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We Wish our Readers a Happy Diwali and a Happy Bandi Chhod Divas



The Real Message of Diwali: "Dispel the Inner Darkness through the Light of Knowledge"

The INDIAN PANORAMA

will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition on the occasion of 554th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji on November 24, 2023.

Articles and advertisements for publication may please be emailed to Salujindra@gmail.com by Thursday, November 16 For any questions, please call 646-247-9458.

INSIDE

DIWALI SPECIAL ARTICLES

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The Diya lighting. Seen, among others are Neera Tanden, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Senator Chuck Schumer, Neeta Bhasin (partially visible) Meeka Singh

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Gopi Dairy Diwali at Times Square, presented by KIA, 2023, brought the heart of Times Square alive with a celebration of cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion. The event coincided with the celebration of the NYC Diwali school holiday, providing an ideal backdrop for the festivities.

Diwali, Indian festival of Lights, traditionally symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. However, Diwali at Times Square, 2023, emphasized the importance of illuminating the inner self and promoting unity, enlightenment, love, peace, and harmony to create a more peaceful world.

CONTD ON PAGE 50

India's EAM Jaishankar, U.S. Secretary of State Blinken hold talks ahead of '2+2' dialogue



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar ahead of a day of meetings in New Delhi, Friday, November 10, 2023

Credit / PTI

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken held talks on November 10 morning ahead of the high profile '2+2' ministerial dialogue.

Mr. Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin are in Delhi for

the fifth edition of the '2+2' foreign and defense ministerial dialogue which is aimed at taking forward India-U.S. futuristic roadmap for deeper strategic cooperation.

The Indian delegation at the talks will be led by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Mr. Jaishankar.

CONTD ON PAGE 50

Framed purely for political reasons: Opposition members of ethics panel in dissent notes on action against TMC MP Moitra



The opposition members allege that the inquiry process against TMC MP Mahua Moitra is a 'farce' and a 'proverbial kangaroo court'

File photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Five opposition MPs submitted dissent notes against the adoption of a report by the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee recommending the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra from the House in the 'cash-for-query' matter, alleging that it was "erroneous" and framed "purely for political reasons", sources said on Thursday.

In their dissent notes, the opposition members alleged that the inquiry process is a "farce" and a "proverbial kangaroo court".

CONTD ON PAGE 50

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COMMENT

Embracing the True Spirit of Diwali - Victory of Good over Evil



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In the radiant glow of a thousand lamps and the resounding echoes of joyous celebrations, Diwali, the festival of lights, brings together people from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Beyond the dazzling fireworks and opulent feasts, there lies a profound message that transcends borders and resonates with the very essence of humanity - the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali, deeply rooted in Hindu mythology, symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and righteousness over wrongdoing. It is a celebration that extends far beyond the boundaries of religion, inviting everyone to reflect on the universal theme of conquering the forces of malevolence with the power of virtue.

In a world often marred by conflicts, it becomes crucial to recognize the authentic spirit of Diwali. This festival encourages us to introspect and question the wars we wage, both on a personal and global scale. Are these battles truly aimed at upholding the principles of good over evil, or do they inadvertently perpetuate a cycle of dark evil?

Wars fought in the name of justice or

righteousness sometimes lose sight of their initial noble intentions, turning into instruments of oppression and injustice. The pursuit of power, wealth, and dominance often overshadows the quest for a just and equitable society. In these instances, the very essence of Diwali, the celebration of good triumphing over evil, seems to be forgotten.

Take, for instance, the numerous conflicts that have scarred our history. While some wars may have been waged with the intention of establishing justice and order, the means employed to achieve these ends have often been tainted with corruption, violence, and exploitation. The collateral damage inflicted upon innocent lives raises the question: Can the victory achieved through such means truly be considered a triumph of good?

Diwali beckons us to examine the motivations behind our actions and the methods we employ to achieve our goals. It urges us to seek a path that aligns with the principles of justice, compassion, and integrity rather than succumbing to the allure of power and dominance. True victory lies not in the subjugation of others but in the elevation of the collective human spirit.

In the pursuit of genuine goodness, it becomes imperative to foster understanding, tolerance, and empathy. Diwali encourages us to illuminate the darkest corners of our hearts and minds, dispelling the shadows of hatred and prejudice. It challenges us to find common ground amidst diversity, recognizing that true unity arises from the celebration of our shared humanity.

Also, Diwali invites us to consider the impact of our actions on the environment and the world at large. The extravagant displays of fireworks, while visually stunning, contribute to air and noise pollution, posing a threat to the well-being of the planet. Embracing the true spirit of Diwali involves celebrating responsibly, with an awareness of the ecological consequences of our festivities.

As we light the lamps to dispel dark without, let us remember that the true essence of Diwali lies in dispelling the dark forces of hatred and bigotry within us, and look upon the entire humanity as one, as the Sikh Gurus rightly preached and practiced.

Happy Diwali!
Happy Bandi Chhod Divas!

GUEST COMMENT

Defection business: On party-hopping as a feature of Indian politics

PARTY-HOPPING SEEMS SET TO STAY AS PARTIES CHOOSE CANDIDATES WITH RESOURCES

Even as party campaigns are in full swing and candidates are announced in poll-bound Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, one development that seems to be common to these elections and those held recently is the last minute defection of leaders from one party to another. Elections in India have become expensive and most parties, except those from the Left, tend to field candidates not just based on their dint of work or popularity but, increasingly, on their abilities to mobilize resources for campaigns. So, electoral politics has thrown up a set of politicians who are in it to build a career more out of patronage and less out of ideological conviction. This allows for a large degree of malleability in party affiliation for this set, many of whom engage in party-hopping as they have a good sense of the way electoral winds are blowing. Joining them too are incumbents who do so if not given

another chance by their parties, and also rebels. The politics of patronage can be frowned upon as being less representative of interests and demands in a constituency and more of a transaction between the candidate and the voter - the voter gets goods and services from the winning candidate for voting in favor while the legislator uses the post to create an elaborate spoils system, usually to benefit from it as well. This system of patronage can also be seen as an outcome of the larger democratization of the polity itself, as it throws up representatives catering to specific demands of voters, making the process meaningful for them, bypassing the party structure.

The by-product of this system is the presence of careerist politicians who are in it more for transactional purposes than principled or ideological reasons. A reason why the Congress has lost out to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in pre-eminence nationally is because of large-scale defections to

the BJP, which has managed to articulate a clear ideological stance of right-wing conservatism through its leadership while providing a platform for those seeking to use the electoral system for patronage.

As the Congress tries to rejuvenate itself, the party has sought to distinguish itself from the BJP not just in terms of what it represents in secular terms but also as a vehicle of welfare through electoral guarantees. This has allowed itself to play host to last-minute defectors from the BJP and regional parties in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, but this also throws up a challenge in retaining these malleable legislators. Alas, defections will remain a feature of Indian politics unless voters punish the defectors for repeated party-hopping and see no longer term interest in choosing a representative with tenuous ideological affiliation.

(The Hindu)



Happy Diwali

This Diwali, let's celebrate the festival of lights with the gift of sight in mind. Ensure a safe Diwali for your eyes by wearing safety glasses, supervising children around fireworks, avoiding DIY fireworks and maintaining a safe distance from displays. You can ensure your eyes sparkle just as brightly as the Diwali fireworks.

Have a safe and happy Diwali! 🎆🎇



A World Without Childhood Blindness

Help every child see Diwali's lights with crystal-clear vision. Please visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

First Indian-origin Anusha Shah appointed as president of UK's Institute of Civil Engineers

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

LONDON (TIP): The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE), an independent professional association for civil engineers and a charitable body in the UK representing 95,000 members, has elected the first Indian-origin president in its 205-year history in Professor Anusha Shah.

As the institution's 159th president, Shah took charge of her new role with a presidential address on the theme of nature-positive civil engineering at ICE's London headquarters on Tuesday evening.

Shah specializes in water and environmental engineering, with over 22 years' experience in designing, managing and leading projects and programs in the UK and internationally.

"My presidential year will be about how we become a nature and people-positive profession at heart," Shah stated in her speech.

"We have failed to understand the interrelationship between infrastructure and nature. We are implementing nature-based and green solutions globally, but in pockets. It's not the norm yet," she said.

According to Professor Shah, in her 40s, construction is responsible for 30 per cent of biodiversity loss around the

world, but adopting a nature and people-positive approach will enable engineers to reverse the environmental decline.

"Not only will we reach net zero faster, we'll also improve climate resilience and reap multiple benefits for our society and the planet," she noted.

In a film accompanying her speech, Shah said that it was time for civil engineers to better understand the inter-relationship between infrastructure and nature and do more.

"Building assets which do less harm to our natural world is not good enough anymore. To put it simply, we don't have an option but to be nature-positive... Our infrastructure needs to interact with nature in a way which is restorative and regenerative, rather than extractive," she said.

Shah grew up in Kashmir where the natural surroundings and their interaction with the built-up elements fascinated her from an early age. It was at the age of 23 that Shah discovered a consultancy in New Delhi working on the conservation of the Dal Lake in Kashmir and turned up at their office to talk her way into a consulting project engineer's role.

She went on to become one of only two candidates to win a prestigious Commonwealth scholarship in 1999 and

came to the UK to pursue an MSc in Water & Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey.

"There's absolutely nothing you can't achieve if you set your mind to it and drive your life with the right values," she told students as she accepted her honorary doctorate from the University of East London for her services to climate change in engineering.

The same year, in 2021, the University of Wolverhampton gave her an honorary professorship for knowledge transfer. Shah's other firsts include the youngest ever and first female chair of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London Region, before becoming a fellow of ICE in 2016.

Two years later, she founded the climate change consultancy Plan for Earth with a focus on creating awareness around the climate crisis.

"I'm a civil engineer and I'm also someone who constantly thinks of global problems, how to change the world for better, contribute to make it fair and peaceful, solve water scarcity and create climate resilience and leave behind assets for our future generations," she said.

Shah works as a senior director for resilient cities and the UK climate adaptation lead at Arcadis, a



Professor Anusha Shah has been elected the first Indian-origin president of The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) which represents 95,000 Civil Engineers in UK

Netherlands-based global design, engineering and management consulting company. She is currently seconded to the Effiage, Kier, Ferrovia and BAM Nuttall joint venture on the UK's High Speed (HS) 2 rail project as senior director of environmental consents.

Shah is also a non-executive director at the UK's Meteorological Office, a Royal Academy of Engineering visiting professor at King's College London on climate adaptation, sustainability and inclusive design and a visiting professor at the University of Edinburgh.

5 Indians die in crash in Australia



Vivek Bhatia (38), his son Vihan (11), Pratibha Sharma (44), her daughter, Anvi (nine), and partner Jatin Chugh (30) died after an SUV mounted a kerb and hit patrons on the front lawn of the Royal Daylesford hotel on Sunday, November 5 evening.

Photo for representation

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

MELBOURNE (TIP): Five Indians, including two children aged nine and 11, were killed and several others injured after a car driven by an elderly man ploughed into the beer garden of a pub in the Australian state of Victoria, police said.

Vivek Bhatia (38), his son Vihan (11), Pratibha Sharma (44), her daughter, Anvi (nine), and partner Jatin Chugh (30) died after an SUV mounted a kerb and hit patrons on the front lawn of the Royal Daylesford hotel on Sunday, November 5 evening.

Five other people, including Bhatia's wife, Ruchi (36), younger son Abeer (six) and an 11-month-old child, are in hospital being treated for injuries.

While addressing a news conference on Monday, November 6, Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Shane Patton said the victims were all visitors to the area, and described the incident as "an absolute tragedy". *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian origin Tarun Ghulati wants to become London's mayor

The co-founder of the 21st Century Icon Awards in London strongly believes much more needs to be done for the low- and middle-income households across London

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Businessman Tarun Ghulati has announced his candidature for the May 2024 mayoral elections in the UK capital, with the hope of becoming London's first Indian-origin mayor.

Ghulati, 63, made the announcement last month while in India, his "janmabhoomi", saying he is determined to do whatever it takes to ensure London - his home for 20 years - remains a leading global city and all Londoners feel safe, secure and empowered with opportunities for growth.

The co-founder of the 21st Century Icon Awards in London strongly believes much more needs to be done for the low- and middle-income households across London and hopes his levelling up ideas will strike a chord with the city's voters as he prepares to challenge London's Pakistani-origin Mayor Sadiq Khan.

"As London mayor, I wish to see increased cohesiveness between countries whose diaspora live in London, by building people-to-people and business connect," said Ghulati.

"I will build a thriving London, do away with barriers for growth and ensure safety of all citizens. The Ultra-



Businessman Tarun Ghulati wants to become London's first Indian-origin mayor

Photo / X (formerly Twitter)

Low Emission Zone will be scrapped totally, no Congestion Charge will apply over weekends and holidays, 20mph speed limit zones and Low Traffic Neighborhoods will be reviewed. I wish to see visible policing across all the boroughs and police stations restored where crime rates are high. Affordable housing will be a key strategy," he said.

(Source: PTI)

Indo-Canadian Sikh poet Rupri Kaur rejects Biden admin's Diwali invite over Gaza



"I decline any invitation from an institution that supports the collective punishment of a trapped civilian population-50 per cent of whom are children," Rupri Kaur, 31, wrote in a statement posted on X on Monday, November 6.

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

TORONTO (TIP): Indo-Canadian Sikh poet Rupri Kaur has declined an invitation for a Diwali event on Wednesday from US President Joe Biden's administration over its response to the situation in Gaza.

"I decline any invitation from an institution that supports the collective punishment of a trapped civilian population-50 per cent of whom are children," Kaur, 31, wrote in a statement posted on X on Monday, November 6.

"I'm surprised this administration finds it acceptable to celebrate Diwali, when their support of the current atrocities against Palestinians represent the exact opposite of what this holiday means to many of us," the author of "Milk and Honey" said. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian American Shanya Gill wins \$25,000 top award in Junior Innovators Challenge

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

SAN JOSE, CA (TIP): Shanya Gill, a 12-year-old Indian American student from San Jose, California won the top \$25,000 Thermo Fisher Scientific ASCEND (Aspiring Scientists Cultivating Exciting New Discoveries) Award, at the inaugural Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

Three other Indian American students also won top prizes in the nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition run by Thermo Fisher Scientific and Society for Science.

In addition to the top prizes, six Indian American students were among first- and second-place winners in each of the STEM categories of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, as well as the competition's Team Award.

Shanya was inspired to create a fire-detection system after a fire destroyed a restaurant behind her house in the summer of 2022, according to a Society press.

She connected an affordable thermal camera to a compact computer and then programmed the system to differentiate between people-which were identified as warm objects moving horizontally-and heat sources, such as an active gas burner, which were identified as hot objects that remained stationary.

Shanya then programmed the system to send a text message when it detected a heat source but no human presence for a continuous 10-minute period. Shanya's system accurately detected human presence 98% of the time and heat sources 97% of the time.

The Thermo Fisher JIC, a program of Society for Science, reaches 65,000 middle schoolers nationwide and inspires them to follow their personal STEM passions to exciting college and career paths.

The 30 finalists are counted among the nation's brightest students, with several, including Shanya, collectively accepting more than \$100,000 at an award ceremony at The Kennedy Center in Washington,



Shanya Gill with other "Junior Innovators Challenge" winners -Colin Beckner, Adyant Bhavsar, Akshadha Mehta, Venice Parnell

DC on Nov 1.

Each of the 30 finalists participated in team challenges in addition to being judged on their science research projects. The challenges leveraged project-based learning and tested their critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration skills in each of the STEM areas.

During the team challenges, the finalists designed devices to study the Chesapeake Bay's oyster reef ecosystem and investigated the spread of a "zombie pathogen" to find solutions and identify mitigation or eradication strategies.

The finalists also employed block coding and construction skills to create an interactive minigolf hole.

"The top winners of the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge have exhibited boundless curiosity," said Maya Ajmera, President and CEO of Society for Science and Executive Publisher of Science News Media Group. "Their remarkable research not only reflects their talent but also paves the way for an exciting new future."

Shanya Gill, 12, San Jose, Calif.; won the \$25,000 ASCEND Award for her project designing a fire detection system as well as the leadership, collaboration and critical thinking skills she demonstrated through the course of her research project and Finals Week

challenges.

Keshvee Sekhda, 14, Sugar Hill, Ga.; won the \$10,000 Broadcom Coding with Commitment™ Award for combining coding with STEM knowledge to create a solution that improves one's community and aligns with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Keshvee and her teammate Nyambura Sallinen developed a smartphone app called IdentiCan to identify breast, lung and skin cancer. It uses photos or health scans, sound clips and personal health information to predict diagnoses.

Maya Gandhi, 14, Anaheim, Calif.; won the \$10,000 DoD STEM Talent Award for demonstrating excellence in science, technology, engineering or math, along with the leadership and technical skills necessary to excel in the 21st Century STEM workforce and build a better community for tomorrow.

Maya explored different substances to boost energy output of plant microbial fuel cells, which generate electricity using living plants and microbes.

Adyant Bhavsar, 13, San Jose, California; won the \$10,000 Lemelson Award for Invention, awarded by The Lemelson Foundation to a young inventor creating promising product-based solutions to real-world problems.

Adyant created a low-cost, eco-friendly version of a triboelectric nanogenerator.

This device generates electricity from the mechanical energy of two touching objects when they separate.

First- and second-place winners of STEM Awards, including six Indian American students, demonstrated acumen and promise in science, technology, engineering and math, according to the release.

First-place winners were awarded \$3,500 and second-place winners received \$2,500 to support their choice of a STEM summer camp experience in the US. All STEM Award winners received an iPad.

TECHNOLOGY AWARD: First place: Advait Badrish, HeartNN: A High-Accuracy Neural Network for Cardiac Auscultation

ENGINEERING AWARD: First place: Krishna Bhatt, A Novel Wearable for Active Prevention of Falls Through GRU-Based Gyroscopic Inference and Center of Mass Manipulation

MATHEMATICS AWARD: SECOND PLACE: Amritha Praveen, Improving Mental Health Using Artificial Intelligence-Powered Music Therapy

Team Award, sponsored by TIES: Each member of the Finals Week challenge team that best demonstrates their ability to work together and solve problems through shared decision-making, communication and scientific and engineering collaboration received a \$200 science supply company gift card to support their interests in STEM.

Silver Team: Colin Beckner, Adyant Bhavsar, Shanya Gill, Akshadha Mehta, Venice Parnell

Thermo Fisher Scientific Leadership Award went to Maya Gandhi for Optimizing Plant Microbial Fuel Cell Energy Output: The Effect of Anodic Substance and Configuration.

The award recognizes one finalist elected by their peers to speak on behalf of their Thermo Fisher JIC class at the Awards Ceremony. The Class Speaker demonstrates the collegiality and spirited leadership that has earned the collective esteem of the class and united them around common goals.

Indian American Krystle Kaul running for Congress to inspire young Indian American girls



Krystle Kaul says she is running for Congress to inspire the next generation of young Indian American girls

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

VIRGINIA (TIP): Krystle Kaul, a noted Indian American defense and national security expert, is running for Congress from Virginia's 10th District in the Democratic primary to inspire the

next generation of young Indian American girls.

Kaul with a 20-plus-year career with the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community, says she is seeking to bring her wealth of national security knowledge and experience to the halls of Congress.

Her campaign is driven by a passion for public service, a commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our nation, and a desire to shape a better future for her constituents and the country, she says.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian student critically injured in stabbing at US gym dies

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Varun Raj Pucha, the 24-year-old Indian student who was stabbed at a fitness center in the US state of Indiana, has succumbed to his injuries, the university where he was studying has said.

Varun, a computer science student at Valparaiso University, was stabbed in the head with a knife by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on October 29 for reasons that the authorities are still investigating.

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of Varun Raj Pucha. Our campus community has lost one of its



Varun Raj Pucha, a computer science student at Valparaiso University, who was stabbed in the head with a knife by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on October 29, has died

Photo: X/@ians_india

own, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Varun's family and friends as we mourn this devastating loss," Valparaiso University, a private university in Valparaiso, Indiana, near Chicago said in a statement on Wednesday.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Officers and Board Members of Rotary Club of North Shore District 7255 NY sworn in

NAVEEN SHAH AND NILIMA MADAN HONORED



President Mamta Shaha taking Oath officiated by District Governor Tom Crowley.



Officers and Board Members Taking Oath

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): It was a special evening at Antun's on October 29, 2023. The Installation of Newly formed Rotary Charter the Rotary club of North Shore, which was initiated by the Rotary Club of Hicksville was held at the Antun's, LI. Rotary District 7255, District Governor Tom Crowley officiated the Oath ceremony of the Rotary Club of North Shore President Dr. Mamta Shaha along with her slate of officers, board


members and founding members to serve the club for fiscal year 2023-24.

President thanked all members for putting their trust in as their Charter president. She talked about the importance of the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" and added that Honesty, Integrity, and Transparency will be the guiding principles for this club. She mentioned the work of the club for the year will be focused on 1) Feeding Hungry 2) Protecting Environment and



Cake Cutting by the founding members of Rotary Club of North Shore

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President Mamta Shaha with Honoree Naveen Shah and Elected Officials

3) Mentoring and education of children. She thanked Rotary district Governor Tom Crowley and his team. Special thanks were given to the host club-Rotary Club of Hicksville South, the charter President and Past District Governor Mr. Kamalesh Mehta, current President Mr. Mizan Rehman for their help through the process.

Big special thanks go to Ms. Nilima Madan- Past President of the Rotary club of Hicksville South. She is also Stewardship Chair of District 7255. She had the vision of starting a new club which came to fruition on October 29, 2023. She has been a great mentor and guide to all of us throughout the process.

At this occasion Indian Consul General Mr. Randhir Jaiswal was conferred upon the honorary membership of Rotary Club of North Shore. The Honorable Consul general was not able to attend. He will be

presented with the plaque soon.

Mr. Naveen Shah of the Navika Capital Inc. was honored with a plaque for his leadership and philanthropy in the community.

Ms. Nilima Madan was honored with a plaque for her mentorship and guidance.

It was an honor to have the following dignitaries, in attendance- North Hempstead Supervisor, Jennifer S. DeSena; North Hempstead Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava ; Nassau County Minority Affairs Executive Director, Lionel Chitty; Town of Oyster Bay Asian American Affairs Director. They all presented the Citations to the Rotary Club of North Shore and the awardees.

All the members of the club celebrated by cutting a cake. The beautiful evening concluded with musical entertainment and dinner.

