his Ford Mustang and took off, according to a criminal complaint. Medics rushed Singh to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in critical condition, where he died the next day of a brain injury.

Police pulled Augustin over on Friday about two miles from the crash site and found he had a suspended driver's license and his Alabama license plate did not match his New York registration.

Police at the NYPD's 102 Precinct connected him to Singh's death and charged him with manslaughter and assault, among other lesser charges.

Following an arraignment in Queens Saturday, Augustin was held without bail.

Jenifer Rajkumar, the first Indian American elected to New York State assembly, has also condemned the assault on Jasmer Singh and 19-year-old Mani Sandhu last week and vowed to work with Adams to protect the community.

"I represent Richmond Hill, the 'Sikh Capital of the USA.' In our community, Sikhs, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, and Jews live together in harmony, often on the same block," she stated. "When a crime occurs against any of us, it is a crime against all of us, and we come together in solidarity."

"Sikhs are our protectors: their faith preaches seva, meaning selfless service," Rajkumar stated. "Their religion teaches that there is divinity in every one of any faith, and that there is an obligation to protect the welfare of all humanity."

"Every single day, Sikhs serve free meals to anyone who asks, the practice of langar. Their daily prayers include the saying, 'Blessings for everyone.' Every practitioner of this beautiful faith deserves our unyielding respect," she stated.

"As the first Punjabi-American ever elected to New York State Office, I will always fight for the freedom and dignity of Sikh Americans and people of every faith," Rajkumar stated.

"I will continue working with New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Police Commissioner Edward Caban, and all stakeholders to deliver the resources for our Sikh family to live in peace and safety," she stated.

GOPIO-CT Chapter Hosts Welcome Dinner for University of Connecticut Students



Students, panelists and GOPIO-CT organizers at the Students Meet and Greet Event

OCTOBER 24, 2023

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): GOPIO-CT organized a highly successful Meet and Greet session with the new students enrolled at the University of Connecticut Business School on Friday, October 20th at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Stamford, CT. An Interactive Discussion Panel "Tips on How to Market Oneself and Succeed in America." followed. It was moderated by GOPIO-CT President Dr. Jaya Daptardar MHA, Chief Strategy and Compliance Officer, Bridges Healthcare, Milford, CT.

The program, coordinated by GOPIO Trustees Prasad Chintalapudi and Dr. Thomas Abraham, started with welcoming remarks by Chintalapudi. Chintalapudi shared his own experience of being an entrepreneur. He then introduced GOPIO Chairman Dr. Abraham for his greetings.

Dr. Abraham said, "America is the greatest country which provides opportunity to open up your mind and you can be whatever you want to become, whether a professional in a large corporation, or help to manage a hedge fund or as a scientist or professor or as an entrepreneur, so, go and grab the opportunities awaiting

you."

Prasad invited panelists and the moderator GOPIO-CT President Dr. Jaya Daptardar. The panelists were: Vijay Anand, CEO, Everest DX, Stamford, CT; Indira Yedavalli, Vice President, Franklin Templeton Investments, New York; Sushanth Krishnamurthy, Director of IT, UBS, Stamford, CT; Prashanthi Reddy, Esq, Immigration Attorney, New York, NY; Amit Lakhotia, Founding Principal ADH (A Real Estate Development and Management Company), Westport, CT; Padmini Viswanath, MPH, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager, Last Mile, New York City; Anand Chavan, Senior Director of S&P Global Market Intelligence, New York. Many GOPIO-CT members also attended, so the students had one to one interaction with senior GOPIO members.

All the students at the event were introduced at the beginning of the panel discussion.



Panelists at the Session Discussion "Tips on How to Market Oneself and Succeed in America." From l. to r. Anand Chavan, Amit Lakhotia, Padmini Viwanath, Sushanth Krishnamurthy, Vijay Anand, Indira Yedavalli, Prashanthi Reddy, Esq. and Moderator Dr. Jaya Daptardar

Each of the panelists were asked to talk about their journey to where they reached today and how earlier career choices lead them to where they are now. The panelists provided personal experience to their success. The panelists also provided guidance and inputs on educational preparation, resume preparation, necessary prior experience, what skills are the most important and transferable skills to acquire so as to market oneself to the American job market. A question/answer session followed.