(Press release)

'Tabula Rasa (Kora Kagazz)' wins the Best Film Award at Big Apple Film Festival, New York

THE LATIN TERM "TABULA RASA" TRANSLATES TO "BLANK SLATE."



Rajat Kapoor, Swastika Mukherjee, and Aishani Yadav starrer 'Tabula Rasa (Kora Kagazz)' won the Best Film Award at Big Apple Film Festival, New York

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): 'Tabula Rasa (Kora Kagazz)' has won the Best Film Award at Big Apple Film Festival, New York on November 9.

Directed by Nawneet Ranjan, with Rajat Kapoor, Swastika Mukherjee, and Aishani Yadav as the leading cast, Tabula Rasa (Kora Kagazz) is the story of three lost souls who find a home away from home. Divya, a juvenile home warden, and Vivek, an actor struggling to create art, meet Sandhya, a 14-year-old girl with a mysterious dark past. Together they rise above the hardship, grief, trauma and the complexities of family bonds.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: -

"It's a family film which is entertaining, inspiring and goes deep into the realm of our consciousness and sub-consciousness. Everyone must watch!" - Teresa Mayer

"The narrative is so well directed and layered with the complexities of life that it triggers a lot of questions. It's worth several views as I deciphered new layers in my second viewing at this festival.

Hope it gets global theatrical and streaming deal soon so that more families can watch and experience it." - Manisha Das

Renowned critic Archika Khurana of The Times of India lauds the film, stating, "'Kora Kagazz' deserves to be seen for its sincere efforts of telling a heartfelt story."

"A well-made cinematic narrative for global audience which plays well on several levels. It is a must watch. It should get a global theatrical and streaming distribution."

- Diane Baker, acclaimed actress in Silence of the Lambs

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Lessons from Hitler's 1923 Munich putsch



BY SHELLEY WALIA

IRONICALLY, THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST ARE NOW SPURRING ANOTHER GENOCIDE AND THIS TIME IT'S THE PALESTINIANS IN THE MIDST OF THE SECOND NAKBA.

"We must realize that we live in an era of recrudescent nationalism and jingoism. It, therefore, becomes important to remember that "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it", as stated by Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana. The case is before us particularly at this juncture of the revival of ethno-nationalist politics across the world, and particularly in Russia and Israel. The leadership in Israel has begun, like the Nazi party, to wear the crest of a star on their lapel with the words 'Not Again' written on it. Ironically, the victims of the Holocaust are now spurring another genocide and this time it is the Palestinians in the midst of the second Nakba."

November 8 is an ominously historic day. On this day, 100 years ago, 34-year-old Adolf Hitler, inspired by Benito Mussolini's march on Rome in October 1922, accompanied 2,000 armed volunteers to reach Bürgerbräukeller, a beer hall in the Bavarian city of Munich. Apparently, his intention was to seize power in the Bavarian capital to destroy the German federal government, a democratically established Weimar Republic, and supplant it with a dictatorial establishment unswerving in its ideology of violence and rabid anti-Semitism. Dismissing all Jews in the government service and executing anyone assisting Jews were to be his priorities. His plan was to establish a government to oversee the creation of a unified Greater German Reich.

From the Munich bar, Hitler moved his troops on November 9 to Odeonsplatz, where the Bavarian forces successfully resisted the putschists, killing a few. A bullet missed him by an inch. The history of the world would have been different had Hitler died that morning. But the future Führer survived. Undaunted by the defeat at the hands of the police, he

In the last 50 years, has the world progressed on matters of constitutional democracy, or are we stalled - or even moving backward? Are democracies sliding into a cold-blooded sectarianism that borders on repression that can little bear other religions or ways of life? Racial intolerance has indeed raised its ugly head far more starkly than ever before. Innumerable Munichs around the world transmute from liberal diverse societies into cities of discrimination and violence.



Adolf Hitler (fourth from right) and other defendants in the Munich putsch case.

Credit / Wikimedia Commons

would return to the same spot as Chancellor of Germany 10 years later, with his following having swelled to thousands, and the manifesto in his pocket that would end the very idea of democracy in Germany.

Surrounded by adoring crowds, there was complete silence when he bowed his head in remembrance of those who had sacrificed their lives for the love of their country. The most damaging political programme in European history was underway. His coming to power reveals a resounding lesson for humanity: if the institutions of liberal democracy are shaken and weakened, even a disorganized mutiny in a beer pub may not remain a failure for long. Moreover, his entry into Munich must also shake up those credulous enough to fall into the trap of contrived lies and make an unquestionable commitment to forces that silently work towards genocidal politics and the wearing of the fabric of constitutional democracy.

The understanding of the putsch's significance is relevant to the future of our ideas of democracy, justice and freedom. Pausing for a moment on the genesis of Nazism, we can go to the heart of the crisis of the current damage to democracy and the rule of law with an overriding vision that prescribes a fearsome struggle for the survival of the values and ideals that remain dear to the freedom-loving people dreaming of peaceful coexistence.

We must realize that we live in an era of

recrudescent nationalism and jingoism. It, therefore, becomes important to remember that "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it", as stated by Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana. The case is before us particularly at this juncture of the revival of ethno-nationalist politics across the world, and particularly in Russia and Israel. The leadership in Israel has begun, like the Nazi party, to wear the crest of a star on their lapel with the words 'Not Again' written on it. Ironically, the victims of the Holocaust are now spurring another genocide and this time it is the Palestinians in the midst of the second Nakba.

Understandably, right-wing populism leading to modern-day tribalism is rising again around the world, and it is hard not to look for lessons in the nightmare of Nazism. Albert Speer, Reich Minister of Armaments and War Production for Nazi Germany, underscored Hitler's notion of "personal unhappiness caused by the breakdown of the economy", which he tactfully replaced "by a frenzy that demanded victims". He turned history "into a reservoir of resentments". With the Mark having sunk to an abysmal low in the 1920s, Germany experienced the first instance of hyperinflation in a modern industrial state. The conditions were ripe for a civil war and Hitler waited in the wings to take the reins of the most brutal tyranny that the world had ever seen. Paramilitaries from the anti-democratic south were taking up

arms against working-class soldiers and pro-democratic forces from the more liberal north. Germany was smoldering in a state of civil war.

Hitler's return to Munich following the armistice to his calamitous putsch in 1923, therefore, demonstrates why the city's transformation is crucial for understanding the Nazi era and the tragedy of the Holocaust. The conservative government of Bavaria systematically identified Jews with left-wing radicalism and spearheaded racist attacks on the basis of religion, thereby setting up a fertile breeding ground for the establishment of Nazism and an anti-Semitic ideology. Munich became a hotbed of right-wing extremism, with synagogues under attack and Jews battered in the streets. It was here that Hitler established the Nazi movement and developed his anti-Semitic ideas. Bavaria's capital city became the decadent laboratory for Nazism and the Final Solution.

The Reich government would soon pass the Enabling Act of 1933 that gave autocratic powers to the governing party to bypass Parliament. This legislation gave the underlying impetus to Nazism, thereby buttressing its narrative of challenging a 'Jewish-Bolshevik global conspiracy'. Hitler and his followers began to terrorize Munich's Jews and were aided by politicians, judges, police and ordinary residents. The Jews, in turn, responded to the anti-Semitic backlash in different ways - by declaring their loyalty to the state, by avoiding public life, or by abandoning the city altogether.

To think of the centenary, therefore, might help impede the continuing collapse of democracies across the world. Liberal democracies across the world are germinating into absolutism, and unbridled racism spurs the rise of a political elite, making way for populist demagogues. It is surprising that what took place in Munich and Nazi Germany is repeating itself in many democratic countries, which deem themselves to be egalitarian.

At such a time, it is important to ask: In the last 50 years, has the world progressed on matters of constitutional democracy, or are we stalled - or even moving backward? Are democracies sliding into a cold-blooded sectarianism that borders on repression that can little bear other religions or ways of life? Racial intolerance has indeed raised its ugly head far more starkly than ever before. Innumerable Munichs around the world transmute from liberal diverse societies into cities of discrimination and violence.

(The author is Professor, Dept of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India)

CLEANSE THE SYSTEM

"IF BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, ANOTHER METHOD OF FINANCING POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS HAS TO BE EVOLVED. IT COULD ENTAIL STATE SPONSORSHIP AS WELL AS ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO DONATE TO THE PARTY OF THEIR CHOICE. TRANSPARENCY HAS TO BE THE KEY IN FORMULATING ANY SUCH SYSTEM. THE PRESENT SCHEME OF ELECTORAL BONDS LACKS THIS BASIC ELEMENT. IT TRIED TO SHIFT FROM SIPHONING OFF UNACCOUNTED FUNDS INTO CAMPAIGN CHESTS BUT FAILED TO FULFIL THE OTHER BASIC CRITERIA OF PROVIDING TRANSPARENCY TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN THE ARGUMENT THAT PURCHASES OF BONDS ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL TO ENSURE VOTERS' PRIVACY. IN THE CASE OF INSTITUTIONS OR BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS ESPECIALLY, THIS DEFENSE IS NOT ADEQUATE. SHAREHOLDERS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE SURELY ENTITLED TO KNOW THE WAY IN WHICH THE COMPANY'S RESOURCES ARE BEING UTILIZED. SIMILARLY, CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW AS IT COULD INFLUENCE PURCHASING DECISIONS."



Free and fair elections require full disclosure of information regarding poll funding.

Credit / PTI

Financing of political parties has always been a problematic issue. For many decades, there was tacit acceptance of the fact that illicit money would be used in this process. The image of the politician receiving wads of cash in suitcases has defined the concept of electoral funding. Despite much debate over the need for electoral reforms as well as a system of campaign funding, there was little interest among the political class in changing the status quo. It thus seemed like a breath of fresh air when then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, during a speech in Parliament in 2017, argued for reforming the structure of electoral funding. This paved the way for several legislative amendments and the introduction of the now-controversial electoral bond scheme.

It is this scheme that has now gone up for consideration by the apex court. The bonds themselves are a relatively simple concept. These are interest-free banking instruments that function like promissory notes and can be bought by an individual or institution. They can be redeemed within 15 days in the bank account of a registered political party. The aim of creating this instrument was ostensibly to shift from the anonymous cash system to one that used recognized banking channels instead. In other words, avoiding the use of illicit funds or what is termed as 'black money'.

The fatal flaw in the scheme is the anonymity given to the donor in this process. The information about the donor's name is confined to the public sector bank concerned and such data is available for access by the Central Government. The general public, thus, remains in the dark about the donors to various political parties. This has been justified on the grounds of enabling voters to maintain secrecy over their electoral preferences.

Such an argument is possible for individuals but certainly not for corporates donating to political

parties. Industrial houses have traditionally been agnostic as far as ideologies are concerned though there is always a preference for political parties that could represent stability. This is primarily because the fate of investments and the progress of business interests depends largely on a stable and peaceful political environment. Given the all-pervasive role of the government in determining economic policies right from Independence, it has also always been in the best interests of corporates to maintain a close and harmonious relationship with the government of the day. A reflection of this is the unstinted praise of government policies by chambers of commerce even if decisions taken in the annual Budget, for instance, are privately termed as onerous or unsettling.

In a bid to hedge bets prior to an election also, there has been a tendency for business houses in the past to provide financial support to political parties across the spectrum. It is learnt that sometimes several contestants in a particular constituency have been provided funds. Companies, therefore, cannot be compared with individuals in terms of voter preferences.

The situation has now altered considerably as the government and thus the ruling party are aware of the source of purchasers of electoral bonds. Such knowledge is bound to make corporates wary of supporting Opposition parties and thus creates a skewed political landscape. The data is revealing. According to the Association for Democratic Reforms, the Bharatiya Janata Party received Rs 5,271.9 crore from electoral bonds from 2016-17 to 2021-22 compared to Rs 1,783.9 crore for all other national parties combined. In the case of direct corporate donations, the BJP received Rs 3,299 crore, followed by the Congress with Rs 406 crore.

In this backdrop, the argument can be made that corporates should not be



BY SUSHMA
RAMACHANDRAN

allowed to give donations to political parties. An article in the Harvard Business Review (January 2022) delved deep into this issue. It concluded that in the US, as in India, allowing direct corporate donations to political parties implied that such funds were meant to elect candidates that would do the industry's bidding or support specific causes. It contended it also went against shareholders' interests as most were generally unaware of the nitty-gritty of corporate operations, including donations to political parties. This is also true of Indian companies, where shareholders have extremely limited knowledge about firms in which investments have been made.

Doing away with corporate financing, however, would mean that a more transparent process of funding needs to be established as part of electoral reform. It cannot be carried out in a vacuum. In this context, one has to recall the ban imposed on corporate donations to political parties imposed in 1969 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The only effect this 16-year ban had was to drive campaign funding underground and enhance the role of black money.

If business interests are to be kept away from the political system, another method of financing political parties and their election campaigns has to be evolved. It could entail state sponsorship as well as allowing individuals to donate to the party of their choice. Transparency has to be the key in formulating any such system. The present scheme of electoral bonds lacks this basic element. It tried to shift from siphoning off unaccounted funds into campaign chests but failed to fulfil the other basic criteria of providing transparency to the general public. It is difficult to sustain the argument that purchases of bonds are kept confidential to ensure voters' privacy. In the case of institutions or business organizations especially, this defense is not adequate. Shareholders, for instance, are surely entitled to know the way in which the company's resources are being utilized. Similarly, consumers need to know as it could influence purchasing decisions.

The onus of devising a transparent system of political financing lies with the political class as well as the Election Commission of India. The present government took a bold step in 2017 by bringing funds meant for election campaigns into the light of day. It needs to complete the process of reforms. If it seeks to stick to electoral bonds, then it has to bring in transparency in terms of giving out the source of donations to the public. If it truly seeks to cleanse the system, however, it should be more ambitious and keep big business out of politics.

(The author is Senior Financial Journalist)

Promises, populism and welfare politics at play



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

SOUTH INDIA HAS A HISTORY OF POPULISM IN WHICH THE PRELUDE TO POLLS IS SIGNIFIED BY UNROLLING EXPENSIVE FREEBIES SUCH AS WHITE GOODS.

"Doubtless, the crowning stroke was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement while campaigning in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh that the Centre would continue handing out free foodgrains to the targeted beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013, for the next five years. The declaration was intended to counter the munificence held out by the Congress in its manifestos. The PM's proclamation was expectedly denounced by the Opposition. While the Congress alleged that the scheme mirrored "the continuing high level of economic distress and growing inequalities", the Trinamool Congress maintained that the timing and the occasion were meant to "influence the electorate ahead of the elections and defeat the idea of a level playing field". Ironically, had a Congress dispensation introduced such a scheme, it's doubtful that it would have called it off midway citing improved economic standards."

It's that time of the year when Santa Claus descends from his north Finland abode on a reindeer-powered sleigh, bearing a sackful of gifts for the hopefuls after prudently assessing who gets what and how much so that no soul is left disgruntled on Christmas Eve. The mythical correlative comes close to explaining the milieu prevailing in the five states voting this month. The 'horn of plenty' is overflowing with plentiful



The crowning stroke was PM Modi's announcement of free foodgrains for the next five years.

File photo

populist promises, even as the governments voted to power five years ago on copious pledges are being held accountable for the unfulfilled or partially realized ones, showing the hollowness of a ritualistic enactment in the election season.

Doubtless, the crowning stroke was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement while campaigning in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh that the Centre would continue handing out free foodgrains to the targeted beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013, for the next five years. The declaration was intended to counter the munificence held out by the Congress in its manifestos. The PM's proclamation was expectedly denounced by the Opposition. While the Congress alleged that the scheme mirrored "the continuing high level of economic distress and growing inequalities", the Trinamool Congress maintained that the timing and the occasion were meant to "influence the electorate ahead of the elections and defeat the idea of a level playing field". Ironically, had a Congress dispensation introduced such a scheme, it's doubtful that it would have called it off midway citing improved economic standards.

However, the Opposition justifiably questioned Modi's frequent use of the term *revdi* politics to run down the non-BJP parties when pre-poll promises were unrolled. As long as he was the Gujarat CM, doling out freebies was ruled out. In the 2012 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, when the Samajwadi Party was voted in on the back of a slew of avowals that included an unemployment dole and free laptops to students, those close to Modi asked if such sops would not undermine the confidence of young people by creating a 'parasitic' order.

Now, the parasites are acceptable to the BJP.

Ostensibly inspired by the success of its five mantras in Karnataka, the Congress reprised the incantation in its campaign, notably in Telangana, where it is playing for high stakes as part of a larger game plan to retrieve its southern base. The Congress is up against the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which honed populism to a fine political skill to overcome anti-incumbency in 2018. The south has a history of populism in which the prelude to the polls is signified by unrolling expensive freebies such as white goods that are later gifted away.

Other factors such as the creation of Telangana out of Andhra Pradesh, caste equations and personalities will count in the elections, but populism has been a hallmark of the south. Sonia Gandhi took it upon herself to unspool six guarantees at a rally in Telangana's Tukuguda, covering the entire social gamut from women, peasantry, the homeless, households, freedom fighters to students and pensioners. There was something substantial, at least notionally, for everyone.

The BRS, riddled with corruption insinuations against its first family and patchy governance, must rely on its foundation of welfare politics to win a third term. Hence, its slew of sops and doles, included 5 kg of fortified (not normal) rice through the public distribution system, a life insurance cover for those below the poverty line with the government paying the premium, enhanced amounts for virtually every section and a raise in the flagship Aarogyasri health insurance scheme. Enough for a measure-for-measure play against the Congress? It's a

tough call.

Populism panned out differently in the states, because objective circumstances shaped its play. In Madhya Pradesh, a traditional BJP stronghold since the Bharatiya Jana Sangh era, Hindutva has always cast a long shadow over electioneering. The BJP trumpeted the completion of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Congress's predicament over its ally DMK's in-your-face remarks on Sanatan Dharma and the development of religious corridors in MP's pilgrim centres, while the Congress exhibited its own form of Hindutva, manifest in its CM candidate Kamal Nath's recall of then PM Rajiv Gandhi's decision to unlock the gates of the Babri mosque and allow Hindus to worship the Rama idol ensconced in the 'sanctum sanctorum'.

The spotlight on Hindutva did not preclude the significance of populism in the MP polls. The welfare agendas of the BJP and the Congress are undergirded on gender justice, targeting women. The BJP's CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, unveiled several measures for women, including 35 per cent reservation in government jobs and 50 per cent of teaching positions, not to forget the string of Ladli schemes, encompassing women of all age groups. As a counter, the Congress listed a slew of promises for women in its manifesto, which includes Rs 1,500 monthly assistance, LPG cylinders at Rs 500, loans, housing for rural women and free travel on city buses, following the Karnataka template.

The Congress did not lose sight of the changing demography reflected in the aspirations of the young. Its manifesto promised an MP IPL team, an artificial intelligence center and a dole for the jobless.

Like Telangana, the Congress governments in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, led by Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, respectively, have had to battle perceptions of anti-incumbency, not necessarily against the CMs but their legislators, corruption and an uneven spread of their welfare programs. The answer to welfare is a heavier dose of welfare and Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have not fallen short of promising the moon to the voters.

The joust on welfare boils down to finessing the details. In Chhattisgarh, if the Congress vowed to waive farm loans, offer a higher paddy price and free higher education, the BJP wrapped its manifesto under the title of 'Modi ki guarantee 2023' and resolved to offer annual financial help to married women and LPG cylinders at Rs 500 each.

The question remains: can manifestos help parties reach the finish line first?

(The author is a senior journalist)



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BJANA celebrates a spectacular Diwali

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

FORDS, NJ (TIP): Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) held its spectacular annual Diwali celebration on Nov 5th, 2023, in the ballroom of the Royal Albert Palace, NJ, USA. The event was attended by more than 600 community members from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Delaware. The event was fun and filled with cultural programs, including dance, live band, and singing by the children from the community and adults, exhibitions by sponsors, essential messages by the chief and honored guests, delicious Indian cuisine, and a dance floor.

This vibrant extravaganza featured an array of activities that showcased the rich cultural diversity of Bihar and Jharkhand. The event included captivating dance performances, live music by a talented band, and melodious singing by children and adults from the community. Attendees were also treated to engaging exhibitions by generous sponsors, heartfelt messages from distinguished guests, delectable Indian cuisine, and an energetic dance floor that kept everyone on their feet throughout the night.

Among the esteemed guests, Mayor Charlie Carley of South Brunswick township in New Jersey graced the event as the Chief Guest, extending his warm wishes for a Happy Diwali to all. Furthermore, Honorable the Governor of Jharkhand C. P. Radhakrishnan, the Honorable Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren, and the Honorable Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar conveyed their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the entire Bihar and Jharkhand community in the United States.

Mr. Anurag Kumar, the President of BJANA, took the stage to address the attendees. He emphasized BJANA's ongoing fundraising efforts and charitable activities in the USA, Bihar, and Jharkhand, expressing gratitude to the community members for their active participation and unwavering support for BJANA's philanthropic



The BJANA Family



The young performers



Crowds enjoying the fun



Qawwali time



Young dancers



Organizers pose for a photograph

endeavors. Alok Kumar, the past president of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), called on all community members to join in bidding farewell to Consul General New York, Randhir Jaiswal, on November 20th, and express their gratitude for his services to the Indian community.

Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) honored outstanding individuals during their Diwali celebration in 2023. Dr. Anil Kumar received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his unwavering service to BJANA. Dr. Rupam Saran was awarded for her remarkable achievements and community service. Abhinav Atul from Bihar, India, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the people of Bihar and Jharkhand. These awards highlight BJANA's commitment to acknowledging and celebrating those who have made a lasting impact on the community.

Dr. Avinash Gupta, the Executive Vice President and president-elect of FIA, graced the event with his presence. BJANA congratulated him on assuming the prestigious role of President in the Federation of Indian Associations. Additionally, BJANA President Anurag Kumar extended his congratulations to Vice President Sanjeev Singh for taking on the additional role of FIA Treasurer.

The event featured several captivating exhibits, including "Made in Bihar" by BIHARIKA and "Made in Jharkhand" by JHARCRAFT. These exhibits showcased a wide range of art and handicraft products, including Tribal Ornaments, Brass items, Sikki Works, Wooden works, Tikuli, and Madhubani paintings. These exhibits not only celebrated the rich historical heritage of Bihar and Jharkhand but also promoted the artistry and craftsmanship of the region.

BJANA's Diwali celebration in 2023 will be remembered as unity, cultural exchange, and the showcasing of the rich traditions and talents of Bihar and Jharkhand. The event was a resounding success, leaving a lasting and enchanting impression on all those who had the privilege to attend.

Indian American Susheela Jayapal running for Congress from Oregon

NOVEMBER 6, 2023

OREGON (TIP) : Susheela Jayapal, the sister of Rep. Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian American woman to serve in the US House of Representatives, has announced her run for Oregon's 3rd Congressional District.

She stepped down as Multnomah County Commissioner, a post she held since 2019, to enter the race after longtime Congressman Earl Blumenauer announced his retirement.

It is "more important than ever that we have an unwavering progressive voice in Congress," Jayapal, 61, said announcing her candidacy on Nov 1. She cited community health and safety, abortion rights, climate change, and "standing up to election deniers" as her signature issues.

"I truly believe this is a pivotal time for the district, for the state, for the country in so many different ways," Jayapal told Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). "We came through the pandemic, and where we have landed is in a place where there is more divisiveness than before. At the same time, we've got these challenges here locally where we need federal action and federal help."

Oregon's 3rd District stretches from inner Portland to Hood River and is considered one of the safest Democratic seats in the US House, according to OPB.

Jayapal believes her pragmatic approach to governance is right for the job, despite having only four years of experience in politics.

If elected, she'd be in rare company serving alongside her younger sister, Pramila Jayapal, who is a member of the US House from Washington state and chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Jayapal was elected to represent District 2 on the county board in 2019, making her the first Indian American to win an elected county office in Oregon.

She won a reelection campaign last year. Before joining the board, Jayapal worked as a corporate lawyer, most recently working as the general counsel for Adidas America.

As a commissioner, Jayapal has pushed for immigration refugee services, racial justice programs, homelessness prevention policies and eviction defense support.

In the past year, she's focused on updating the county's contracting practices with nonprofits to ensure that staff are compensated. Most recently, Jayapal has called on the city of Portland to ban the use of lead diesel at the city-run Portland International Raceway.

Jayapal said she's especially proud of her work at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic when she pushed the state to provide equitable access to testing and vaccines in Multnomah County.

She is considering finalizing a contract with an online database company that helps property owners list vacant apartments, making them easier for homeless service providers to find as another top accomplishment.

Jayapal believes limits to her achievements at the county can be overcome by working at the federal level.

"The roots of our homelessness crisis lie in federal disinvestment over decades," Jayapal told OPB. "And we need the federal government to come back into that space in serious ways."

Jayapal believes heightened federal investments in public housing could help begin to dig the Portland metro area out of its expansive homelessness crisis.

If elected to Congress, Jayapal said she'd also want to focus on gun control, access to abortion, LGBTQ+ civil rights and combating climate change.

Jayapal has a unique perspective on the inner workings of Congress due to her sister's six years on Capitol Hill. She said Pramila's experience has offered her a window into the realities of the job - like the frustrations over partisan gridlock, the frequent flights between Seattle and Washington, DC and the vulnerability of being a woman of color on the national stage.

"It is appalling, frankly, what I hear," Jayapal said. "But I also see upfront how worthwhile it feels to be standing up and fighting for the things that you believe in. So, I go into this realistically and also really clear that it's what I want to do."

While her sister's experience and resources in DC may help guide her through a major campaign, Jayapal is resolute that it's her name on the ballot, not her sister's.

"At the end of the day, the campaign is



Susheela Jayapal has announced her run for Oregon's 3rd Congressional District.

about me, and the campaign is about whether I'm the strongest candidate, whether my values align with the voters," she said.

One of the first people to endorse Susheela Jayapal was her sister. "My incredible sister Susheela just launched her campaign for Congress!" Rep. Jayapal wrote on X.

In addition to her sister's backing, she rolled out endorsements from a state senator, two state representatives, and dozens of local politicians and community leaders.

Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.) and former Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Calif.) were the first sisters to serve in Congress simultaneously.

Ten Indian Americans win state and local elections in US



Photo for representation

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): At least ten Indian Americans, almost all of them Democrats, have won local and state-level elections held in several parts of the country, reflecting the growing political empowerment of the ethnic community that constitutes a little over one per cent of the US population.

In Virginia, Hyderabad-born Ghazala Hashmi was re-elected to the State Senate for a third consecutive term. She was the first-ever Indian American woman and a Muslim to be elected to the Virginia State legislature.

Suhas Subramanyam was re-elected to the Virginia State Senate. He was elected to the House of Delegates for two terms in 2019 and 2021. A former technology policy

advisor in the White House during the Obama Administration, Houston-born Subramanian is the first Hindu to be elected to the Virginia House.

Business leader Kannan Srinivasan, who immigrated from India in the 90s, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from the India-American dominated Loudon County area. All three winners in Virginia are from the Democratic party as are the three winners from New Jersey.

In New Jersey, Indian Americans Vin Gopal and Raj Mukherji, both from the Democratic Party, were elected to the State Senate. Indian American Balvir Singh, a teacher, was re-elected to New Jersey's Burlington County Board of County Commissioners.

In Pennsylvania, Neil Makhija, a Democrat, won the coveted position of Montgomery County Commissioner, while Indian American physician Dr Anita Joshi won the West District seat for Carmel City Council seat in Indiana.

Makhija is the first-ever Indian American or AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) to serve on a county's board of commissioners in the Commonwealth's 342-year history.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

IRS provides tax inflation adjustments for tax year 2024

NOV 9, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service today announced the annual inflation adjustments for more than 60 tax provisions for tax year 2024, including the tax rate schedules and other tax changes. Revenue Procedure 2023-34 provides detailed information about these annual adjustments.

Starting in calendar year 2023, the Inflation Reduction Act reinstates the Hazardous Substance Superfund financing rate for crude oil received at U.S. refineries, and petroleum products that entered into the United States for consumption, use or warehousing. The tax rate is the sum of the Hazardous Substance Superfund rate and the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund financing rate. For calendar years beginning in 2024, the Hazardous Substance Superfund financing rate is adjusted for inflation. For calendar year 2024 crude oil or petroleum products entered after Dec. 31, 2016, will have a tax rate of \$0.26 cents a barrel.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN REVENUE PROCEDURE 2023-34

The tax year 2024 adjustments described below generally apply to income tax



returns filed in 2025. The tax items for tax year 2024 of greatest interest to most taxpayers include the following dollar amounts:

The standard deduction for married couples filing jointly for tax year 2024 rises to \$29,200, an increase of \$1,500 from tax year 2023. For single taxpayers and married individuals filing separately, the standard deduction rises to \$14,600 for 2024, an increase of \$750 from 2023; and for heads of households, the standard deduction will be \$21,900 for tax year 2024, an increase of \$1,100 from the amount for tax year 2023.

Marginal rates: For tax year 2024, the top tax rate remains 37% for individual single taxpayers with incomes greater than \$609,350 (\$731,200 for married couples filing jointly). (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with the Eye Foundation of America organizes eye surgery camps



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and the medical team with Dr. VK Raju, Dr. Rakesh Shakya and Ing. Roberto Baldizon at the Eye Camp



Before having their eye surgeries, the patients had thorough check-ups to make sure they were healthy and ready for the procedures.

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with Eye Foundation of America, Hospital Privado in Peten and CONJUVE Guatemala jointly hosted eye camp in Peten, Guatemala from 6-9 November 2023. The camps aimed to provide much-needed cataract eye surgeries to patients from Peten and surrounding areas who have previously participated in Embassy's preliminary ophthalmology camp in April 2023, where around 400 patients received essential eye assessments to identify those in need of further medical attention. During the eye camp in Peten, a significant milestone was achieved as a high number of patients underwent life-changing eye surgeries.

This mission builds upon the foundation laid during the Embassy's preliminary ophthalmology camp in April 2023. During this preliminary camp, the focus was on offering basic eye medical assistance to patients. It was also a critical phase for identifying individuals in need of further eye treatment, including essential eye surgery. Organized in two phases, this eye camp reflected the unwavering commitment of these organizations to improve the visual health and overall quality of life of the patients in Peten. Careful planning and execution were paramount, ensuring that those in need received prompt and comprehensive eye care. This eye camp reflected the unwavering commitment of these organizations to improve the visual health and

overall quality of life of the patients in Guatemala.

The preliminary eye camp in April and surgical procedures from 6-9 November 2023 were carried out by the Eye Foundation of America, led by Dr. V.K. Raju, accompanying by Dr. Rakesh Shakya, along with a team of Guatemalan professional ophthalmologists and an anaesthesiologist, all of whom are generously offering their services free of charge. In a remarkable display of community support, Dr. Edgar Lopez, General Physician from Herrera Llerandi Hospital in Guatemala City, offered his local expertise to the endeavor. He joined Dr. Marroquin, an ophthalmologist from Peten Hospital, in contributing to the eye camp's success. The eye camp took place at Hospital Privado Universitario de Peten.

The Hospital Privado Universitario de Peten's role in partnering the cause was commendable and its invaluable in facilitating this eye camp to help the needy and poor people to get essential eye surgeries. The hospital's commitment to providing comprehensive pre-medical check-ups before surgeries underscores its dedication to patient well-being. Furthermore, the seamless arrangement of essential medical equipment, the setup of advanced microscopes for surgical procedures, and the meticulous logistics coordination within the hospital played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of this noble initiative. The hospital's unwavering support and collaborative spirit have been instrumental in transforming the lives of the patients and fostering community health in the region. Their exceptional contributions to this mission have not only uplifted the quality of healthcare services in Peten but have also become a shining example of humanitarian healthcare efforts.



Doctors, alongside their medical team, performing eye surgeries with expertise and care



Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Rakesh Shakya, skilled hands at work, performing surgery procedures with precision and care.

The Embassy is dedicated to realizing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi, who aims to make healthcare accessible and affordable, not only for our citizens but for the whole world. These eye camps conducted in collaboration with Eye Foundation of America and CONJUVE in various parts of Guatemala have succeeded in bringing positive changes in the lives of the Guatemalan population. These camps have provided essential health care services, including eye care, to those who lack access to proper medical facilities. The successful execution of these eye camps showcases the Embassy's dedication to making a substantial impact on the lives of those in need. By organizing these camps in a meticulously planned, phased manner, the Embassy has demonstrated Government of India's profound dedication to enhancing the vision and quality of life for underprivileged individuals in Peten and surrounding areas. Their proactive approach in partnering with local experts, hospitals, and organizations reflects their steadfast commitment to fostering community well-being and combating eye diseases.



During eye camp, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra also visited a local rural school where preliminary eye checkups were done for more than a hundred students. The camp was organized by Mayor of Flores, Ms. Mayra Altán Palencia

During the visit, the Embassy also organized a visit to a local rural school where preliminary eye checkups were done for more than a hundred students. Similarly, to select patients for future eye camps in the country, the Embassy with the help of local Municipality, Hon'ble Mayor of Flores and Hospital Privado in Peten organized a preliminary eye checkup for the people from the north-east region of Guatemala. Around 200 people participated in the camp.

The Embassy of India and the Eye Foundation of America remain committed in their dedication to collaborating with the local community to combat eye diseases and extend access to high-quality medical care. With a successful completion of eye camp in Peten, Guatemala, the Embassy and its partners are committed to continuing this endeavour in the future. Furthermore, the Embassy is actively engaged in discussions with relevant government authorities to facilitate the provision of artificial limbs to individuals in the local Guatemalan community, with plans for an upcoming camp focused on this essential aspect of healthcare. It is anticipated that this initiative will be organized in the near future.

India to Guatemala: Proposed direct sealine by Safesea Group

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): As Indian corporates line up significant investments in the oil, mining, IT and pharmaceutical sectors in the Central America and Latin American Countries, the Indian Embassy in Guatemala organised a visit to the country by Dr. S.V. Anchan, Chairman of the Safesea Group. The Safesea Group is a global provider of shipping and logistics services with headquarters in the USA, offices across North America, Europe, and Asia, and a presence in over 100 countries.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and Dr. S.V. Anchan meeting with Vice President Castillo Reys of Guatemala

During his visit to Guatemala from 31 October -2 November 2023, Dr. Anchan attended Business Meet organized by the Embassy on 31st October 2023. He shared his insights into his company's prospects in the Central American region. Dr. Anchan highlighted the company's interest in expanding its operations to the Central American market, with Guatemala as a strategic hub. He expressed that his company could be a game-changer in connecting India and Guatemala for exporting products from India. Dr. Anchan also encouraged Guatemalan companies to actively participate in this venture, emphasizing the mutual benefits of this collaboration in expanding trade ties.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and Dr. SV Anchan meeting with Congressman Jonathan Menkos Zeissig

During his visit, Dr. S.V. Anchan had a significant meeting with representatives from Mayan University, which holds a pivotal place in Guatemala's educational landscape. The aim of this meeting was to explore opportunities for collaboration and support in the field of education and student development. During the meeting, Dr. Anchan showcased his commitment to promoting education and uplifting students. He offered an assistance package of US\$10,000, reflecting his dedication to encouraging and empowering students associated with Mayan University. This contribution is not merely a financial one; it symbolizes his belief in the potential and talent of the younger generation in Guatemala. This commitment to supporting education aligns with broader efforts to strengthen the ties between India and Guatemala by fostering cooperation and goodwill across various sectors.

Dr. S.V. Anchan's meeting with Vice President Castillo Reys was a significant step towards enhancing India-Guatemala trade, with a primary focus on the shipping industry. During this meeting, Dr. Anchan presented various proposals and shared his vision for expanding trade relations between the two countries. The Vice President was highly impressed by these proposals, showing a keen interest in further

exploring these avenues.

Dr. Anchan also met Congressman Manuel Eduardo Conde Orellana and Congressman Jonathan Menkos Zeissig (designated Finance Minister in the administration of President elect Mr. Arevalo). The meetings held significant importance in the context of exploring opportunities in the shipping and maritime industry. During this meeting, they discussed two crucial aspects: the establishment of a direct shipping line and the shipbreaking industry. The establishment of a direct shipping line between India and Guatemala initiative holds the potential to significantly boost trade and commerce between the two nations. By creating a direct shipping route, it becomes more efficient and cost-effective to transport goods, fostering stronger economic ties. Another vital topic of conversation was the shipbreaking industry. Shipbreaking involves the dismantling and recycling of ships that have reached the end of their operational life. This sector can be an essential component of a country's economy, offering numerous economic and environmental benefits. The establishment of a direct shipping line can streamline trade, while engaging in responsible shipbreaking practices can lead to sustainable economic and environmental outcomes.



Meeting of Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and Dr. SV Anchan with Congressman Manuel Eduardo Conde Orellana

Indian American New Jersey state Senator Vin Gopal re-elected for third term

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Indian American state senator Vin Gopal has been reelected for a third term in the New Jersey Senate, winning the most expensive legislative races in state history.

The 38-year-old democrat senator defeated his republican challenger, Steve Dnistrian, in New Jersey's 11th Congressional District on Tuesday, garnering nearly 60 per cent of the vote over Dnistrian.

Gopal is currently the youngest member of the New Jersey State Senate and the first South-Asian American to be elected to the Senate in the state's history, according to his campaign.

Polls were open in at least 37 states of the US. New Jersey's legislature comprises the state Senate and Assembly and has 120 members from 40 districts. Each district

has one representative in the Senate and two in the Assembly who serve four and two-year terms, respectively.

All 120 seats are on the ballot in November's general election.

The Republican-leaning 11th District had been a focus of the Republicans this year, with Republicans hoping that a campaign centered on offshore wind and LGBTQ issues in schools would doom the Democrats.

Gopal's seat in the district was one of the top targets of the Republican Party this year.

Until October, Democrats raised USD 3.4 million and spent USD 3.5 million, while Republicans raised only USD 4,60,339 and spent USD 4,44,970. Several outside groups also poured money into the battle, according to the report.

Gopal, first elected in 2017 and reelected

in 2021, received 58 per cent of the votes to 38 per cent for Dnistrian. He attributed his success to his constituent services and bipartisanship.

"You all tonight made history!" Gopal was quoted as saying in the report after the results were announced.

Gopal currently chairs the Senate Education Committee and is the Senate Majority Conference Leader. He previously served as the Chair of the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, according to his campaign.

He is also the Vice-Chair of the Senate Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee and a member of the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he created a districtwide organization of business, community, church, and non-



Vin Gopal has been reelected for a third term in the New Jersey Senate defeating his republican challenger, Steve Dnistrian

profit leaders to address the challenges of the coronavirus to the local economy.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Gopal holds a master's in public administration from Rutgers University and a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University.

India likely to get electric air taxis by 2026

InterGlobe Enterprises, which backs India's top airline IndiGo, and U.S.-based Archer Aviation will launch an all-electric air taxi service in India in 2026 that will be "cost-competitive" with on-road services, the companies said Thursday, Nov 9.

The partnership, should they get regulatory clearances, aims to capitalise on a growing need for transport solutions in the world's most populous country that is battling severe ground travel congestion and pollution in its main cities.

Archer Aviation, backed by the likes of Chrysler-parent Stellantis, Boeing and United Airlines, makes electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft that have been touted as the future of urban air mobility.

These 'Midnight' e-aircraft can carry four passengers and a pilot for up to 100 miles (roughly 161 kilometers). The service aims to start with 200 aircraft and begin in Delhi, the national capital, Mumbai, the country's financial capital, and Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley.

The companies said that a trip that typically takes 60 to 90 minutes by car in Delhi, for example, will take about 7 minutes in an air taxi.

InterGlobe Enterprises, which owns nearly 38% of IndiGo-parent InterGlobe Aviation as well as hospitality and logistics businesses, also plans to use the e-aircraft for cargo, logistics, medical, emergency and charter services.

Archer secured a \$142 million-deal from the U.S. Air Force in July to provide six Midnight aircraft and said in October it would launch an air taxi service in the UAE. *Source: Reuters*

Need benches for quick trial against MPs and MLAs, says Supreme Court

KOLKATA (TIP)

Saying that criminal cases pending against members of Parliament and State Legislatures "have a direct bearing on our political democracy", the Supreme Court on Thursday, Nov 9, asked High Courts to set up special benches to monitor trials in over 5,000 such cases for their speedy disposal.

Issuing a slew of directions to HCs and trial courts for fast-tracking cases against MPs and MLAs, a three-Judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said criminal cases "punishable with death or life imprisonment" should be given priority, followed by "cases punishable with imprisonment for five years or more, and then...other cases".

The bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said the trial should not be adjourned, "except for rare and compelling reasons".

The SC noted that "as many as 5,175 subject cases (were) pending" against MPs and MLAs "as of November, 2022". "Of these, cases that are pending for more than five years are as many as 2,116, which is more than 40% of such pendencies," it said.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

"There is a compelling need to make every effort to ensure that these cases are taken up on priority and decided expeditiously. Confidence and trust of the constituency in their political representative, be it an MP or MLA, is necessary for an interactive, efficient and effective functioning of a parliamentary democracy. However, such confidence is difficult to expect when figures, as indicated in the above referred table, loom large in our polity," the court said.

"In fact, there are no two views about the compelling need to take up and dispose of the subject cases expeditiously. We have no doubt in our mind that even the political representative, be it MP or MLA, involved in the prosecution would also seek a quick disposal of these cases," it said.

Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria, amicus curiae in the case, said he was hopeful that fewer persons with criminal records would enter Parliament after the court's order. "I really hope so," the CJI responded.



Pointing to "multiple factors" which "influence the early disposal" of cases, the SC said "this, coupled with their dissimilarity from state to state, makes it difficult... to form a uniform or standard guideline for trial courts... to dispose of these cases".

"We deem it appropriate to leave it to the HC to evolve such methods or apply such a measure that they deem expedient for effective monitoring," the SC said.

In its directions, the SC asked the HC Chief Justices to register a suo motu case with the title, "In Re designated courts for MPs, MLAs", and said the case "may be heard by the Chief Justice, or a bench assigned by him".

"The special bench hearing the suo motu case may list the matter at regular intervals as felt necessary. The HC may issue such orders or directions as necessary for expeditious and effective disposal of the subject cases. The special bench may consider calling upon the advocate general or the public prosecutor to assist the court," it said.

The HCs "may require the principal district and sessions judge to bear the responsibility of allocating the subject cases to such court or courts as is considered appropriate and effective" and "may call upon the principal district and sessions judge to send the report at such intervals as it considers expedient," it said. *Source: The Indian Express*

UGC notifies regulations for foreign universities to set up campuses in India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Wednesday notified the regulations for foreign universities to set up and operate their campuses in India with complete autonomy to decide their admission process and fee structure.

The draft of the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023 was released by the commission in January this year.

The guidelines have been prepared in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that has envisioned that top universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India.

UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said, "The regulations aim to facilitate the entry of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) into India...and to provide an international dimension to higher education in India." "These regulations aim to ensure that the education imparted in the (India) campus is at par with that of the main campus in the country of origin and that its operations comply with the applicable laws and regulations," he said.

According to the regulations, "Foreign institutions intending to establish campuses in India should have secured a position within the top 500 in the overall category of global rankings, as



decided by the commission from time to time, or should have secured a position within the top 500 in the subject-wise category of global rankings and should possess outstanding expertise in a particular area..."

In case an FHEI desires to receive or utilise foreign contributions, it will have to obtain registration or prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and comply with legal requirement under the FCRA, the UGC stated. In their Indian campuses, foreign universities will be allowed to offer study programmes leading to the award of certificates, diplomas, degrees, research and other programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels.

CBI a separate entity, have no control over it, govt tells SC

PATNA (TIP)

Underlining that the CBI is an "independent legal person" with a "separate legal identity outside the Union of India", the Centre on Thursday, Nov 9, questioned the logic of the West Bengal government filing an original suit against it to stop the agency from probing cases in the state after the general consent was withdrawn.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta told a Supreme Court bench of Justices B R Gavai and Aravind Kumar that the independent existence of the CBI "is in fact a product of the judgments of" the apex court, "wherein the CBI was vested with a separate legal and functional identity".

The Centre said that while the CBI is the real party against which the state sought relief, it had not made the agency a party and had instead roped in the union government, as an original suit under Article 131 of the Constitution can be filed only in cases of disputes between the Centre and states. Mehta contended that as such, the suit was not maintainable.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal who appeared for West Bengal, said the suit "has nothing to do with the CBI, which" he said "is only a repository of that power".

"It is one thing to say that the CBI's superintendence is with the CVC. But it's quite a different thing to say that the CBI has nothing to do with union government. Of course it does, it was created by the government's notification." Sibal said.