Important questions were asked to immigration attorney Prashanti Reddy about do's and don'ts for students from the immigration law perspective. Students were keen to get more information on the process to apply for a permanent visa. Multiple questions were asked by the students about the guidance for fresh grads who are looking for jobs in this tough job market. Panelists suggested to do networking with community, join linked and follow those in one's filed of interest and utilize the alumni network of one's graduating school from India. Many careers were discussed during the Q/A session, which ended with vote of thanks presented by GOPIO CT executive vice president Mahesh Jhangiani.

Over the last 17 years, GOPIO-CT, a chapter of GOPIO International has become an active and dynamic organization hosting interactive sessions with policy makers and academicians, community events, youth mentoring and networking workshops, and working with other area organizations to help create a better future. GOPIO-CT - Global Organization of People of Indian Origin - serves as a non-partisan, secular, civic and community service organization - promoting awareness of Indian culture, customs and contributions of PIOs through community programs, forums, events and youth activities. It seeks to strengthen partnerships and create an ongoing dialogue with local communities.

History This Week

OCT 27 - NOV 02

OCTOBER 27

October 27, 1978 - The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt.



Birthdays - British navigator James Cook (1728-1779) was born in Yorkshire, England. He explored New Zealand, Australia, and the Hawaiian Islands.

Birthdays - Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) the 26th U.S. President was born in New York City. He succeeded to the presidency following the assassination of President William McKinley. Roosevelt served from September 14, 1901 to March 3, 1909. Best remembered for stating, "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Birthdays - Welsh poet and playwright Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) was born in Swansea, Wales. His works included; The World I Breathe, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog, The Doctor and the Devil and the drama Under Milk Wood.

OCTOBER 28



October 28, 1949 - Helen Anderson became the first woman ambassador, appointed by President Harry Truman to be Ambassador to Denmark.

October 28, 1958 - Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice, was elected Pope, taking the title John XXIII. Best known for undertaking the 21st Ecumenical Council (Vatican II).

October 28, 1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba.

October 28, 1971 - The British House of Commons voted 356-244 in favor of

joining the European Economic Community.

Birthdays - Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1995) was born in New York City. In 1952, he developed a vaccine for the dreaded childhood disease Polio (poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis). His vaccine reduced deaths from Polio in the U.S. by 95%.

Birthdays - Microsoft founder Bill Gates was born in Seattle, Washington, October 28, 1955. In 1975, he co-founded Microsoft with Paul Allen, designing software for IBM computers. By 1980, Microsoft became the leading software company for IBM compatible computers. Gates became a billionaire by age 31 and remains one of the world's wealthiest individuals.

OCTOBER 29

October 29, 1929 - The stock market crashed as over 16 million shares were dumped amid tumbling prices. The Great Depression followed in America, lasting until the outbreak of World War II.



Birthdays - Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945) was born in Rheydt, near Dusseldorf, Germany. Considered a master propagandist, he controlled all Nazi newspapers, radio and film production. He was a virulent anti-Semite who advocated the extermination of the Jews. Devoted to Hitler until the end, he died at Hitler's Berlin bunker in 1945 after poisoning his six children.

OCTOBER 30

October 30, 1938 - The War of the Worlds radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans. Actor Orson Welles and the Mercury Players dramatized the story by H.G. Wells depicting a Martian invasion of New Jersey. Their script utilized simulated radio news bulletins which many listeners thought were real.

October 30, 1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.

Birthdays - John Adams (1735-1826) the 2nd U.S. President was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. He served from March 4, 1797 to March 3, 1801. He had been George Washington's vice president, and was the father of John Quincy Adams, the 6th President. He died on July 4, 1826, the same day as Thomas Jefferson, on

the 50th anniversary of adoption of the Declaration of Independence.



Birthdays - Emily Post (1872-1960) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She wrote influential books on etiquette and a syndicated newspaper column giving advice on manners in specific situations.

Birthdays - Admiral William "Bull" Halsey (1882-1959) was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was the American fleet commander during World War II in the Pacific and played a leading role in the defeat of the Japanese. In 1942, he launched the Doolittle Raid, the first air raid on Japan. From 1942-44, he coordinated successful attacks on the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. In 1944, he led the U.S. fleet to victory at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history.