Appeal filed against death penalty to 8 Navy veterans by Qatar court: MEA

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that an appeal has been filed in the case involving eight retired Navy personnel, who were sentenced to death by a Qatar court last month. Sources pointed to the likelihood of the matter being heard by a higher court before the end of the month.

Addressing a media briefing on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said, "Qatar's court passed a judgment on October 26 in the case involving eight employees of Al Dara company." He could not give additional details because "the judgment is confidential and has only been shared with the legal team". "They are now pursuing further legal steps and an appeal has already been filed. We will also remain engaged with the Qatari authorities in this matter," he said. Bagchi also urged everyone to refrain from "engaging in speculation" due to the sensitive nature of the case. "The government is actively keeping tabs on the case and diplomats at the Indian Embassy in Doha again met the detainees on November 7. We are in touch with their family members too," he said. The eight former Indian Navy personnel, employees of a Doha-based company, were arrested in August 2022 for alleged espionage and sentenced to death last month. *Source: TNS*

Winter session of Parliament from December 4

The winter session of Parliament will begin on December 4 and continue till December 22 with 15 sittings, the government said on Thursday, Nov 9.

"...Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to discussions on legislative business and other items during the session," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on X.

It is likely to be the last full-fledged session of the 17th Lok Sabha as the General Election is scheduled to be announced in March 2024. The government will present the interim Budget during a curtailed Budget session of Parliament in February 2024.

The government is likely to seek Parliament's approval on a Bill for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners during the winter session. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill-2023 was listed during the special session of Parliament in September. However it could not come up for consideration. It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the monsoon session in August, and is awaiting passage in the Upper House before it is sent to the Lower House for consideration and passing.

Bihar House okays Bill to hike caste quota to 65%

PATNA (TIP)

Seventy-five percent of government jobs and education seats in Bihar shall be reserved for people from marginalised castes and economically weaker sections, the state's legislative assembly decided on Thursday (November 9).

Legislators passed Bills increasing the extent of caste-based reservation from 50% to 65% through voice vote on, PTI reported.

Added to the 65% caste-based reservation, the EWS quota takes the total reservation in the state to 75%.

Reservation increased by the following amounts: from 12% to 15% for other backward classes (OBCs), from 18% to 25% for extremely backward classes (EBCs), from 16% to 20% for Scheduled Castes and from 1% to 2% for Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Outside of the caste-based quotas, the remaining 10% of reservation, which is for people from the economically weaker sections of society, is in effect under the provisions of a separate legislation, the state government said according to the Indian Express.

The Bihar assembly's latest decision comes a little over a month after the state government released the results of a socio-economic caste survey it conducted in two phases starting in January this year.

According to data from the survey, OBCs and EBCs make up 27.13% and 36.01% of Bihar's population, respectively.

SCs constitute 19.65% of Bihar residents and STs 1.68%.

General or 'upper' caste groups are 15.52% of the population.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar said that his government will find more ways to use the survey's results, PTI reported.

"I will be glad if the [Union government] too agrees to a caste census and [hikes] reservations across the country," Kumar added, according to the news agency.

The BJP's Bihar unit extended its support for the increase in legislation, the Hindustan Times reported.

However, unit chief Sushil Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah have alleged discrepancies in the survey data.

Kumar has responded by saying, "Those who say their caste numbers have come down or some castes have inflated figures are talking trash. This is the first caste survey after 1931. How do they know their numbers without any study?"

The state government's survey also sought to measure the



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar arrives to attend the Winter session of the State Assembly | PTI

socio-economic conditions of Bihar's population.

It found that about 94 lakh families – or 34.13% of the total 2.76 crore families in Bihar – are economically poor and earn less than Rs 6,000 a month.

Kumar announced a slew of welfare benefits for poor families in the state after tabling the survey's result in the Bihar assembly on Tuesday (November 7).

The reservation legislation passed on Thursday will become law after obtaining assent from the state's governor Rajendra Arlekar.

The percentage of quotas does exceed the 50% ceiling imposed by the Supreme Court in its 1992 Indra Sawhney judgement.

Some states, such as Tamil Nadu in the south and most states in the north-east, have reservations that cross the apex court's 50% ceiling.

But in other cases, such as that of Maharashtra, attempts to cross the halfway mark have been struck down by the judiciary.

The Congress party, which is a member of the INDIA opposition alliance that Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United) likewise belongs to, is also a proponent of caste surveys and has promised to legislate the 50% ceiling away if elected to power in the 2024 general election.

MP polls: '53% Congress, 28% BJP candidates have criminal cases against them'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Despite serious concerns and Supreme Court directives, political parties continue to field candidates with criminal cases with impunity in elections across the country. In Madhya Pradesh, which goes to polls on November 17, as high as 53 per cent of Congress candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves in their poll affidavits, while 28 per cent of BJP candidates have declared such cases against themselves.

Significantly, 27 per cent of Congress and 10 per cent of BJP candidates have declared serious criminal cases against themselves, a joint analysis of the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Madhya Pradesh Election Watch (MPEW), shows.

Also, the major parties have taken care to field wealthy candidates, highlighting the role of money power in the crucial polls. Among the major parties, 200 (87 per cent) of 230 candidates analysed from BJP and 196 (85 per cent) of 230



candidates analysed from Congress have assets over Rs 1 crore (crorepatis). Similarly, 39 (59 per cent) of 66 candidates analysed from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and 54 (30 per cent) of 181 candidates analysed from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have declared assets valued at more than Rs 1 crore.

Of the total 2,534 candidates analysed, 727 (29 per cent) are crorepatis. In 2018 polls, of the 2,716 candidates, 656 (24 per cent) were crorepatis.

The ADR and MPEW have analysed

the self-sworn affidavits of all the 2,534 candidates, who are contesting in the Madhya Pradesh 2023 Assembly Elections. Of the 2,534 candidates analysed, 711 are from national parties, 103 are from state parties, 553 are from registered unrecognised parties and 1,167 candidates are contesting independently.

Overall, of the 2,534 candidates analysed, 472 (19 per cent) candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, which is higher than in 2018 Madhya Pradesh Assembly Elections, when 464 (17 per cent) of 2,716 candidates analysed had declared criminal cases against themselves.

In all, 291 (11 per cent) of all candidates have declared serious criminal cases, which is the same as in 2018 elections percentage wise. Among other parties, 18 (27 per cent) of 66 candidates from AAP and 16 (9 per cent) of 181 candidates analysed from BSP have declared serious criminal cases.

Source: The Week

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 10 TO NOVEMBER 16

10 NOVEMBER



2001 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

2013 The famous Rajasthani language litterateur Vijaydan Detha passed away.

1978 Rohini Khandilkar became the first woman to win the National Chess Championship.

2008 India won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy by defeating Australia 2-0.

2008 Giving strategic depth to India-Qatar relations, the two countries signed the Defense and Security Agreement.

11 NOVEMBER

1888 Freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was born in Saudi Arabia.



1973 The first international postage exhibition started in New Delhi.

1889 Freedom fighter Jannalal Bajaj was born in 1889.

1943 Indian nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar was born in 1943.

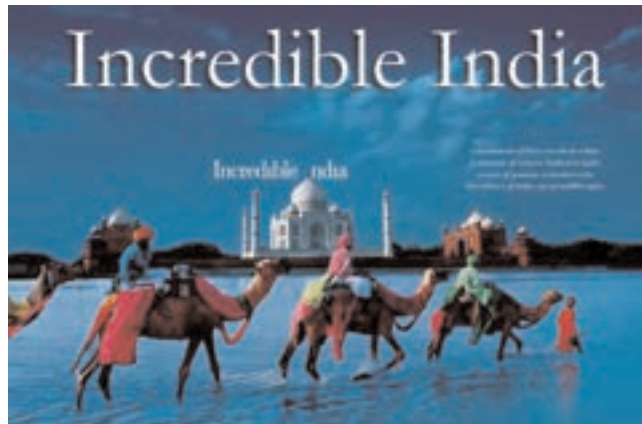
12 NOVEMBER



1946 Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, founder of Banaras Hindu University and honored with Bharat Ratna, died in Uttar Pradesh.

1927 Mahatma Gandhi made his first and last visit to Ceylon.

2009 To promote tourism in India, the 'Incredible India' campaign of the Central Government was awarded the World Travel Award.



13 NOVEMBER

1780 Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh was born in Gujranwala, Pakistan.



2009 In Jharkhand, Naxalites have killed seven people including outgoing MLA Ramchandra Singh.

1892 Storyteller, prose writer Rai Krishnadas was born.

14 NOVEMBER

1681 East India Company announced to become a separate princely state of Bengal.

1889 India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was born. Children's Day is celebrated on the occasion of his birthday.



2006 The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan agreed to create an anti-terrorism mechanism in New Delhi.

1955 Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was inaugurated.

1958 Children's Day was officially announced on the occasion of the birthday of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

2009 15 coaches of the Mandore Superfast Express

derailed near the Banskho gate in Jaipur, killing 6 passengers.

15 NOVEMBER

1949 Mahatma Gandhi's assassins Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte were hanged on this day.

1982 Acharya Vinayak Narhari Bhave alias Vinoba Bhave died on this day.

1986 The country's female tennis player Sania Mirza was born.



1777 Confederation article adopted by Continental Congress.

1830 Social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy left for England.

1989 Former veteran Indian player Sachin Tendulkar made his Test debut against Pakistan. He played the last Test on 14 November 2013 against the West Indies.



2000 Jharkhand became the 28th state of India.

1875 India-born freedom fighter Birsa Munda, a tribal leader, was born.

16 NOVEMBER

1846 Akbar Ilahbadi, the famous poet of Urdu, was born.

1973 Batminton player Pullela Gopichand was born.

1996 Mother Teresa received honorary US citizenship

1995 Vasudev Pandey Trinidad and Tobago of Indian origin became the Prime Minister.

1931 Indian cricket umpire R. Ramchandra Rao was born.

2007 The severe cyclonic storm 'Cedar' from the Bay of Bengal caused severe devastation in the country of Bangladesh.

1930 Mihir Sen, the famous long distance swimmer of India, was born.



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Dhanteras or Dhanatrayodashi



The auspicious festival of Dhanteras, also known as Dhanatrayodashi, marks the beginning of the five-day Diwali celebrations. This year, it falls on November 10. The first day of the Deepavali festivities is known as Dhanteras

Dhanteras, the festival which marks the beginning of Diwali, will be observed on November 10, this year. The day is regarded as auspicious for purchasing valuable items including electronics, kitchenware, and silver and gold jewellery to welcome Lord Kubera and Goddess Lakshmi-both of whom are represented as wealth and success in Hindu mythology. 'Dhan' denotes wealth, and 'Teras' denotes the thirteenth day of Krishna Paksha. The festival, which marks the beginning of the five-day Diwali festival, is also known as Dhanatrayodashi and Dhanvantari Trayodashi. It is celebrated on the 13th lunar day of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu calendar month of Ashvin or Kartika.

This year, the Dhanteras puja muhurat is scheduled to last from 5:47 pm to 7:43 pm, or almost two hours. Flowers, garlands, and prasad like lapsi or atta halwa, coriander seeds combined with jaggery, or boondi laddoo can be offered to the gods. Goddess Lakshmi, Ganesha, Dhanvantri, and Lord Kubera are worshipped during the puja. Goddess Saraswati, Goddess Maha Lakshmi, and Goddess Maha Kaali are the three forms of Goddess Lakshmi that are worshipped during the puja. As indicated by the name, Dhanteras meaning is the celebration of wealth and prosperity. It is believed that on Dhanatrayodashi day, Devi Lakshmi emerged with other treasures during the Churning of the Ocean (Samudra Manthan). Thus, this is why Dhanatrayodashi is dedicated to worshipping Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, and Lord Kubera, treasurer of the world. People pray to Goddess Lakshmi for a prosperous life, the fulfilment of desires and the well-being of their families. It is also customary to purchase new things, and bringing valuables home on this day suggests that Goddess Lakshmi Herself has arrived into the house, bringing wealth and prosperity for the whole year. Precious metals bought on the day are seen as a sign of good luck. In addition, Lord Kubera is also worshipped on this day. The best place for Dhanteras diya direction should be on South West, Flame of Dhanteras diya is for God Yama.

Dhanteras is not just about financial riches; it's also about spiritual richness and family connection. On that day, everyone in the family arrives at the ancestral house. Grandparents and parents await the arrival of their sons, daughters, and grandchildren from faraway locations. On this day, the first Diwali lamps are lighted. People put up paper lanterns with festoons to announce the advent of Diwali. On this evening, clay diyas are lighted to ward off bad spirits.

Accordingly, for people less inclined to material advantages on this day, they can instead turn inwards and enrich their spiritual wealth by immersing themselves in meditation, practice of yoga and other religious sadhanas as this is an equally auspicious day for the practice of any of these. It should be remembered that Goddess Lakshmi blesses with abundant inner wealth too and actually She holds the key to open our Sacred Hrit Padma Chakra at the very core of our Selves. As you turn out to be more aware, you begin to manifest more of your real nature, and abundance is part of it. As a result, being enlightened also means becoming more settled in the material world and ultimately, wealthier.

NATIONAL AYURVEDA DAY

The Indian Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy declared Dhanteras as the 'National Ayurveda Day,' which was first celebrated on October 28, 2016. According to Hindu Mythology,



Lord Dhanvantari appeared at Samudra Manthan, carrying a Kalasha full of Amrit (the Ayurvedic herbal mix granting immortality) in one hand and also the holy Ayurvedic scripture in the other. He is regarded as the Vaidya (Physician) of the gods, and as the God of the Health and the God of Ayurveda too. Devotees who remember Lord Dhanvantari on Dhanteras are said to be free of all illness. On this day, Brahmin women in South India (particularly Tamil Nadu) prepare 'Marundhu,' which translates as 'medicine.' The Marundhu is presented during the prayer and consumed before dawn on Narak Chaturdasi. In fact, many families pass along Marundhu recipes to their daughters and daughters-in-law. The Marundhu is used to correct tridosha imbalances in the body.

WHAT TO DO & WHAT THINGS TO BUY ON DHANTERAS

Dhanteras is a favourable day to invest in precious metals such as gold, platinum, and silver. Henceforth this day holds special importance for traders and businessmen who purchase gold, silver or other precious metals on this day. Generally, people prefer Dhanteras day to invest or buy gold bars, and jewellery. They also shop for new clothes on this day as any

purchases made on this day symbolise prosperity and good luck. Traditionally, women buy gold, platinum or silver jewellery on this day. At the very least, homemakers purchase new metal utensils of steel, brass and copper for their kitchen. Donating metals on this day is also considered auspicious. The day also sees weighty purchases of appliances and even automobiles. By all means, the spirit of the day is aimed at increasing wealth and prosperity, which is deemed favourable no matter what the investments are. Most people complete all purchases for Diwali on this day.

In the morning, women make rangolis at the entrance of their homes to welcome Goddess Lakshmi. Businessmen and traders renovate and decorate their shops and offices on this day too. Sometimes, tiny footprints are etched with rice flour and gulal powder to symbolise the arrival of the Goddess. Sweets are offered to the Goddess during the day. Sweets are made from Suji like Sheera or halwa and offered as Prasad. Almonds, other seeds, milk and sugar, are also offered as Prasad. Sweet banana or carrot preparations are also prepared in certain regions. Panchamrit is prepared on the spot in certain areas. It's made using honey, sugar, ghee, yogurt, and milk in equal proportions. It is eaten and shared after being offered to the Gods.

Prasad of lightly pounded dry coriander seeds with jaggery is also given to the gods during the day. It is then given to family members, neighbours, and friends. This brew is mostly made in Maharashtra. On this day, cows are worshipped too in various parts of the country. They are washed properly, and fresh food is given to them. Cows bring good fortune and usher prosperity.

DHANTERAS STORY

Several legends prevail about Dhanteras. In many parts of India, the Dhanteras puja date is celebrated as Yama Triyadoshi or Yama deep daan. According to a legend, King Hima was worried because his sixteen-year-old son was predicted to die of snakebite four days after his wedding. Then the young prince's bride devised a clever idea to stall Yama, the God of death.

On the third night, she had her attendants light up earthen diyas inside her palace, bathing it in light. She also laid out all her jewellery, gems and silver coins outside her husband's sleeping chamber. The young princess kept her husband awake by telling him stories, singing to him and involving him in a game of cards. When Lord Yama came at midnight in the form of a snake, he was so spell bound by the lights and the dazzling jewels that he could not go into the prince's sleeping chamber. He stretched out on top of gold coins and listened to the princess's stories and songs. In the morning, Yama the snake, quietly slithered away, impressed with the commitment of the princess. The young prince's life was extended owing to his bride and the day was celebrated as Yama Triyadoshi and Dhanteras in the kingdom. After this legend, there evolved a tradition of purchasing gold and silver coins stamped with images of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on Dhanteras.

According to the Bhagavata Purana, on this day, Lord Dhanvantari emerged from the sea with a pot of nectar or Amrit during the churning of the ocean. Lord Dhanvantari is the originator of the science of Ayurveda and the physician of the Gods. An avatar of Lord Vishnu, Lord Dhanvantari is worshipped on Dhanteras for good health and wellbeing. More significantly, another legend states that on this day, Goddess Lakshmi came out of the ocean during the Samudra Manthan and therefore, she is invoked on this day for attaining her blessings.



Narak Chaturdashi or Choti Diwali



Narak Chaturdashi is an important Hindu festival that is celebrated on the day prior to Diwali all over India. It is also called 'Choti Diwali'. It is a festival that is dedicated to the Lord of Death, who is called Yamraj in Hindu mythology. It is also the day that the demon king called Narakasura was killed by the trio of Krishna, Kali, and Satyabhama. A lot of religious rituals, beliefs, and festivities are associated with this special day.

Naraka Chaturdasi, the second day, also known as Chhoti Diwali, will be celebrated on 11 November. The 'deepdaan shubh muhurat' will begin at 05:29 pm and end at 8:07 pm on 11 November.

Narak Chaturdashi is celebrated to commemorate the winning of good over evil. People believe that on Narak Chaturdashi, Goddess Kali and Lord Krishna defeated and killed the demon Narak. During the Brahma Muhurta, Lord Krishna is said to have taken an oil bath after destroying the demon.

This is why taking an oil bath with all the proper procedures before daybreak is seen to be very lucky. An auspicious day to ward off all evil and negative energies from one's life is Narak Chaturdashi. It is a day of fresh starts when we put an end to our sloth and lay the groundwork for a successful future.

Tale of the demon Narkasura

Narkasura was an evil who used his supernatural talents to make it difficult for all the priests and saints to dwell in harmony. His torment had escalated to the point that it was nearly hard to keep him in check. Things went from bad to worse when he kidnapped 16 thousand women of the Gods. The saints and priests resorted to Lord Krishna for rescue, bearing every imaginable torment that Narakasura could inflict on them. All the anxious saints and priests were promised by Lord Krishna that justice would be administered to the guilty individual. Narkasura was cursed to die at the hands of a lady.

So, very ingeniously, Lord Krishna enlisted the help of his wife, and in the month of Kartik, on a Krishna paksha on the 14th day of the waning Moon, Lord Krishna ultimately brought about justice by slaying Narakasura. The 16 thousand hostages were released once the Devil was defeated. Patraniya was the name given to these 16 thousand hostages.

Following Narakasura's death, on the new Moon of the month of Kartik, people burn diyas to commemorate Narak Chaturdashi and Diwali.

The Tale of Bali

This tale vividly depicts Lord Krishna's blessing to Dataraj Bali. In this, Lord Krishna adopted the form of a dwarf and covered the entire kingdom of Dataraj Bali in three steps between the 13th day and the new Moon. When King Dataraj Bali saw this, he generously granted the dwarf king his whole realm. Following this, the dwarf king requested a boon from King Bali. After being granted a boon, King Bali told that, in the time frame between the 13th day and the full moon, his kingdom should survive the test of time and shall stay for those three days, and everybody who celebrated Diwali in his kingdom shall be rewarded with prosperity and plenty."

After hearing King Bali's desire, Lord Krishna was impressed, and he fulfilled it by making it a reality. From that day on, the custom of fasting on Narak Chaturdashi, doing Puja, and lighting diyas became a reality.

People commemorate Goddess Lakshmi or Yamraj on Narak Chaturdashi and arrange pujas to honour them. There is a strong notion that if one can please Yamraj, one will be spared from death. On this day, people lighted diyas to wish for greater health and longevity. Many folks put colourful diyas outside their main entrances at night.

Celebrations

According to folklore, Narakasura is believed to have asked Lord Krishna for a boon. He had asked that anyone



who takes an auspicious bath or mangalsnan on this day will not suffer in hell. He was granted the boon by Lord Krishna and, from this day on, devotees started taking a bath before daybreak on the dark fortnight of Ashwin. That is how the celebrations of the day begin.

Some also believe that when Lord Krishna returned home with a tilak from the slain demon Narakasura's blood on his forehead, Nanda gave him an auspicious bath. The women expressed their happiness by doing ovalani or moving lamps around his face.

Rituals

Early Morning Holy Dip

Being the harvest festival, people massage themselves with herbal oils like til (sesame) oil before taking a holy bath, known as abhyanga snan, early in the morning in a sacred river. It is believed that this oil will protect them from the clutches of misfortune and poverty by washing away sins and negative vibes. It is also said that this improves blood circulation and also improves the health and texture of the skin. Alternatively, a paste made from besan, kesar oil, milk, some aromatic oil, haldi, and chandan can be massaged all over the body as an ubtan before washing it away with cold water.

Dressing Up In New Clothes

As on all auspicious days, wearing new clothes and ornaments after a holy bath is mandatory. It signifies new beginnings, a fresh and positive start to the year ahead. And it is the same for this auspicious day as well. That apart, Choti Diwali rangoli is an essential element of the festivities.

Worship Lord Krishna

Paying obeisance to Lord Krishna by offering mantras and flowers is considered essential to receive his divine blessings. Some devotees also offer respect to the deity of their clan to overcome negative forces.

Tantrics Should Learn Mantras

Some believe that people who want to be associated with tantric activities should initiate themselves to learning the relevant mantras on this day.

Puja vidhi

- Keep a chauki on the place you've designated for performing the Narak Chaturdashi Puja and spread a red cloth on the flat surface.
- Place Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi's photograph or idols on the chauki.
- Next, place a small plate on it and keep some silver coins in it.
- Prepare a puja thali comprising 11/21 earthen diyas, pour mustard or til oil in them. Then, place cotton wicks in them vertically in a way that half of a wick is submerged in the oil while the other half stays outside.
- Keep the thali on the chauki.
- Use the roli to draw a swastika at the centre of the thali and then place a four-faced earthen lamp at the centre of the swastika.
- Place some sugar in each of the lamps. Alternatively, you can also use murmura (puffed rice), kheer, or makhana (fox nuts).
- Light the four-faced lamps first, followed by all the other lamps in the thali. It is said that when you burn the lamp of Yama as per Narak Chaturdashi puja vidhi, everyone belonging to your household should strictly stay indoors and not venture outside.
- Now it's time to start performing the Diya Pujan. Put tilak on Lord Ganesha, Goddess Lakshmi, and Goddess Saraswati. Then, stick some rice on the tilak.
- Do puja of the silver coins with rice and roli, followed by a puja for all the earthen lamps.
- Next is the time for Ganesh Lakshmi Panchopchar puja.
- Show the earthen lamp to the deities and then the dhoop (frankincense sticks).
- Next, offer itra to the deities, followed by sweets and then flowers.
- Leave the four-faced lamp in the thali and place the remaining seven lamps outside the main entrance and other places around your house.
- Recite Lakshmi mantra "Shreem Swaha" at least 108 times.
- Offer jap in the lotus feet of Goddess Lakshmi to usher in peace and prosperity to you and your family with the Narak Chaturdashi Puja.



Diwali – Festival of Lights



Diwali is the Hindu festival that symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". The festival will be celebrated on November 12 this year

Diwali is considered the 'Festival of Lights.' It is also known as Deepavali. According to the Hindu methodological legend, it falls in the autumn harvest and is dedicated to the various Gods and Goddesses. According to the ancient calendar, Diwali falls on Amavasya or new moon day on the 15th day of Kartik Month every year. It falls in the month of October or November as per the English Calendar. In 2023, Diwali is on Sunday, Nov 12.

There are different reasons behind the celebration of Diwali. One common thing behind the various reasons is the 'Triumph of Good over Evil'. As per the most famous legend, the northern part of India observes this day as the occasion when Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita, brother Lakshman and Hanuman, returned to Ayodhya after defeating the demon Ravana. Since the night they came back was a no-moon day (Amavasya), that is why people light earthen pots on the night of Diwali.

On the other hand, South Indians celebrate the occasion as the day when Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura.

Further, it is believed that Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi tied the knot on this day. Alternate legends also claim that Goddess Lakshmi was born on the new moon day of Kartik month.

Let's explore the most famous Legends behind the Celebration of Festival of Lights.

The Incarnation of Goddess Laxmi

Goddess Laxmi, who is considered the Goddess of Wealth, was incarnated on the new moon day (Amavasya) of the Karthik month, during the great churning of the ocean called Samudra Manthan. According to Hindu mythology, it is said that on the day of the new moon, when Diwali is celebrated, Goddess Lakshmi emerged from the ocean during the process of churning by demons and deities. This endeavour was undertaken by them in order to obtain the Amrit.

This is the reason that Diwali is dedicated to the worship of Goddess Lakshmi since the day is regarded as her birth anniversary. The legend further stipulates that on this day, the divine Goddess visits the earth and blesses her devotees with insurmountable riches. Lamps are illuminated in every household so that the Goddess can easily find her way around, and fireworks are lit to ward off the evil spirits. Devotees worship her by doing Laxmi Puja.

Lord Vishnu Rescued Lakshmi

Lord Vishnu, in his 5th incarnation as Vaman avatar, is said to have rescued Lakshmi from the prison of legendary King Bali. Bali was a well-known king but was over-ambitious. He once had prisoned the Goddess Lakshmi. Lord Vishnu was the one who rescued the Goddess Lakshmi. This is another reason behind the celebration of Diwali and worshipping Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu on and around Diwali.

The Return of the Pandavas

Another legend of Diwali is found in the Mahabharata. The 5 Pandavas, namely – Yudhishtira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva, had lost everything they had in a game of dice (gambling) playing against Kauravas. When they left with nothing to bet, they were punished with 12 years of exile or vanvasa. During these 12 years, Pandavas lived in hardship. Also, it is believed that on the day of Amavasya of Karthik month, they had returned back to their kingdom. When they returned, people who loved Pandavas lit earthen lamps across the kingdom and distributed sweets in order to welcome them. After that day, this day is celebrated as Deepavali by lighting



earthen lamps.

The Victory of King Rama

The most important legend attached to Diwali is Lord Rama. As per the Holy book Ramayana, on the day of Diwali, Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita, brother Laxman and devotee Hanuman, returned to his kingdom Ayodhya after 14 years of exile or vanvasa. Rama was sentenced to exile to fulfil a promise of his father given to his stepmother. Being an obedient son, Rama left his kingdom Ayodhya along with his wife Sita and brother Laxmana. During these 14 years, they stayed in a jungle or van with lots of hardship and struggle and defeated the demon king Ravana.

When Lord Rama returned to Ayodhya after 14 years, it was the day of the New moon. The people of Ayodhya decorated the whole kingdom with earthen lamps and lights to welcome their beloved prince Rama. This tradition from that day continues on the same day till now.

Coronation of the King Vikramaditya

According to the people of ancient times, the first day of Diwali was not celebrated in some regions in ancient times but started celebrating during the reign of one of the greatest Hindu King, Vikramaditya. On the day of his coronation, the people of the kingdom lit the earthen lamps to welcome their new king to the throne and show their joy and happiness. After this day, the tradition of lighting earthen lamps on the day of Amavasya of Karthik month continues.

Traditions that are followed during Diwali

Lighting diyas and lamps

To represent the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, people light traditional oil lamps called diyas and decorative candles in their homes and surroundings.

Rangoli art

To decorate homes and greet guests, intricate patterns and designs are made on the floor using colourful powders, rice or flower petals. No Diwali celebration is complete without the beautiful colours of rangoli.



Bursting firecrackers

Traditionally, fireworks and crackers are used during Diwali celebrations to represent the triumph of light over darkness. However, nowadays people avoid burning crackers due to environmental concerns.

Exchange of gifts

On this day, people visit their families and friends and it is customary to exchange gifts and sweets as a gesture of love and goodwill.

Decorating homes

Homes are cleaned and adorned with colorful decorations, flower garlands and strings of lights to create a festive atmosphere. This is because it is believed that the goddess Lakshmi will only visit homes that are clean.

Worship of Lakshmi

To obtain the blessings of the Goddess of Wealth for prosperity and abundance, devotees offer prayers or pujas to the Lakshmi. Pujas are also performed in homes, workplaces and shops.

Feasting

During this festive period, special Diwali sweets and savoury dishes are prepared and shared with loved ones.



Bandi Chhor Divas: Day of Liberation



Bandi Chhor Divas is a Sikh celebration that commemorates the day the sixth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Hargobind released 52 Hindu Kings from Gwalior Fort, who had been imprisoned by Mughal Emperor Jahangir

Diwali and its associated festivals are celebrated by Indians across the world with great joy and enthusiasm.

The festival is celebrated by Hindus to commemorate the return to Ayodhya of Lord Ram from his 14 years exile and after successfully defeating and killing the demon King Ravana who has kidnapped Devi Sita, the wife of Lord Ram.

The day also holds a great significance for the Sikhs since it was on this day in 1619 that the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Hargobind, returned to Amritsar from Gwalior where he had been imprisoned by the Mughals. In Sikh history and culture, it is the second most important day after Baisakhi in the month of April that signifies the creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Guru Hargobind had been imprisoned in the Gwalior Fort on orders of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. The reason for the young Guru's imprisonment was no more than religious bigotry and apprehension of the Emperor and the Mughals about the popularity of the Sikh religion and its growing military power. The Guru's father, and fifth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Arjan Dev, had been martyred for similar reasons of religious bigotry.

While in Gwalior Fort Jail, Guru Hargobind came into the acquaintance of 52 Hindu Princes imprisoned there due to evident cases of political persecution and exploitation. They were interned under deplorable conditions by the oppressive Mughal regime. The Guru spent his time in prison looking after them and became their spiritual mentor.

The Sikhs celebrate this day as Bandi Chhor Divas i.e., "the day of release of detainees", because the sixth Nanak had agreed to his release on the condition that the other fifty-two detainees would also be released. These other fifty-two detainees were the vassal kings who had done something to annoy the emperor.

Emperor Jahangir had imprisoned the sixth Nanak because he was afraid of the Guru's growing following and power. The Sikhs on this day, which generally falls in October-November, hold a one-day celebrations in the Gurdwaras. So in the evening, illuminations are done with Deewé (earthen oil lamps) or candles and fireworks. The celebrations are held both in the Gurdwaras and in homes.

The story of Diwali for the Sikhs is a story of the Sikh struggle for freedom. From the time of Guru Nanak (1469 – 1539), the founder of Sikhism, popular seasonal or folk festivals like the harvest festival of Vaisakhi, or ancient mythological festivals like Holi and Diwali, or worship rituals like Aarti, began to take on a new significance for the Guru's students, the Sikhs. The Guru used these festivals and special days e.g. first day of each lunar month, as



symbols or pegs for his teaching themes. And so the Sikhs were slowly diverted from darkness of superstitious ritualism based on fear and ignorance to an enlightened ideology based on reason and belief in One Creator. The enlightened ideology of Guru Nanak gave new significance to ancient festivals like Diwali and Vaisakhi

So what about Diwali, the festival of lights when, according to Indian lore, Lord Rama returned home after destroying the demon god Ravana who had taken away Rama's wife, Sita? The story, of course, has no significance in the Sikh tradition. However, in the Sikh struggle for freedom from the oppressive Mughal regime, the festival of Diwali did become the second most important day after the Vaisakhi festival in April.

The Sixth Guru Hargobind, was freed from imprisonment in the famous fort of Gwalior by Emperor Jahangir in October, 1619. The reason for the young Guru's imprisonment was no more than religious bigotry. The Guru's father, Guru Arjan, had been martyred for the same reason. According to Sikh tradition, the Guru agreed to be freed only if the other Indian chiefs (rajahs) imprisoned with him were freed. Jahangir was under pressure from moderate but influential Muslim religious leaders like Hajrat Mian Mir, a friend of the Guru. So he relented grudgingly and ordained, Let those rajahs be freed who can hold on to the Guru's coat tails and walk out of prison. He had in mind no more than four or five being freed with the Guru. However, the Guru was not to be outmanoeuvred in this way. He asked for a special coat to be made with 52 coat tails - same number as the rajahs in prison with him! And so the

rajahs were freed and the Guru became known popularly as the Bandi Chhor (Deliverer from prison). He arrived at Amritsar on the Diwali day and the Har Mandir (now known as the Golden Temple) was lit with hundreds of lamps i.e. he was received in the same way as the Lord Rama and the day came to be known as the Bandi Chhor Divas (the day of freedom).

Guru Hargobind reached Amritsar on the eve of Diwali, after his release from Gwalior fort, during the reign of Jahangir. The People illuminated the Golden Temple and the city splendidly to celebrate the return of their Guru to the city. Thereafter, Diwali is being celebrated at Amritsar with great pomp and show, and also with a lot of religious fervour.

During the fair, religious congregations are held at Manji Sahib, Akal Takhat and Baba Atal which continue for three days. A large number of poets and singers also participate. Recitation of Granth Sahib is done at Darbar Sahib, Akal Takhat and various gurdwaras in the vicinity of Golden Temple. Early in the morning, pilgrims take a holy dip in the sacred tank, while reciting Japji Sahib and thereafter, they go to the Golden Temple for paying their obeisance. They make offerings of various kinds both in cash and kind, such as flowers, candy-drops and parched-rice grains, but mostly the offerings are of karah parshad, which is prepared and sold to the pilgrims by the management. Circumambulation of the tank is considered sacred by the pilgrims.

Illuminations and pyrotechnic display are the unique features of the Diwali celebrations. A mammoth gathering in

the parikarma and on the adjoining buildings witness to their great delight the multicolored lights thrown up in the sky and their reflections in the water of the tank. Chain of the electric lights hang along the causeway and on the Darshani Deorhi. Small earthen lamps lighted and fed with sarson oil are arranged in lines all around the tank. All buildings in the compound are bedecked with coloured lights. Candles and small earthen lamps fed with pure ghee are floated in the tank.

This fair is attended by people in the large numbers who come from far and near. A large number of visitors take shelter in the verandahs of the various buildings in the premises. All local inns, rest houses and other common places are packed to capacity. The free mess, called Guru Ram Dass Langar, remains open for all. The whole function is organised by Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandhak Committee. During the fair, qualified doctors render free medical service to the pilgrims.

Thenceforth, the Sikh struggle for freedom, which intensified in the 18th Century, came to be centred around this day. In addition to the Vaisakhi day (now in April), when Khalsa, the Sikh nation was formally established by the Tenth Guru Gobind Singh, Diwali became the second day in the years when the Khalsa met and planned their freedom strategy.

Celebration Of Bandi Chhor Divas
On the occasion of Bandi Chhor Divas, Sikhs observe a one-day celebrations in the Gurdwaras. In the evening, illuminations are lighted with Deewé (earthen oil lamps) or candles and fireworks are also bursted. Such celebrations are held both in the Gurdwaras and in homes.



Diwali celebrations around the world



One of the most grandiose festivals for Hindus is Diwali or Deepavali. It is celebrated to commemorate the triumph of good over evil. It is also popularly known as the Festival of Lights. The name Deepavali is a Sanskrit word that translates to "row of lights."

The festival involves lighting lights or diyas as well as exchanging presents and sweets. This extravagant Hindu festival is observed not just in India but all across the world. Here is a list of foreign countries that celebrate Diwali.

Fiji

Fiji, the small island country in Melanesia, celebrates Diwali just like India. With a significant Hindu population living there, Diwali is celebrated as a public holiday, and people celebrate the festival by throwing parties and exchanging gifts.

Mauritius

Diwali is celebrated with great enthusiasm at Mauritius as this country have great Indian crowd. The Diwali celebrations at Mauritius is as good as in India. The festival of lights- Diwali is celebrated in October/November. Diwali marks the victory of Rama over Ravana and also commemorates Krishna's destruction of the demon Narakasuran. Earthen oil lamps are placed in front of every home turning the island into a fairyland of flickering lights.

Mauritius is a beautiful landmass full of picturesque landscapes and enchanting spots. Mauritius accounts a 63% of Indian majority of which 80% follow Hinduism. Hence, celebration of almost all the Hindu festivals in this island is a common phenomenon. In Mauritius, Diwali celebration is an age-old tradition. Beautiful rows of twinkling candles and lamps of all sorts are lit all over the island to celebrate the return of the hero of the Ramayana, Rama, from his 14 years of exile.

Besides celebrating the victory of good over evil and light over darkness, the little flickering lights also symbolize the beginning of summer. The main day of the festivities is seen as a particularly auspicious day for merchants to make up their accounts and balances for the previous year, to go unburdened into the next. After the morning prayers, Hindus share sweets prepared specially for the occasion with family members, neighbors and friends of any faith, in accordance with the multicultural spirit of Mauritius.

Nepal

Surrounded by majestic Himalayas, Nepal, is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society and the only Hindu Kingdom of the world. Hindus in Nepal celebrate the Diwali festival with bright lights, gift exchanges, fireworks, and elaborate feasts to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of light and wealth. Various houses and shop front in Katmandu, Nepal, displays the bright lights typical of Hindu communities during Diwali. Diwali is celebrated here with the usual Hindu festivities and rituals. Diwali in Nepal is

New York



Sydney



Dubai



known as Tihar. Just like most places in India Diwali is celebrated here to honor the goddess of wealth and god of prosperity-Lakshmi and Ganesh respectively. The festival here continues for five days. Every day has its special significance. The first day is dedicated to cows as they cook rice and feed the cows believing that goddess Lakshmi comes on cows. The second day is for Dogs as the Vahana of Bhairava. Preparation of delicious food especially meant for the dog is a typical characteristic of the day. Lights and lamps are lit to illuminate the entire surrounding and some of the specialty items are prepared to mark the third day of the festival. Fireworks, Lamps and crackers are widely used. The fourth day is dedicated to Yama, the Hindu God of Death. He is prayed for long life. The fifth final day is Bhhaya Dooj dedicated for the brothers who are wished long life and prosperity by their sisters.

Indonesia

The name Indonesia came from two Greek words: "Indos" meaning Indian and "Nesos" meaning islands. The majority of population in Indonesia follows Islam. Hindus constituent about 2% of Indonesia's total population. However, the Indonesian island of Bali is famous for celebrating the festival of Diwali, as a majority of the population

the traditional aspects of Diwali such as games, fireworks, singing and dancing, but the tradition of a large meal is admirably preserved.

Britain

The Indians are the second largest ethnic minority in Britain. To get rid of the feeling of missing their homeland, especially during festival times, the Indians here celebrate most of the festivals. In Britain, as in India, the Diwali festival is a time for thoroughly spring-cleaning the home and for wearing new clothes and most importantly, decorating buildings with fancy lights. The British city of Leicester is noted for its Diwali Festival celebrations.

The occasion of Diwali is marked by visit to the local temple to worship the shrine of goddess Lakshmi. The festival here is celebrated according to the Hindu solar calendar, in one of the cold, damp and windy months in Britain. But still the enthusiasm of the festival celebration makes the task of leaving small lamps on windowsills or by open doorways possible ignoring the chill. The Lamps and Diyas play their part in maintaining the atmosphere of Diwali in the home.

Australia

Australia the wonderful island country on Indian Ocean has an estimated 100000 Indians as settled in Australia. Most of them are the follower of the Hindu religion. Though, some of the Indians here are recent arrivals that belong to the affluent sections of the Indian society. Due to the large number of Hindu here, Diwali is one of the major festivals that is celebrated with great enthusiasm. The lightening of lamps and diyas on Diwali is a common practice. However, the non-availability of the appropriate material of or some other reason have influenced the celebrations and has given in the touch of modernity in the celebration of the festival of light.

United States

Diwali will now be officially recognised as a holiday in the US state of Pennsylvania. State Senator Nikil Saval announced on Twitter that the Pennsylvania State Senate had passed a bill to recognize the festival of light, and expressed his gratitude to Greg Rothman for the opportunity to introduce the bill. The legislation to recognise Diwali in Pennsylvania was passed unanimously by a 50-0 vote.

South Asian residents in Pennsylvania consider Diwali to be a time of reflection and gathering, and thousands of Pennsylvanians celebrate the festival each year, including many residents of the 34th Senatorial District. The official recognition of Diwali sends a clear message of inclusion to the state's nearly 200,000 South Asian residents.

Starting in 2023, Diwali will be a public school holiday in New York City as well. Mayor Eric Adams earlier emphasised the importance of inclusivity and encouraged children to learn about the festival of lights.

here are Indians. It is one of the most revered festivals of the locals here. The celebration and rituals of the festival is mostly similar to that celebrated by their counterparts in India.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is on the extreme southeastern point of India. Related to the epic of Ramayana, Diwali holds a special importance for the people here. The festival is marked by illumination, making of toys of enamel and making of figures out of crystal sugar popularly known as Misiri. The sugar crystals take the place of sweets. Hindus light oil lamps to invite the blessings of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Burning of crackers in the evening of the festival is a common practice of this festival. Srilanka's celebration may lack many of



Govardhan Puja



Govardhan Puja, also known as Annakut or Annakoot, is a Hindu festival celebrated on the first lunar day of the bright fortnight of the month of Kartika, on the fourth day of Diwali. Devotees worship Govardhan Hill and prepare and offer a large variety of vegetarian food to Krishna as a mark of gratitude.

Govardhan Puja (Tuesday, November 14, 2023) is one of the many Hindu festivals of India. This unique festival is also called Annakut or Annakoot. It is celebrated in different parts of India, in various ways. Out of that, the Braj Bhumi area (in Uttar Pradesh, India), which includes Mathura, Vrindavan, Nandgaon, Gokul, and Barsana, celebrate Govardhan Pooja with fervour as all these places are connected to Lord Krishna. This is the day of thanksgiving to Lord Krishna, the Govardhan Hill and Godhan (Cow). The devotees, especially the Vaishnava sect, prepare and offer a large variety of delicious vegetarian food to Govardhan Hill, a representation of the divinity of Lord Krishna as a sign of thanksgiving.

So, on the day of Govardhan Pooja, Lord Krishna and nature are worshipped and it is said that those who worship the Govardhan Hill (Giri) and Lord Krishna's favourite, Cows, on this day, get the blessings of Lord Krishna.

In the state of Maharashtra this day is celebrated as Bali Pratipada or Bali Padva, which has the story of Lord Vishnu's Vamana avatar and King Bali. The day of Shri Krishna Govardhan puja also coincides with Gujarati New Year.

Govardhan Puja is celebrated on the first day of Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik (October-November). Generally Govardhan Pooja falls on the next day after Diwali and is celebrated as to commemorate the day when Lord Krishna chastised Lord Indra, the King of Heaven.

Since Diwali is a 5 days celebration, Krishna Govardhan Puja falls on the 4th day of Diwali. The initial days of Diwali are spent by devotees invoking the divine to bless with wealth, prosperity and abundance, the day of Diwali Govardhan puja allows devotees to offer gratitude.

The Bhagavata Purana narrates that Lord Krishna lifted the Govardhan Hill to save the villagers of Vrindavan from the torrential rains showered by Lord Indra. The Govardhan Hill served as a shelter for all the residents of Vrindavan. Lord Krishna is also called Giridhari because of this incidence of Him lifting the Govardhan Hill, which is known as Giriraj (King of Hills). The incident indicates how the Lord protects all of His devotees who surrender and take singular refuge in Him, which is an important sign of Govardhan Puja. It is believed that Govardhan Puja is celebrated when the incidence of Lord Krishna lifts the Govardhan Hill took place. The festival is observed predominantly by the Vallabh Community (Pushtimarg), the Gaudiya Sampradaya of Chaitanya, and the Swaminarayan community.

GOVARDHAN PUJA STORY

The residents of Vrindavana used to worship Lord Indra and offer sacrifices too. Once young Lord Krishna asked his mother, Yashodaji, why everyone worshipped and performed sacrifices for Lord Indra. Yashodaji explained that because Lord Indra showers ample rain for food grains, crops and fodder for the Cows. Young Lord Krishna replied by saying, instead of worshipping Lord Indra, the Govardhan Hill should be worshipped as the Cows grazed on the grass which grows there. The Lord convinced his father, Nanda Maharaja, to forgo the sacrifice to Lord Indra and instead worship Govardhan Hill.