OCTOBER 31



October 31, 1950 - Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game when he took the floor for the Washington Capitols in Rochester, New York.

October 31, 1952 - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

October 31, 1961 - The body of Joseph Stalin was removed from the mausoleum in Red Square and reburied within the Kremlin walls among the graves of lesser Soviet heroes. This occurred as part of Russia's de-Stalinization program under his successor Nikita Khrushchev. Stalin's name was also removed from public buildings, streets, and factories. Stalingrad was renamed Volgograd.

October 31, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered

a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.

October 31, 1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by three Sikh members of her bodyguard while walking in the garden of her New Delhi home.

Birthdays - Chinese soldier and statesman Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) was born in Chekiang. Educated at the Wampoa Military Academy, he led the KMT (nationalist) forces in the struggle against the Communist army led by Mao Zedong.

NOVEMBER 1

November 1, 1936 - The Rome-Berlin Axis was proclaimed by Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini following a visit to Berlin by Italian Foreign Secretary Ciano.



November 1, 1950 - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 1, 1993 - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

November 1, 1995 - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

NOVEMBER 2



November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

Birthdays - American frontiersman Daniel Boone (1734-1820) was born in Berks County, near Reading, Pennsylvania.

Birthdays - James K. Polk (1795-1849) the 11th U.S. President was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served from March 4, 1845 to March 3, 1849. He declined to be a candidate for a second term, saying he was "exceedingly relieved" at the completion of his presidency.



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Shubman Gill focuses on short ball play, long tail prepares to wag

Shubman Gill focussed on his short ball play as seven Indian cricketers sweated it out under the strong Lucknow sun, two days ahead of their World Cup fixture against England.

Gill, who has amassed five hundreds this year, is yet to set the World Cup stage on fire after recovering from dengue that forced him to miss the first couple of games.

In three games since then, the classy opener has scored 26, 53 and 16.

With 1,325 runs and counting in ODIs this year, Gill has looked good in all the innings but has not been able to make it count.

As India look to maintain their unbeaten run in the tournament, a special effort will be expected from Gill, who got out slashing at a short and wide ball against New Zealand in Dharamsala.

However, facing the short ball is something that Gill relishes.

The others who attended the optional nets session were Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav.

Captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and R Ashwin stayed back in the team hotel after turning up on Thursday.

The team's reserve opener Kishan too had a long hit. Like it was the case on Thursday, all the bowlers also spent a lot of time on their batting skills.

India have a long tail which has not been tested considering the stellar form of the specialist batters.

Shami, who took five wickets in his first game of the competition against New Zealand, batted after rolling his arm over, while it was the other way around for Siraj.

Pacer Shardul Thakur and team's premier spinner Kuldeep too used their willow in hot conditions.

ICC WORLD CUP

SA all but pip Pakistan out of World Cup with narrow win

CHENNAI (TIP)

South Africa took the first giant step towards shedding the eternal chokers tag as they pushed Pakistan towards the World Cup exit door winning a humdinger of a contest by solitary wicket here on Friday, October 27.

This is South Africa's first World Cup win against Pakistan since the 1999 edition while Babar Azam's men's fourth loss on trot is country's first in global event. Pakistan are on four points from six games and even if they win all three games, there is less than five percent chance of them qualifying for the last four stage.

What looked like a straightforward chase of 271, suddenly became the closest game of the tournament as Proteas slumped from 235 for 5 to 260 for 9, thanks to an inspired phase of high quality pace bowling by Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/45) and Haris Rauf (2/62).

However, Keshav Maharaj (7 not out) and Tabraiz Shamsi (4 not out) added the 11 most precious runs of their career to notch up a special win in 47.2 overs and also take the team to top of points table with 10 points.

"This is not just four most important runs that I have scored but perhaps the only four runs I have scored in the entire year," a beaming Shamsi said after accepting the 'Player of the Match' award for his match figures of 4 for 60.

Maharaj survived a close DRS appeal off Rauf's delivery, courtesy Umpires' Call and once the bowler was on his haunches along with keeper Mohammed Rizwan, the writing was on the wall.

Left-arm spin of Mohammed Nawaz is an apology for slow bowling and Maharaj let a war cry after slapping it behind the vacant backward square leg for a boundary.