He explained to Nanda Maharaj and the villagers that it was the grace of Mother Nature that rain showers and everyone benefits from it. Lord Krishna explained it is mother nature who creates, nurtures and destroys and in that case, Lord Indra did not have any part to play. He requested everyone to stop performing sacrifices for Lord Indra and worship Govardhan Giri (hill) instead.

On the behest of Lord Krishna, the residents of Vrindavan stopped performing ritualistic sacrifices to



Lord Indra. Lord Indra is said to have a high-handed attitude. So, when He saw that the sacrifices in honour of Him have ceased, the heavenly King got furious and brought forth heavy rains there, which made everyone fearful and threatened. Seeing the plight of the villagers, and the cry of the villagers for help, Lord Krishna lifted the Govardhan Hill, with His little finger and held it up to shelter all of them against the torrential rain.

Lord Krishna stood lifting the Govardhan Hill for seven days as Indra continued His revenge act, with devastating rainfall all over Vrindavana. Not a person or creature was hurt due to the Divine umbrella of The Govardhan Hill. Finally, Lord Indra realised that it was Lord Krishna Himself who was holding up the hill. Lord Krishna from whom He gets his powers, He at once fell at the Lord's feet and apologised for his mistake. Thus Lord Sri Krishna shattered the arrogance of Lord Indra and showed that He was the source of power for all and He will always save those who surrender on His Lotus feet. Shri Krishana Govardhan Puja is just a small way for devotees to offer their gratitude to the Lord.

All over India, Diwali Govardhan puja is celebrated in different ways of worshipping Lord Krishna. In Vrindavan, Mathura, Gokul, Nandgaon and Barsan, where the celebrations of Krishna Govardhan puja is at its peak, the Krishna temples are decorated with flowers and light decorations. Devotees participate by singing devotional bhajans/kirtans and being a part of the divine Govardhan puja aartis during its muhurat.

Lord Krishna's idols are adorned with jewellery, new clothes and flower garlands. On this day of the Annakut festival, a special wide spread of vegetarian food, fruit and sweets, the 'Chappan Bhog' (56 different dishes of food), are offered to the Lord, which is presented to Lord by stacking them up like a hill. It is said that Since Lord Krishna stood with the Govardhan Hill held as a shelter for seven days without eating or drinking anything, the women cooked 56 dishes to offer to Lord Krishna. The Govardhan Hill story is heard or recited. It is a day to chant the name of Lord Krishna, sing His praises and bathe in the divinely joyous atmosphere. It is said that anyone who chooses to be sad on this day, will remain so for the rest of the year and vice versa.

Devotees in Vrindavan visit the Govardhan Hill and perform puja there, too to pay their obeisance. They celebrate Govardhan Puja at home too. They make food items made of cereals like wheat, rice, curry of gram



flour and leafy vegetables are offered to Lord Krishna to Thank Him.

In the villages of India, Cows are worshipped on this day. The Cows are bathed and decorated with flower garlands and worshipped. The celebration of this Puja Iskcon is done on a grand scale. On this day, Iskcon temples all across the world offer the delicious 'Chappan Bhog' to Lord Krishna, which is stacked like a hill in front of the Idol of Lord Krishna, who is adorned with Giridhari Alankara. This is the reason why Govardhan Pooja is also called Annakut/ Annakoot festival. Later the Bog is distributed to the devotees.

On this day, Govardhan Puja Aarti is performed, and the air is resplendent with beautiful renditions of special Govardhan Puja Bhajans sung by devotees etc. The floral decorations of the Iskcon temples are a sight to behold on this day of thanksgiving. In some Iskcon temples, models of the Govardhan Hill are made with vegetarian cake, as a mark of respect and gratitude. Cows are decorated and worshipped, which is called Godhan puja. Thousands of devotees visit the Iskcon temples to experience the remarkable celebrations and offer their prayers to Lord Sri Krishna on Krishna Govardhan Puja.



Bhai dooj: Bond between brother and sister



On the day of Bhai Dooj, which is an auspicious day, the sisters put tilak on their brothers forehead and pray their long life. The brothers therefore promise the sisters to protect them from all dangers and to stand by their side forever.

Bhai Dooj is a festival where sisters offer prayers to seek blessings from God for the well-being of their brothers. This festival is celebrated on the second day of the Shukla Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik (October-November).

As per the Drik Panchang, the muhurat for the festival is set to commence on November 14 and will continue through November 15.

On the day of Bhai Dooj, which is an auspicious day, the sisters put tilak on their brothers forehead and pray their long life. The brothers therefore promise the sisters to protect them from all dangers and to stand by their side forever. If we break the meaning of Bhai Dooj, it stands out as Brother and two days after the moon. Here, Bhai means brother and Dooj means two days after the new moon. On this day Ayusha puja done brings in long and healthy life for the person for whom the puja is performed.

Legend behind Bhai Dooj

The story runs that once there lived a brother and a sister in a far away village. The sister was quite elder than her brother and by the time the brother grew up, the sister was already married. So, when the brother grew up he hardly remembered about his sister. Now, it so happened that as he grew up he started missing his sister especially on the day of Bhai Dooj when he saw all the other boys being marked with a tilak on their forehead. The boy finally decided to visit his sister since his sister never came to visit them after marriage. The mother was not quite happy with her son going to meet his sister because there were immense obstacles that lay in the way. The boy started for his journey but in the way the level of water rose and there was also the danger of snakes. The boy requested the river and the snakes to drown and eat him in his return journey because he was now going to meet his sister. Both of them agreed. After this he came across the mountain which started to throw stones at him but there again he started to plead to the mountain to grant his life now so that he could meet his sister. The mountain also agreed to this. Hereafter, as he was about to reach his sisters house a tiger appeared before him who wanted to eat him but he requested the same as he did to others to which the tiger agreed.

Finally after crossing all the hurdles he reached his sisters house and saw her performing the Bhai Dooj puja. She was very elated and happy on seeing her brother after such a long time. She prepared special varieties of delicacies for him and offered him. Gradually with the passing of each day the time of returning to his home neared by and he told his sister the entire things that happened with him while he came to her place. Hearing this she was worried and decided to accompany her brother to home. She packed some meat for the tiger, some milk for the snake, some flowers of silver and gold for the mountain and some rice for the water. And she prayed accordingly to the tiger, mountain, snakes and river and offered them their respective things and in return asked them to not take away her brothers life. They agreed and finally both the brother and sister were very happy. But it so happened that on the way she felt thirsty and since there were some gypsies seen nearby she went there to ask for water. The gypsies predicted that the danger for her brothers life has not ended and many misfortunes are on the way for him. At this she asked them the solution and they told her that his life could be protected if she goes on cursing and abusing him till his marriage is done. She sooner started doing the same and the brother was taken by surprise. They reached their home and even there she continued cursing him. All the people were surprised at her rude behavior and all of them wanted her to go to her husbands house. But she



would not leave. And at the day of his marriage when all the rituals started she demanded that all the rituals should be performed to her first. At her insistence, her mother did the same but was very unhappy with her actions. And it so happened with each ritual being performed on her first, her brothers misfortune was being washed away. Finally, their marriage was complete with the new bride coming home. Now, everyone wanted her to leave the place but before leaving she narrated the entire story to all the members and they were taken by shock. Tears rolled their eyes realizing that she did not care for her own life and worked towards saving her brothers life. And all the people echoed together saying that everyone should have a sister like her. From then the prevalent custom is that the brothers should not go to the sisters house for Bhai Dooj but instead the sister should come home for the occasion.

Each year Bhai Dooj is celebrated on the fifth day of

Deepawali. The sisters perform aarti of their brothers and apply a vermilion mark on their forehead and pray for his well being. In return the brothers gifts their sisters with lavish surprises. There are also arrangements for mouth watering delicacies. Thus, Bhai Dooj is one of the important festivals amongst the Hindus celebrating the bond between the brothers and sisters.

Like all other Hindu festivals, Bhai Dooj too has got a lot to do with family ties and social attachments. It serves as a good time, especially for a married girl, to get together with her own family, and share the post-Diwali glee. Nowadays, sisters who are unable to meet their brothers send their tika - the spot of protection - in an envelope by post. Virtual tilaks and Bhai Dooj e-cards have made it even easier for brothers and sisters, who're far away from each other, specially remember their siblings on this propitious occasion.



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Indian Overseas Congress Celebrates New Leadership and Committee Members in New Jersey

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

FORDS, NJ (TIP): According to a belated report, the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC), on October 8, gathered in New Jersey to observe and commend their recently appointed leaders and committee members. Held at Alberts Palace, this event signifies a noteworthy milestone for the IOC, symbolizing a phase of consolidation under the dynamic guidance of Chairman Sam Pitroda and President Mohinder Singh Gilzian.

In his virtual address to the audience, IOC Chairman Sam Pitroda extended warm congratulations, demonstrating unwavering confidence in their joint mission to combat oppression and social injustice. He also affirmed his presence at the upcoming grand congress event scheduled for November 17 in New Jersey. In a departure from the virtual format, IOC President Mohinder Singh Gilzian was physically present at the event, emphasizing the pressing need to strengthen the IOC's presence both nationally and internationally, while expanding its reach.

During his inaugural address, Pradip (Peter) Kothari, President of the Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey, stressed the paramount importance of fortifying India, the Indian National Congress, and advancing Gandhian ideals rooted in democracy, solidarity, and humanity. Kothari firmly stated that fidelity to these values was non-negotiable and



Recently appointed leaders and committee members of IOC at a meeting

advocated for an inclusive approach to reinforce Indian democracy. Mr. Harkesh Thakur, Chairman of IOC NJ, pledged steadfast support, vowing to continue enhancing the party's influence across the nation while upholding its core tenets.

A diverse array of leaders from various backgrounds were acknowledged by IOC President Mohinder Singh Gilzian, Pradip (Peter) Kothari, and Harkesh Thakur. This varied group included Mukesh Maid as Vice Chairman, Bharat Patel, Mahesh Patel, Anil Patel, Tanzeem Ansari, and Manmit Singh Vasdev as Vice Presidents, and Qayam Masumi as Secretary for the IOC NJ Chapter. These

leaders addressed ongoing challenges related to secularism and democracy in the nation, urging others to step forward and support the Indian National Congress in the upcoming 2024 elections. Arjumand Juweria and Suresh Kamath took on roles as Joint Secretaries, with Rajesh Desai assuming the position of Treasurer, supported by Pompose Shaikh and Kamesh Purohit as Joint Treasurers.

Dipak Valsadia and Harvender Pal Singh were appointed as Public Relations Officers. Special recognition was accorded to Ram Gadula and Dr. Jayesh Patel for their longstanding dedication and contributions to the Indian National Congress.

The newly formed Executive Committee, consisting of Raj Macwan, Vihari Patel, Neeraj Gamadia, Kirit Jakaria, Nandini Kothari, Nina Thakur, Jyoti Ruben, Dave Makkar, Chandrakant Bhatt, Sandeep Bhambri, and Vimal Shah, was also acknowledged. Their diverse expertise holds the promise of contributing a wealth of experience to the IOC NJ Chapter.

Mohinder Singh Gilzian expressed gratitude for the invaluable contributions of the newly appointed leaders and conveyed confidence in their efforts to expand the organization's membership base. He emphasized the pivotal role played by the IOC in upholding the core values and principles of the Congress Party, especially as India approaches critical elections. He called upon all those who hold India dear to stand in solidarity with the Congress and its principles, underscoring the historic juncture in India's trajectory where the future of democracy hangs in the balance. He issued an impassioned appeal to Congress members to rally behind the youthful leader, Rahul Gandhi. The event drew participation from party workers, intellectuals, and media partners.

It evolved into an impassioned campaign meeting in support of the Congress Party, both on foreign shores and within India.

(Report by Qayum Masumi)

Indian American Educationist Uma Sengupta honored with street sign in New York



Late Uma Sengupta has been honored with a street sign bearing her name in Queens, New York

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Uma Sengupta, an Indian American educationist, activist, and community leader, who died in March last year, has been honored with a street sign bearing her name in Queens, New York.

Elected officials as well as friends and family of the trailblazer attended the street co-naming ceremony on Oct 16 at the intersection of 152nd Street and Union Turnpike in the Briarwood section of Queens.

New York Attorney General Letitia James also attended the event. "I was proud to attend the street renaming to honor Uma Sengupta today," she wrote on X. "Uma spent decades fighting for

social, racial and economic justice. She embodied the very spirit of Queens, and now her legacy will not be forgotten."

City Council member James F. Gennaro, who authored the Council resolution to honor Sengupta, said "well known for her activism and decades of community service," she was a trailblazer in the political scene here in Queens and beyond."

"It is my hope that anytime someone comes down 152nd Street and Union Turnpike, they are reminded of the great legacy she leaves behind."

Sengupta's son Sumit described his mother as "a pioneer for women, educators and underserved as well as emerging immigrant groups. She was "affectionately known as the 'mother of the community.'"

The family hopes that the street sign will help "New Yorkers and visitors feel the warmth of a mother's words of encouragement, inspiring them to continue in my mother's legacy of community development, philanthropic service and progress for society," he said.

Sengupta came to New York over 60 years ago with her husband - the late Suprabhat Sengupta - and three children to build a new life. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Ashok Bansal's book "MITTI NU PHAROL JOGIA" released in New York



"MITTI NU PHAROL JOGIA" author Ashok Bansal (seated third from the right) with Punjabi writers, media persons and Punjabi community leaders

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP): A group of litterateurs, media persons and community leaders attended a book release event organized by Balwinder Singh Bajwa as part of Punjab Day celebrations on November 5 at Richie Rich Banquet in Richmond Hill, New York.

The book titled "MITTI NU PHAROL JOGIA" by Ashok Bansal of Mansa in Punjab, India features his research on poets and lyricists who gave memorable songs but have remained obscure. The author spent years trying to gather information about their life and work. While the work by the author deserves to be looked into and enjoyed, it also is a subject to inspire further research to unearth more Punjabi literary artists who have probably been lying buried under the sand of the time, and need to be

unearthed, as Ashok Bansal has done in respect of some in his incredible book "MITTI NU FAROL JOGIA".

I was impressed with the passion of Ashok Bansal for the mother tongue Punjabi. He very rightly emphasized the unifying power of a language which binds people of diverse faiths and beliefs together, rather than being an instrument of divisions. Love of one's mother tongue should be as spontaneous and natural as love for one's mother.

I wish and recommend more literary events of the nature organized by Bajwa ji to bring Punjabi loving people together to express their admiration, respect and love of their mother tongue.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar who claims proudly her Punjabi roots made an appearance and shared her thoughts. Incidentally, she does not understand Punjabi.

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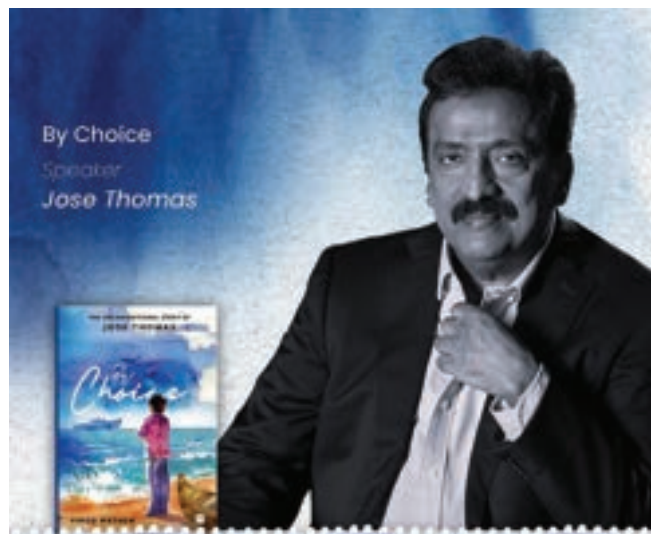
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LITERARY FEST IN BIG APPLE ASSURES RENAISSANCE WEEKEND

BY MABEL PAIS



Jose Thomas, honoree

Credit / iaac.us

Over 60 writers and poets light up New York City to celebrate the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC.us) spectacular Renaissance Weekend November 18-19! The Literary Festival (iaac.us/books) will feature over 60 of the world's most acclaimed Indian authors, influencers, and luminaries. Bring your family and friends to one of the biggest gatherings in North America.

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)'s 2023 Literary Festival, takes place on November 18th and 19th at the Hotel Conrad New York Downtown, 102

North End Ave, New York, NY 10282. The Literary Festival is FREE to the public.

This year's festival is set to be an extraordinary Renaissance Weekend, a celebration of literature, culture, and intellectual discourse. Rub elbows with Pulitzer Prize winners and New York Times bestsellers at the largest gathering of celebrated global Indian talent in North America. Hear inspiring ideas, enjoy illuminating discussions, and make personal connections that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Among the distinguished lineup of authors and thought leaders, IAAC has the privilege of hosting Jose Thomas, recipient of IAAC's 2023 Trail Blazer Award, who will discuss his biography 'By Choice'. Additionally, the festival will feature Pulitzer Prize winner Vijay Seshadri, National Book Award finalist Sarah Thankam Mathews, Grammy-nominated artist, humanitarian, and author Chandrika Tandon and the accomplished actor and Lambda Literary Award winner, Maulik Pancholy amongst 60+ other luminaries from the literary world. In continuation of its honored tradition, IAAC will also host a live Poetry Panel led by poetry curator, Dr. Ravi Shankar. Prabha Khaitan Foundation will be co-presenting two sessions.

"As the Literary Festival Director, my passion is to weave stories and conversations that not only inspire but also highlight the rich fabric of human experiences.", said Preethi Urs, Literary Festival Director.

This literary feast promises to be a weekend of engaging discussions, thought-provoking

conversations, and a celebration of literature. For the complete Festival schedule and session details, visit iaac.us/books.

RSVP

RSVP is required, although all sessions of the event are FREE to attend.

GALA

The weekend culminates in the Annual Gala on November 19th - an appropriate celebration of the holiday season! The event starts at 6 pm at the same venue.

All of the Literary Festival authors and moderators will be attending this gala.

IAAC bids a farewell to its Chief Patron Consul General Randhir Jaiswal before he departs for his new post in India. Trailblazer businessman Jose Thomas will be honored as the 2023 IAAC honoree.

And that's not all - direct from India, the legendary Queen of Indian Pop, Usha Uthup will ignite the stage and get you on your feet with her irresistible music and energy! An evening of dining, dancing, and delight!

TICKETS

Purchase tickets to the Gala at iaac.us/annual-gala-2023.

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)

Learn more at iaac.us.

CHOREOGRAPHIC AUTEUR RETHINKS JUNGLE BOOK



Jungle Book dancers

Credit / lincolncenter.org

BY MABEL PAIS

AKRAM KHAN, choreographic auteur rooted in the Kathak dance tradition (akramkhancompany.net) who has had a two-decade relationship with Lincoln Center producing a half-dozen masterpieces, brings us yet another reinvention.

His latest work, a rethinking of the Rudyard Kipling classic 'The Jungle Book,' updates the original's colonizer-centric perspective to tell the story of the young girl Mowgli as a refugee child stranded by the cruel realities of climate change. This family-friendly and narrative-driven production features an original score by BAFTA and Olivier Award-winning composer Jocelyn Pook, a cast of ten international dancers, and a stage bursting with state-of-the-art animation and visual projections. This is a Jungle Book retold with nuanced beauty and devastating immediacy that expresses a universal need for connection and a deep respect for the natural world.

WHAT: JUNGLE BOOK REIMAGINED

WHERE: Lincoln Center's Rose Theater

WHEN: November 16-18, 2023 at 7:30 pm

FOR WHOM: Ages 10+

RUN TIME: 2 hours, approximately

KEY CREDITS:

Creative Team

Director/Choreographer: Akram Khan

Creative Associate/Coach: Mavin Khoo

Writer: Tariq Jordan

Dramaturgical Advisor: Sharon Clark

Composer: Jocelyn Pook

HEALTH & SAFETY

For health and safety protocols, visit lincolncenter.org/series/lincoln-center-presents/jungle-book-reimagined

TICKETS

To make the arts more accessible, tickets are available on a Choose-What-You-Pay basis. Learn more at lincolncenter.org/series/lincoln-center-presents/jungle-book-reimagined

LEGENDARY EMPRESS OF SOUL PERFORMS IN NJ



Gladys Knight

Credit / njpac.org

BY MABEL PAIS

GLADYS KNIGHT, the Empress of Soul-seven-Time Grammy Award winner, performs live at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, November 12th, at 7:00 p.m. Gladys Knight never disappoints by putting on a high-energy show performing all of her hits that stand the test of time and the songs that everyone knows and loves like 'Midnight Train to Georgia,' 'Heard it Through The Grapevine,' 'That's What Friends Are For,' and so much more.

Knight is one of the most influential soul and R&B voices of all time. Gladys Knight and the Pips joined the famous Motown Records label in 1966 and won three Grammy Awards, and she garnered four more Grammy Awards as a solo artist.

Gladys Knight was bestowed with the National Medal of the Arts for her contributions and influences on American culture. This is the highest

honor given to artists and art patrons by the United States Government.

Knight was born in Atlanta and rose to fame as the lead singer of 'Gladys Knight & the Pips,' later establishing herself as a famous solo artist. Knight has two No. 1 Billboard singles, 'Midnight Train to Georgia' and 'That's What Friends Are For,' which she recorded in 1986 with Elton John, Stevie Wonder, and Dionne Warwick - along with 11 No. 1 R&B singles and six No. 1 R&B albums, the Deseret News reported.

TICKETS

For Tickets to see Gladys Knight, visit the NJPAC Box Office or NJPAC.org or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

Learn more at njpac.org.

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

NOVEMBER LINEUP OF MPAC EVENTS

BY MABEL PAIS

DJ ARJUN PERFORMS BOLLYWOOD HIP HOP, WORLD MUSIC and more

CELTIC THUNDER: ODYSSEY

Friday, November 10, 2023 at 8 pm
'Odyssey' is a fascinating exploration of Irish music and culture, firmly grounded in Celtic Thunder's impressive history, while ambitiously forging new paths.

THE BEACH BOYS

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 8 pm
As The Beach Boys mark more than a half century of making music, the group continues to ride the crest of a wave unequalled in America's musical history.

LIMITED TICKETS

THEATRE OF LIGHT

Sunday, November 12 at 5 pm
(Morristown) - The universal symbol of light will illuminate the rich cultural diversity of Morristown's community when Mayo Performing Arts Center transforms the Vail Mansion Plaza into a "Theatre of Light" on Sunday, November 12 at 5 pm.

Theatre of Light, a free MPAC Arts in the Community event, takes place Sunday, November 12 at the Vail Mansion Plaza, adjacent to MPAC, from 5 pm - 8 pm.

"Theatre of Light is an opportunity to bring together our diverse community and to inspire, engage and connect people from all backgrounds through the magic of the arts," said Allison Larena, President & CEO, MPAC.

The fourth annual Theatre of Light event has been expanded from previous years. A curtain of stars and lights will welcome the community onto the Vail Plaza. Specially lit magical winged dancers will perform while enchanted creatures and puppets roam about in dazzling colors. There will be music, dance, ice carving and craft making. Keep a lookout for Ellie the Elephant.

This year's event will include participation and/or performances from the following community artists:

Lighting by BML Blackbird
Live Henna Painting by Mehndikalogie
Live Ice carving by Okamoto Studio
MPAC Performing Arts Company
Unity Steppers - Morristown Neighborhood House
LED Winged Dancers with LED juggler via Fluxion Entertainment
DJ Arjun - Bollywood- Hip Hop, World Music and more

During Theatre of Light, stop by the "Visit the Star" selfie station and the 'Wishing on a Star' table where you can write your individual wishes that will become an integral part of the evening's light display! Make your own light crown at the crafts area. You can also visit the Morristown/Morris Twp. Library between now and November 12 and write your thoughts at the Theatre of Light display in the library. In addition, refreshments will be available for purchase.

"Theatre of Light is truly a celebration of community," added Kadie Dempsey, MPAC's Community Engagement Director and Principle, Core Creative Placemaking. "We believe that by engaging community in the process, the event takes on a deeper and more meaningful experience for participants and the community."

The event will be held rain, or shine. Rain site will be St. Peter's Parish Hall. MPAC's Theatre of Light is being coordinated by CORE Creative Placemaking. CORE's principles, Morristown residents Kadie Dempsey and Dan Fenelon, create experiences that Inspire, engage and connect.

LEGENDS OF COUNTRY ROCK: FIREFALL, PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE AND RICHIE FURAY

Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8 pm
Enjoy an evening of the best in classic country rock, featuring Firefall ("You Are the Woman," "Just Remember I Love You"), Pure Prairie League ("Amie") and Richie Furay, founder of Buffalo Springfield and Poco ("Crazy Love," "Heart of the Night").

JUDY COLLINS AND MADELEINE PEYROUX (RESCHEDULED FROM SEPT. 21)

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Folk and jazz icons share the stage for an unforgettable double bill of songs and stories. Judy Collins has thrilled audiences with her unique blend of interpretive folk songs, sublime vocals and bold songwriting for six decades. Madeleine Peyroux has become one of the most acclaimed jazz singers of her generation since arriving on the scene in 1996.

MANHATTAN COMEDY NIGHT

Friday, November 24, 2023 at 8 pm
Enjoy some laughs with our popular stand-up series showcasing the rising stars of comedy. Mature content, language. Adults only.

70S VS 80S: THE BATTLE OF THE DECADES

Featuring The Discoteks vs 80's Revolution Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 7:30 pm
Two bands. Two decades. One great party! Disco vs new wave...Donna Summer vs Madonna...Michael Jackson vs. Michael Jackson. The Discoteks play the best of the 70s. The 80's Revolution perform your favorites from that era. The audience decides which decade has the best music!

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS: LIVE ON STAGE

Sunday, November 26, 2023 at 2 pm and 5 pm



A Charlie Brown Christmas

Credit / mayoarts.org

Everyone's favorite TV holiday classic comes to life onstage as Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of the Peanuts characters uncover the true meaning of Christmas. Adapted from Charles M. Schulz's Emmy and Peabody award-winning story, and featuring the unforgettable music of Vince Guaraldi, there's no better way for families to discover the magic of the season!

DEREK HOUGH: SYMPHONY OF DANCE

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:30 pm
EMMY® award winning dancer Derek Hough's first national tour in four years features all-new high-energy choreography, stunning stage production, astounding versatility and, as always, Derek's magnetic stage presence. Fans will journey through a true fusion of dance and music, as Derek explores styles ranging from ballroom and tap to salsa and hip-hop and everything in between. Featuring Hayley Erbert (So You Think You Can Dance).

LIMITED TICKETS

Guest Attraction:

NEW JERSEY BALLET: A NIGHT ON THE TOWN

Friday, November 17, 2023 at 7:30pm
'A Night on the Town' will feature Jerome Robbins' Fancy Free, his first collaboration with Leonard Bernstein, which was the inspiration for the full-length musical On the Town, and George Balanchine's Rubies, which sends dancers racing across the stage to reflect Igor Stravinsky's jazz-inflected piano with movements that incorporate sassy style and sharp attack. Plus additional works.

TICKETS

For Tickets to each of the performances or events, visit mayoarts.org or the box office or call 973 539 008. All Programs are Subject to Change.

THE MAYO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
(MAYOARTS.ORG) - MPAC

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Twitter: twitter.com/MayoCenter
YouTube: youtube.com/user/MayoCenter

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



Kareena Kapoor back in blazing new avatar as Avni Bajirao in 'Singham 3'

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor is now back with fire as she will be making her return as Avni Bajirao in superstar Ajay Devgn's upcoming 'Singham 3'.

Superstar Akshay Kumar also revealed the poster and wrote: "Avni Bajirao Singham returns...mess at your own risk!"

Revealing the poster of her character, director Rohit Shetty wrote: "Meet the strength behind Singham...Avni Bajirao Singham..."

He added: "We first worked together in 2007...3 blockbuster films till now. 'Golmaal Returns', 'Golmaal 3', 'Singham returns... And now we are working on our fourth project...'Singham Again'. 16 year long association. Nothing has changed, Bebo is still the same, simple, sweet, and hardworking."

In 'Singham Returns', Kareena played the character who was Bajirao Singham's love interest and in 'Singham 3' she will now be playing his wife as the movie takes place 10 years after the previous film.

A powerful woman in her own right, Kareena's poster sees her in a bright flaming light with shades of dark, as her character is blazing with collected confidence.

Ananya Panday confirms relationship with Aditya Roy Kapur

Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur have been reportedly dating for quite some time now but the two refrained from acknowledging their relationship publicly till now. However, on the latest episode of Koffee with Karan, which hosted Ananya and Sara Ali Khan, Karan Johar asked her about her relationship status. Even though Ananya did not declare her relationship explicitly, she dropped enough hints for everyone to put the pieces together.

When Karan asked if Ananya had been "Gumraah in love" (Gumraah was Aditya's last theatrical release), Ananya responded by saying, "Aashiqui aise hi hoti hai (such is love)." Aashiqui 2 was the film that shot Aditya to stardom. Karan further prodded and encouraged her to answer by saying that denying a relationship was quite passe. The Liger actor then shared, "Some things are private and special and it should be kept that way but I really want to talk about my professional life because no one's talking about it." When Karan pushed to get an answer again, Ananya said that they were friends. And to the Karan Johar line "pyaar dosti hai", she said, "We're best friends."

Later in the episode, when Sara was asked about the one thing Ananya has that she doesn't, the Atrangi Re actor said, "A Night Manager" referring to Aditya's hit web series The Night Manager. During Ananya's last appearance on Koffee with Karan, the host had hinted that there was something brewing between the two



actors. Back then too, Ananya did not open up about their relationship. The two have been spotted around the city at various events. They were also photographed by fans during their vacation in Europe. Ananya was last seen in the film Dream Girl 2,

alongside Ayushmann Khurrana. She is now looking forward to her debut OTT release Call Me Bae and her film Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, which also stars Adarsh Gourav and Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Source: The Indian Express

Sanya Malhotra-starrer 'Mrs' selected for Critics' Pick Competition

Actress Sanya Malhotra's upcoming film Mrs. has been selected for the 27th edition of POFF — the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. The film also stars Nishant Dahiya and Kanwaljit Singh in key roles. Additionally, the film has also secured a spot in the esteemed Critics' Pick Competition category at the festival.

The festival is currently being held in Estonia's capital city of Tallinn. Mrs. has been directed by Arati Kadav, who is known for films like Cargo and The Astronaut and His Parrot.

The film presents an empowering narrative taking audiences on Richa's (Sanya Malhotra) journey, as she embarks on a pursuit to discover her identity while navigating the demands of the kitchen and the household.

About the film, Sanya Malhotra said, "I am overjoyed to share the news of Mrs.

being selected for the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. This film is very close to my heart, as it is a reminder that women have the strength to shatter the chains of patriarchal norms. My character's determination as an aspiring dancer in the face of patriarchal expectations reflects the resilience of women."

She added, "Working with Arati Kadav (the director) was an incredible experience, her vision and direction brought this story to life in a powerful way. I hope this film sparks important conversations and resonates with audiences as we present it on such a prestigious platform."

Presented by Jio Studios in association with Baweja Studios, the film has been produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Pammi Baweja and Harman Baweja.

Source: IANS





Sharon Stone accuses former Sony executive of sexual harassment

Actress Sharon Stone has claimed that a former head of Sony exposed himself to her during a meeting in the 1980s.

Stone did not name the executive, but she said the encounter was "not the last of many weird experiences" throughout her long career.

Sony Pictures did not immediately return a request for comment from the BBC.

The Oscar-nominated 65-year-old talked about the incident during a podcast with US talk show host Kelly Ripa.

She says she was called to the office of the former "head of Sony" for a meeting when she first moved to Los Angeles in the 1980s. Stone claims the executive told her: "It's true what they say about you and you're the most gorgeous. We haven't seen anyone like you in decades. Everybody's talking about you, and look at you. You're the most articulate. You're so smart and beautiful - and that hair".

"Then he went, came walking right up in front of me, and he said, 'But first,' and he took his penis right out in my face," she said. *Source: BBC*

Mean Girls trailer out: Regina George and The Plastics return with new twists

The highly-anticipated Mean Girls trailer brings back The Plastics and the Burn Book but with a brand new twist. On Wednesday, November 8, Paramount Pictures dropped the first look into their new Mean Girls story reintroducing Regina George, the undisputed leader and Queen Bee of the mean trio famously labeled The Plastics in school. The upcoming film is an adaptation of the 2018 Broadway musical based originally on Tina Fey's 2004 teen comedy. Actress and singer Renee Rapp reprises her role as Regina George from the Broadway show, while Angourie Rice plays the new student Cady Heron this time.

The trailer begins with a fierce disclaimer, "This isn't your mother's 'Mean Girls,'" as Cady manoeuvres through the halls and classrooms of her high school steering clear of the infamous cliques group of girls. But things take a sudden turn when Cady falls for Aaron Samuels, played by Christopher Briney of The Summer I Turned Pretty fame. Aaron happens to be Queen Bee Regina's ex-boyfriend and his equation with Cady seems awkward, fresh, and heart-fluttering all at the same time. Cady attempts to get along with the cliques of her new school but to no avail.

A hilarious scene of her eating lunch alone in the bathroom shows her desperate attempt to get away from the high school drama. "We're concerned you're either doing drugs or having a toilet baby," says Damian (Played by Jaquel Spivey), who is an outcast like Janis (Played by Auli'i Carvalho). Cady, Damian, and Janis soon become friends. The trio is developing plans to help Cady become a member of The Plastics, which includes an insecure Gretchen (Played by Bebe Wood) and sweet yet dimwitted Karen (Played by Avantika Vandanapu).

With Olivia Rodrigo's Get Him Back playing in the background, one of the highlights became the iconic Halloween scene from the original film. Cady's scary look frightens The Plastics, who begin to school her about sluttish Halloween looks. Cady's plan was first to become a member of the Plastics but towards the end, she is seen taking desperate measures to take Regina down.



The trailer takes viewers on a rollercoaster ride of laughter with hilarious scenes of cliché high school kisses and sex education sessions preaching about abstinence and protection.

In brevity, the new Mean Girls aptly retains the essence of its original version by introducing a new generation almost 20 years after the movie hit the theaters. The Paramount Pictures' revised tale is scheduled to be released in January 2024. *Source: News18*

Megan Fox reveals 'horrific' experiences with 'very famous people'

Megan Fox has opened up about her past abusive relationships with some very famous people that she has kept secret.

'Jennifer's Body' actress has written a book of poetry called Pretty Boys Are Poisonous, where she explores themes of abuse and toxicity in her relationships.

She spoke to Good Morning America on Tuesday and said that she had been in at least one physically abusive relationship and several psychologically abusive ones in her life.

"I have only been publicly connected to a few people, but I shared energy with, I guess we could say, who were horrific people. And also very famous — very famous — people," Fox said.

"But no one knows that I was involved with those people."

Fox is engaged to musician Machine Gun Kelly, and has three children with her ex-husband Brian Austin Green.

She told GMA that her fiancé encouraged her to write a poetry book. She also said that she did not publish some of the poems she wrote because they were too revealing for a known person.

"Some of it is too much when you're a known person," she said. "If I had the freedom of just

being a poet and people not really wanting to dig too much into my personal life, I would have included more entries like that."

One of the poems in Pretty Boys Are Poisonous, titled "oxycodone and tequila", describes a scene of domestic violence. She writes about being hit, spit on and choked by a man who is "delusional and possessed".

She writes, "you hit me / again / and again / i recognize the familiar taste of blood on my tongue." She also writes about being covered in scratches and bite marks, and being trapped by the man who falls asleep on top of her. "you fall asleep on top of me so that i can't call my family or the police," she writes.

Fox, who also writes about having a miscarriage in the book, said that some of her poetry is literal and some is allegorical, but "all of it is something women can relate to."

She said that relationships are not pretty, but are complicated and sometimes a war. She said that through a wound, there is a chance to grow and become stronger and more whole.

She announced the book in August and said: "I've spent my entire life keeping the secrets of men, my body aches from carrying the weight of their sins." *Source: HT*



ISRAEL WILL ALLOW A DAILY PAUSE IN GAZA COMBAT, AS US SEEKS A MULTI-DAY BREAK

BUREIJ (TIP): Palestinians living in the heart of Gaza's largest city said on November 8 that the Israeli forces had moved into the inner neighbourhoods of Gaza City and were closing in from all directions.

This has accelerated the exodus of thousands of civilians as food and water continues to be scarce and fighting rages between Hamas' armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, and Israeli troops.

Throng of people filled Salah al-Din Street, Gaza's main highway leading south, on Wednesday, appearing to be in greater numbers than on Tuesday, the United Nations said. The Israeli army claimed that 50,000 people had left north Gaza for the south of the narrow coastal strip on November 8.

Around 15,000 people had fled on Tuesday, compared with 5,000 on Monday and 2,000 on Sunday, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Over 70 per cent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have already left their homes since the war began when Hamas attacked Israel and, according to Israeli officials, killed about 1,400 people, mainly civilians, and seized 239 hostages. Aiming to destroy Hamas, Israel retaliated with a relentless bombardment and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip that, according to the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza, has killed more than 10,500 people, many of them children.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the prospect of a ceasefire in Gaza. (AP)

More than one journalist per day is dying in the Israel-Gaza conflict. This has to stop

DEIR EL-BALAH, GAZA (TIP):

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Gaza-Israel war has been the deadliest conflict for media workers since the organisation began counting statistics in 1992.

At the time of writing, the committee said at least 39 journalists and media workers had been killed in the month since the war began. Reporters Without Borders put the number slightly higher at 41. But the rate of fatalities is so high – more than one per day – it is likely there will be more dead by the time you read this.

The victims are mostly Palestinian journalists and media workers killed in Israel's attacks on Gaza, but they include four Israelis, whom Hamas murdered in its initial cross-border raid on October 7, and one Beirut-based videographer killed in south Lebanon. He died in shelling that also injured six other journalists. Witnesses said the shelling came from the direction of Israel and hit a group of journalists in clearly marked vehicles and body armour.

It is worth pausing for a moment to remember these are not merely numbers. Each of the victims has a name, relatives, loved ones and a story. The committee has a grim list of all those who have been killed, injured or are missing.

The dead include Palestinian freelance journalists working for international news services, and others who work for local news outlets crucial for local understanding of what's happening. Many have died in air strikes on their homes, some alongside their children and families.

The Israeli Defence Forces insist they



do not target journalists, but Reporters Without Borders says at least ten have been killed while clearly covering the news.

Of course, the life of a journalist is worth no more than any other civilian, and in such a horrifically violent crisis, which has already killed more than 10,000 people, it is hardly surprising some of them will be journalists.

But there is mounting evidence journalists have been targeted, harassed, beaten and threatened. A Committee to Protect Journalists list blames Israeli authorities for the vast majority of incidents.

On October 12, Israeli police assaulted a group of BBC journalists in Tel Aviv and held them at gunpoint. The BBC said reporters Muhannad Tutunji, Haitham Abudiab and their BBC Arabic team were driving a vehicle clearly marked "TV" in red tape, and both Tutunji and Abudiab presented their press cards.

On October 16, Israeli journalist and

columnist Israel Frey went into hiding after a mob of far-right Israelis attacked his home the previous day. The mob was apparently angry at a column he wrote expressing sympathy for Palestinians in Gaza.

On November 5, Israeli police arrested 30-year-old freelance Palestinian journalist Somaya Jawabra in Nablus in the northern West Bank. She was summoned, along with her husband, journalist Tariq Al-Sarkaji, for an investigation. Her husband was later released but Jawabra, who is seven months pregnant, remains in detention.

The International Federation of Journalists has called on the Israeli government to rigorously observe international law that requires combatants to take all reasonable steps to treat journalists as civilians and safeguard their lives. The Israeli military has told at least two international news agencies it cannot guarantee the safety of their staff covering the Gaza crisis. (AP)

Israeli official says 'no humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip'

NITZANA (TIP): An Israeli military official on November 9 denied the dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, as a conference to secure aid for the besieged Palestinian territory opened in Paris.

"We know the civil situation in the Gaza Strip is not an easy one," said Colonel Moshe Tetro, head of coordination and liaison at COGAT, the Israeli defence ministry body handling civil affairs in Gaza.

"But I can say that there is no humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip," he told reporters at the Nitzana border post between Israel and Egypt.

Fighting has raged since gunmen from the Islamist group Hamas poured over the Gaza border with Israel on October 7, taking about 240 hostages and leaving more than 1,400 dead, according to Israeli officials.

Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel



retaliated with an aerial bombing and ground offensive that the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says has killed more than 10,800 people, many of them children.

Since October 9, when Israel placed the territory under a "total siege", only very

limited quantities of basic human necessities including water, food and medicine have been allowed into Gaza.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said "the world is witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe taking place before our eyes."

Tetro showed the press where the Israeli military inspected aid entering Gaza through Egypt's Rafah crossing, saying they helped facilitate the delivery of "water, food, medical supplies and humanitarian aid for shelters".

"If we see that Hamas is using the humanitarian aid (that arrives in Gaza), we will stop it," warned Tetro, whose country subjected Gaza, before the recent hostilities, to a strict 16-year blockade after Hamas came to power.

The official said more than 700 trucks have been authorised by Israel to pass from Egypt since October 21, a figure corroborated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

OCHA said 500 trucks crossed everyday into the Palestinian territory prior to the onset of the war, during Israel's strict 16-year-old blockade. (AP)

'Never again' is now: Chancellor Scholz vows to protect Germany's Jews after anti-Semitism upsurge

BERLIN (TIP): Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged November 9 to protect Germany's Jews against a "shameful" upsurge in anti-Semitism in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war, on the anniversary of the Nazi Kristallnacht pogrom that began the Holocaust.

Speaking in a Berlin synagogue that assailants targeted with two Molotov cocktails last month, Scholz said: "Essentially this is about keeping the promise given again and again in the decades since 1945...the promise 'never again'."

The German leader was addressing a ceremony on the 85th anniversary of the Night of Broken Glass or Kristallnacht, a spasm of orchestrated violence that ushered in the Nazi's slaughter of six million European Jews during World War II.

The chancellor said "never again" meant keeping the memory of Nazi atrocities alive, rejecting "terror propaganda" and ensuring that citizens and migrants alike respect Germany's "free democratic order which demands and guarantees diversity and respect".

Scholz said rising anti-Jewish sentiment in Germany, given the weight of its historical crimes, was "shameful" for the country.

"It outrages and shames me deeply," he said.

2,000 anti-Semitic incidents

On November 9-10, 1938, Nazi thugs murdered at least 90 Jews, torched 1,400



synagogues across Germany and Austria and destroyed Jewish-owned shops and businesses.

The pretext for the coordinated action was the fatal shooting on November 7, 1938, of a German diplomat in Paris by a Polish Jewish student.

The Nazis rounded up and deported at least 30,000 Jews to concentration camps and made Jews pay "compensation" for the damage caused to property.

On October 7 this year, Hamas gunmen stormed across the border into Israel, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, in their homes, on the streets and at a rave party.

The deadliest attack since the founding of Israel led it to declare war on Hamas, with Israeli forces heavily bombarding Gaza and sending in ground

troops with the aim of destroying the Islamist movement. The Hamas-run health ministry said more than 10,500 people, mostly civilians and many of them children, have been killed in the territory.

Some 2,000 incidents linked to the Israel-Hamas conflict have been reported so far in Germany, federal police said. Authorities have boosted security around Jewish institutions.

In October two men hurled Molotov cocktails at the Beth Zion synagogue in Berlin. No one was hurt, but the attack left many Jews in the capital rattled.

Pro-Palestinian rallies in Germany have in some cases gathered far-right and far-left extremists chanting anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slogans and sparked clashes with police. (AFP)

FRANCE ARRESTS INFLUENCER FOR MOCKING ISRAELI BABY'S DEATH

PARIS (TIP): A social media influencer was arrested in France on November 9 for making light of the reported killing of an Israel baby by Hamas attackers, prosecutors told AFP.

In a video, the woman -- identified by media as Warda Anwar, a model -- commented on a report by an Israeli first responder who said Hamas attackers had burned a baby alive in an oven during their assault on October 7.

The report has not been confirmed by Israeli authorities.

"I wonder whether they added salt and pepper first, did they add thyme?" Anwar said in the video. "What was the side dish?"

Following strong reactions on social media to the video last week, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said Friday he had filed a criminal complaint against Anwar.

Prosecutors said she was being investigated for "glorifying terrorism" and was taken into custody in Paris early Thursday. The Israeli embassy in France called Anwar's remarks "disgusting".