While Babar would feel short-changed as one of the deliveries bowled by one of his pacers brushed Keshav Maharaj's pads but was called wide but he can't deny that his team put up at least 40 runs less of what could have been a par score on good batting track.

His captaincy was also unimaginative as Aiden Markram (91 off 93 balls) showed why he is rated so highly with a quality knock.

Markram was both accumulator and aggressor in equal measure as he used the pace of Rauf and Mohammed Wasim Junior to score a lot of runs.

The inside out six of Iftikhar's off-break was a treat while Quinton de Kock giving a rollicking start also helped. He hit Shaheen for four boundaries and it did set the tempo.

Save Markram, the other small but useful contributions came from David Miller, who hit 29 off 33 balls and Marco Jansen 920 off 14 balls), who always found a way top hit sixes to close in on the target.



Usama Mir (2/45), the concussion substitute did get a couple of wickets but bowled a lot of loose balls for Pakistan's comfort.

Earlier, skipper Babar and Saud Shakeel struck fifties but Pakistan batters frittered away good starts to be bowled out for a below-par 270 after the losers decided to make first use of the strip.

While Babar managed 50 off 65 deliveries, Shakeel made a run-a-ball 52 but Pakistan couldn't build enough partnerships and also faltered in the back end to be dismissed in 46.4 overs after opting to bat. The last five wickets fell for 45 runs.

Left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi, who was playing only his second game, shone with figures of four for 60, while Marco Jansen (3/43) was superb with the new ball, and Gerald Coetzee (2/42) also snapped two.

It all began with a maiden over from Jansen, who accounted for both the openers—Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imam-ul-Haq (12) as Pakistan slipped to 38 for 2 in the seventh over.

It could have been third down for the Pakistan in the same over had Jansen hold on to a caught and bowled chance for Mohammad Rizwan.

Rizwan started on an aggressive note, hitting a six off spinner Keshav Maharaj and constructing a 48-run partnership with Babar (50).

However, the lease of life that Jansen offered him did not last long, as in the 16th over, speedster Coetzee sent him back to the pavilion after being caught behind, with the score reading 86 for three.

While Coetzee continued to suppress Pakistan's scoring rate, they brought up their 100 by the 20th over.

The pair of Babar and Iftikhar Ahmed (21) added 43 for the fourth wicket before the latter became the fourth man to be dismissed, holing out to Heinrich Klaasen off Shamsi in the 26th.

Source: PTI

India create history, claim 100 medals at Asian Para Games

HANGZHOU (TIP)

Indian para-athletes on Saturday, October 28, created history as they claimed their 100th medal of the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with Dilip Mahadu Gavit claiming a gold medal.

Gavit won a gold medal in Men's 400m T47 event. He claimed the prestigious gold with a brilliant run time of 49.48 secs. For the first time, the Indian para contingent has won 100 medals, making this their most successful Para Asian Games campaign to date. At the time of publishing, India have claimed 26 golds, 29 silvers and 45 bronze medals.

The fact that India's para-athletes have surpassed the 100-medal milestone in the Asian Games is what makes this feat so noteworthy in the ongoing 4th Asian Para Games. The previous greatest medal haul for the country came at the 2018 Para Games in Jakarta. Back then, 72 medals were won, including 15 golds, 24 silvers,



and 33 bronzes. The feat was congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said these triumphs would be an inspiration for all.

"100 MEDALS at the Asian Para Games! A moment of

unparalleled joy. This success is a result of the sheer talent, hard work, and determination of our athletes. This remarkable milestone fills our hearts with immense pride. I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our incredible athletes, coaches and the entire support system working with them. These triumphs inspire us all. They serve as a reminder that nothing is impossible for our youth" the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the flurry of medals on the last day of the prestigious Games continued for India as rowers Anita and Narayana Konganapalle bagged a silver medal in PR3 Mixed Doubles Sculls on Saturday. The mixed doubles pair claimed a podium finish with the timing of 8:50.71. Suyansh Narayan Jadhav won India's first gold medal in swimming at the sporting event on Friday, clocking a performance time of 32.22 seconds in the Men's 50m Butterfly-S7 category.

Source: ANI



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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