Posting on X, formerly Twitter, the embassy said "the unspeakable remarks must not remain unpunished", and called for her social media accounts to be blocked. French media say her video was carried on Instagram, but her account was not available Thursday. (AFP)

Nasty drought in Syria, Iraq and Iran wouldn't have happened without climate change, study finds

DHI QAR PROVINCE, IRAQ (TIP): A three-year drought that has left millions of people in Syria, Iraq and Iran with little water wouldn't have happened without human-caused climate change, a new study found.

The West Asian drought, which started in July 2020, is mostly because hotter-than-normal temperatures are evaporating the little rainfall that fell, according to a flash study on November 8 by a team of international climate scientists at World Weather Attribution.

Without the world warming 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-19th century, "it would not be a drought at all," said lead author Friederike Otto, an Imperial College of London climate scientist.

It's a case of climate change unnaturally intensifying naturally dry conditions into a humanitarian crisis that has left people thirsty, hungry and displaced, concluded the research, which has not yet undergone peer review but follows scientifically valid techniques to



look for the fingerprints of global warming.

The team looked at temperatures, rainfall and moisture levels and compared what happened in the last three years to multiple computer simulations of the conditions in a world without human-caused climate change.

"Human-caused global climate change is already making life considerably harder for tens of millions of people in West Asia," said study co-author Mohammed Rahimi, a professor of climatology at Semnan University in

Iran. "With every degree of warming Syria, Iraq and Iran will become even harder places to live."

Computer simulations didn't find significant climate change fingerprints in the reduced rainfall, which was low but not too rare, Otto said. But evaporation of water in lakes, rivers, wetlands and soil "was much higher than it would have been" without climate change-spiked temperatures, she said.

In addition to making near-normal water conditions into an extreme drought, study authors calculated that

the drought conditions in Syria and Iraq are 25 times more likely because of climate change, and in Iran, 16 times more likely.

Kelly Smith, assistant director of the U.S. National Drought Mitigation Center in Nebraska, who was not part of the study, said the research made sense.

Drought is not unusual to the Middle East region and conflict, including Syria's civil war, makes the area even more vulnerable to drought because of degraded infrastructure and weakened water management, said study co-author Rana El Hajj of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in Lebanon.

"This is already touching the limits of what some people can adapt to," Otto said. "As long as we keep burning fossil fuels or even give out new licenses to explore new oil and gas fields these kinds of events will only get worse and keep on destroying livelihoods and keeping food prices high. And this is not just a problem for some parts of the world, but a problem for everyone." (AFP)

NEPAL VILLAGERS CREMATE LOVED ONES WHO PERISHED IN AN EARTHQUAKE THAT KILLED 157 PEOPLE

KATHMANDU (TIP): Villagers in the mountains of northwest Nepal on November 5 cremated the bodies of some of those who perished in an earthquake two days earlier. The strong tremor killed 157 people and left thousands of others homeless.

The 13 bodies were carried to the banks of the Bheri River and placed on pyres made of stacked wood. Priests chanted Hindu prayers while family members cried as they covered the bodies of loved ones with flowers before setting them on fire in a cremation ceremony.

They were from Chiuri village in Jajarkot district, which authorities said was the epicentre of the quake, and where at least 105 people were confirmed dead. Another 52 were killed in the neighbouring Rukum district, officials said. There were 184 people injured.

Most of the houses in Jajarkot — usually made by stacking rocks and logs — either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged. The majority of those killed were crushed by debris.

Thousands spent Saturday night in the bitter cold.

People used whatever they could find to set up a shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

Many were looking to the government for help.

"Our situation has gotten so worse that we do not even have anything left to eat. Whatever food we had is buried underneath the rubble of our fallen house," Samkhana Bika, who had lost her home, said Sunday.

Her house at Chepare village had fallen. She sat around a fire near their fallen home to keep warm with her six family members.

A woman walks past earthquake damaged houses in Jajarkot district, northwestern Nepal. (Photo | AP)

else gave us some rice, a little oil and some salt out of which we made a stew last night and ate that," she said.

Nepal's government said it is trying to get aid to the affected areas.

A Cabinet meeting held on Sunday announced that aid would be immediately transported. Communications Minister Rekha Sharma told reporters that supplying food and setting up temporary shelters were the main focus while working on plans to reconstruct damaged houses.

As rescuers were scrambling to rush aid, operations were hampered by the fact that many of the mountainous villages could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. (AP)

Pakistan blames Kabul for expulsion of Afghans from the country

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Afghanistan's failure to stop Pakistani militants operating from its soil was to blame for Islamabad expelling hundreds of thousands of Afghan migrants, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said on November 8.

Afghans were also deeply involved in suicide attacks and other clashes with Pakistan forces, Kakar told a news conference, adding there had been a huge rise in security incidents since the Taliban's return to power in Kabul.

More than 250,000 people have crossed from Pakistan to Afghanistan since an October ultimatum given to the 1.7 million Afghans Islamabad said were living illegally in the country.

Pakistan says most have left voluntarily, but Kabul insists the majority have been forcibly repatriated since the November 1 deadline.

"The majority of these illegal immigrants in Pakistan are of Afghan origin," Kakar said.

"A significant portion of those involved in criminal and terrorist activities are among these illegal immigrants."

Kakar said there had been a 60 percent



increase in terror incidents in Pakistan since the Taliban took power in August 2021, resulting in 2,267 deaths.

While he blamed Pakistan's home-grown Taliban movement for the majority of incidents, he said they were using bases in Afghanistan and Afghans were also involved.

"Over these years 15 Afghan nationals were involved in suicide attacks and, apart from that, 64 Afghans were killed in clashes with Pakistan law enforcement departments during

operations against militancy," he said.

He said no action had been taken, despite Pakistan frequently complaining to Afghanistan's rulers.

"In some cases, there was even evidence indicating their support for these terrorists," he added.

Afghanistan's Taliban leaders insist they do not allow the country's soil to be used by militants to stage attacks on other countries and say Pakistan's security problems are a domestic affair. (AFP)

Bangladesh elections likely to be a focus area of talks at India-US 2+2 meeting

DHAKA / NEW DELHI (TIP): Bangladesh is likely to be one of the focus areas of talks between India and US at the ministerial 2+2 meet on November 10. The US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas has flown to Delhi, ahead of US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's arrival.

"Due to China's increasing influence in Bangladesh, having a democratic country with political stability is something that both India and US want. The upcoming elections in Bangladesh in 2024 are of immense interest and concern," said a source.

The US has been reiterating that there should be free and fair elections in Bangladesh, which is in debt due to loans it has to repay to China under its Belt and Road Initiative.

The local population in Bangladesh has a pro-China tilt. Besides, the present PM Sheikh Hasina has an anti-incumbency wave against her which includes charges of money laundering.

China's increasing influence will add to India's woes in the neighbourhood. After Mohammed Muizzu (who is pro-China) won the Maldives elections, India has lost its stronghold in the island nation. Having a similar situation in the neighbourhood would further weaken India's clout.

"The growing US interest in Bangladesh is due to its increased



focus on the Indo Pacific -- primarily to counter China's rising influence. The US has expressed interest in capacity building in Bangladesh which includes defence and economic collaborations and investment," says a source.

The upcoming elections in Bangladesh are therefore significant and the US has been continuously building a narrative around how imperative it is to have free and fair polls.

It may be recalled that the US had imposed sanctions in Bangladesh in 2021 over human rights issues. In January this year, a Russian ship, Ursa Major, carrying goods for Bangladesh's nuclear power plant in Rooppur was prevented from berthing at the Mongla

Port as the ship was under sanctions.

Meanwhile, in the past few years, China has developed Bangladesh's first submarine base worth \$1.2 billion at Pekuain Cox's Bazaar district of Chittagong. This was inaugurated in March 2023. It is built with the capacity to dock six submarines and eight warships simultaneously as a part of Bangladesh's "Forced Goal 2030" to expand and modernise the country's defence.

Though details of the session on Bangladesh are unlikely to be made public, it will be a focus area for both India and US when the four ministers (Anthony Blinken, Lloyd Austin, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh) meet on Friday for the 2+2 meeting. (ENS)

Bank of India



New York

HAPPY
Diwali

Warm n elite wishes, not only for a Special
Occassion but for today and forever...
HAPPY DIWALI



YOUR BRAND

Beauty routine for a flawless skin

Who doesn't like the idea of clear, soft and glowing skin? In the quest for good skin, we women have done everything from buying expensive products to parlour sessions. But, are you treating your skin right? Here are 6 tips that you must follow to get that good skin:

Morning water

Forget your morning cup of tea or coffee, the first thing you need to do is drink water. When we wake up, our body is dehydrated and that's why you should drink water first.

Double Cleansing

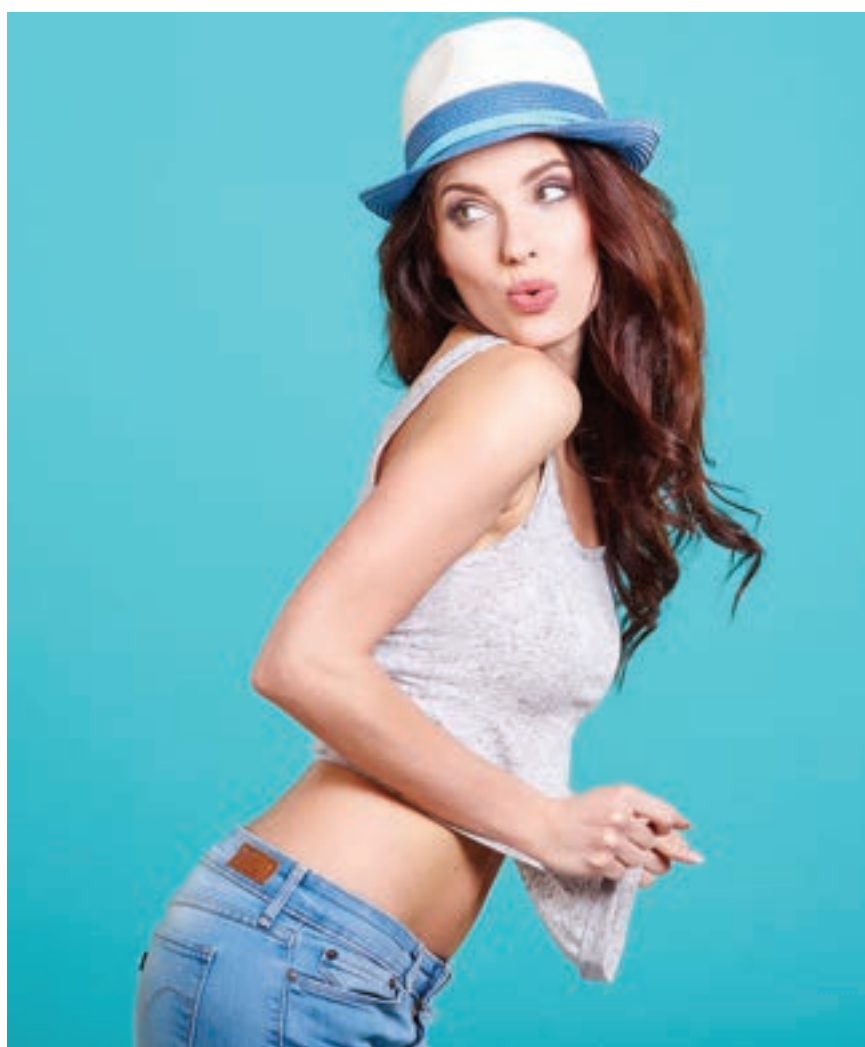
Korean women known for their flawless skin swear by this technique. Double Cleansing is a way of cleansing your face twice. First, it is advised to clean your face using an oil cleanser sans water. Next, wash it off with a warm cloth, this helps to remove all the grime and make-up. The second step involves using a regular cleanser to remove all the dirt and sweat.

Use a toner

If you're skipping the toner, then you're missing a big skincare step. Toners help to maintain the pH level of the skin and even shrink the pores. You should stay away from alcohol-based toner and look for natural ingredients. You can also use gulab jal (rose water) as a toner.

Always moisturise

The key to healthy skin is moisturising. Even if you have an oily skin texture, you must moisturise using a gel-based cream. By keeping your skin hydrated, you will fight away the signs of ageing.



Use a serum

Growing up comes with a lot of responsibilities and skin issues. That's one of the reasons, you should invest in a specific serum for your skin issues. Be it dark spots, dry skin or pigmentation, a specific serum at night will give your skin all the pampering it needs.

Don't forget to scrub

With time our skin tends to get dull. That's why you must maintain your skin by weekly sessions. Depending on your skin type, you can exfoliate 2-3 times a week. This will buff away the dead skin cells and give your skin that extra glow. Never exfoliate your skin at night, as this can make your skin extra prone to tanning the next day.



Ways to get rid of smelly armpits

Body odor is normal, but smelly armpits can sometimes get out of hands. Even regular baths, good amount of perfumes can't seem to solve this issue. We all know that that the underarm odour can be embarrassing. To solve this discomforting issue, we have listed 6 ways you can get rid of smelly armpits.

Anti-bacteria body wash

It's the bacteria that smells and not the perspiration. Look for body washes with Benzoyl Peroxide, which can help to reduce bacteria and prevent the body odour.

Apple cider vinegar

You can also apply some apple cider vinegar to fight off the bacteria. It will help to reduce the odour by balancing the pH level of the skin. Don't worry about the smell of apple cider vinegar, as it fades out when dry. Avoid this hack on days you have recently shaved or waxed.

Always dry before applying anything

Not drying properly before applying antiperspirant or deodorant can also trigger the bad odour. Make sure you dry yourself properly before applying the stick.

Try a different brand

A lot of times, a specific deodorant or antiperspirant doesn't blend with our skin. If you feel that your stick or spray is not making the cut, then you must change your brand or product. Sometimes the chemistry of your skin and fragrance doesn't work and makes you smell bad instead.

FOOD CORNER

Mutton Kofta

INGREDIENTS

500 gm minced mutton, 1 teaspoon ginger powder, 2 pinches asafoetida, 6 tablespoon vegetable oil, 2 tablespoon gram flour (besan), 1 cup water, 4 clove, 1 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, 3 teaspoon aniseed, 3 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 3 crushed black cardamom, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 2 bay leaf

Method

- For preparing this yummy mutton recipe, take a large bowl and add minced mutton in it along with the spices - red chilli powder, ginger powder (1/4 teaspoon), aniseed powder (1 teaspoon), asafoetida (1 pinch), yoghurt (1 tablespoon), oil (2 tablespoons), black cardamom seeds, gram flour or besan and half of the salt. Knead well with your hand till the spices are well blended and the mixture starts to grease your hands.
- Make 15 equal portions of the mixture. On a flat greased surface, roll each portion



gently into round ball. Put these aside.

- Next, put a kadhai on medium flame and heat 4 tablespoons of oil in it. On the other hand, mix red chilli powder and yoghurt together and make a paste of it. When the oil is hot enough, add the yoghurt paste and stir briskly. When the oil separates, add the water and stir again.
- Add the remaining ginger powder, aniseed powder and garam masala powder, asafoetida, cloves, bay leaves, black cardamom skins and the remaining salt into the pan. Cook till the gravy comes to a boil.
- Carefully slide in the koftas, one at a time and cook on high flame till the gravy starts to thicken. Lower the flame and cook, stirring gently till the oil separates. When the mutton kofta is cooked completely, serve it hot with rice or butter naan.

Bharuchi Dal

INGREDIENTS

250 gm urad dal, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 medium tomato, 2 medium onion, 1/2 tablespoon dried ginger powder, 1/2 tablespoon chilli powder, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, salt as required, 1/2 tablespoon garlic powder

Method

- Take a chopping board and chop one onion in cubes and chop tomatoes. Cut the other onion into thin slices.
- Now take a pressure cooker and add cleaned dal and cubed onions into it. Cook until the dal and onions become soft and tender.
- Now, put a saucepan on medium flame and add ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, add the sliced onion pieces into it and saute until light brown. Next add all the spices: green cardamom, cinnamon, jeera, cloves, mace powder, and fry until the jeera turns a little



brown and the essence starts coming. Once the spices leave their aroma, add the fresh methi leaves in the pan.

- Then add the chopped tomatoes in the saucepan along with turmeric, chilli powder, red chilli powder, dried ginger powder along with garlic powder. Let the tomato absorb all the spices and saute for a minute or two until the oil begins to separate.
- Now add the dal and onions mixture into the pan and mix well. Cover with a lid and let them cook for about 7-8 minutes. Once the dal is cooked, stir nicely and add the garam masala and salt as required.
- You can serve this delicious dal with hot chapati or steamed rice. Garnish with freshly chopped coriander leaves.

Britain's health service rolls out breast cancer prevention pill

Thousands of women at increased risk of breast cancer are set to benefit from a risk-reducing drug to be offered by Britain's National Health Service (NHS) after it was licensed for use to help prevent the disease, the state-funded health service has announced.

Anastrozole, which has been used for many years as a breast cancer treatment, has today been licensed by the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as a preventive option which it is hoped could help prevent thousands of breast cancer cases in England.

The drug, which is off-patent, has been shown in trials to reduce the incidence of the disease in postmenopausal women at increased risk of the disease by almost 50 per cent.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, so I'm delighted that another effective drug to help prevent this cruel disease has now been approved," said UK Health Minister Will Quince.

"We've already seen the positive effect Anastrozole can have in treating the disease when it has been detected in postmenopausal women and now we can use it to stop it developing at all in some women. This is a great example of NHS England's innovative Medicines Repurposing Programme supporting the development of new ways for NHS patients to benefit from existing treatments," he said.

Around 289,000 women at moderate or high risk of breast cancer could be eligible for the drug, and while not all will choose to take it, it is estimated that if 25 per cent do, around 2,000 cases of breast cancer could potentially be prevented in England, while saving the NHS around GBP 15 million in treatment costs.

"This is the first drug to be repurposed through a world-leading new programme to help us realise the full potential of existing medicines in new uses to save and improve more lives on the NHS. Thanks to this



initiative, we hope that greater access to anastrozole could enable more women to take risk-reducing steps if they'd like to, helping them live without fear of breast cancer," said NHS chief executive Amanda Pritchard.

The treatment is taken as a 1mg tablet, once a day for five years. Anastrozole is an aromatase inhibitor, which works by cutting down the amount of the hormone oestrogen that a patient's body makes by blocking an enzyme called "aromatase".

The most common side effects of the medicine are hot flushes, feeling weak, pain/stiffness in the joints, arthritis, skin rash, nausea, headache, osteoporosis, and depression. Anyone who suspects they are having a side effect from this medicine is encouraged to talk to their doctor, pharmacist or nurse and report it directly to the MHRA's Yellow Card scheme.

"The extension of anastrozole's licence to cover it being used as a risk-reducing treatment is a major step forward that will enable more eligible women with a significant family history of breast cancer, to reduce their chance of developing the disease," said Baroness Delyth Morgan, chief executive at the Breast Cancer Now charity.

Source: PTI



Record 7.5 million people globally diagnosed with TB in 2022: WHO

7.5 million people were diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) in 2022, the highest recorded since World Health Organization (WHO) began global TB monitoring in 1995, according to a report featuring data from 192 countries and areas.

The WHO 2023 Global Tuberculosis Report also shows that globally, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2022 from 10.3 million in 2021.

The report underscores a significant worldwide recovery in the scale-up of TB diagnosis and treatment services in 2022. It shows an encouraging trend to reverse the detrimental effects of COVID-19 on TB services.

The increase in diagnosis is attributed to good recovery in access to and provision of health services in many countries, WHO said.

India, Indonesia and the Philippines, which together accounted for over 60 per cent of the global reductions in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2020 and 2021, all recovered to beyond 2019 levels in 2022, it said.

"For millennia, our ancestors suffered and died with TB, without knowing what it was, what caused it, or how to stop it," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General in a statement.

"Today, we have knowledge and tools they could only have dreamed of. We have political commitment, and we have an opportunity that no generation in the history of humanity has had, the opportunity to write the final chapter in the story of TB," Ghebreyesus said.

Geographically, in 2022, most people who developed TB were in the WHO Regions of South-East Asia (46 per cent), Africa (23 per cent), and the Western Pacific (18 per cent), with smaller proportions in the Eastern Mediterranean (8.1 per cent), the Americas (3.1 per cent), and Europe (2.2 per cent).

The total number of TB-related deaths (including those among people with HIV) was 1.3 million in 2022, down from 14 million in 2021, according to the report.

However, during the 2020-2022 period, COVID-19 disruptions resulted in nearly half a million more deaths from TB. It continues to be the leading killer among people with HIV, it said.

Source: PTI

Diwali health tips: Sugar alternatives to savour festive treats

Festive treats have long been synonymous with sweetness but this Dhanteras, Diwali or Bhai Dooj, it is time we redefine what that sweetness means. Discovering sugar alternatives like wild honey, jaggery, gulkand, coconut sugar and date syrup is not just a culinary exploration; it's a journey towards healthier celebrations and there's no better time than this festive season to begin.

JAGGERY: A timeless traditional favourite for Indian households and especially our dadis everywhere, jaggery is a natural sweetener that stands as an excellent alternative to white sugar. Packed with a multitude of micronutrients, it provides a healthier sweetness option, perfect for the festive season. It also blends in seamlessly with homemade Indian sweets such as 'gulab jamun,' 'laddoos,' 'rasogulla,' 'sandesh' and 'payasam, pretty much every Indian sweet really.

DATES: These dried fruits not only introduce a rich, natural



sweetness to your dishes but also offer a substantial source of iron and various other essential micronutrients. Dates can be finely chopped and used as a sweetener in your desserts. They can also be the star ingredient in date and nut laddoos, another great option would be to mix in dates with almonds, cashews, pistachios or blend in shakes as well. Dates can also be stuffed with nuts or coconut for an exotic sweet dish, this is also a quick, easy and healthy dessert to top off a festive meal.

FRESH FRUITS: Fruits like

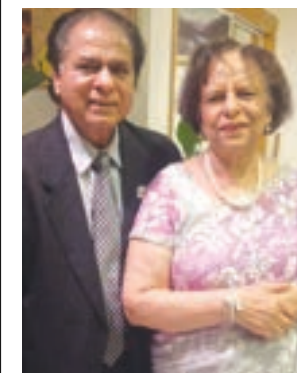
Bananas: Including fresh fruits like bananas in your festive treats brings a double benefit. They contribute a natural sweetness while also delivering a significant dose of fiber, potassium, and prebiotic properties. This adds a healthy touch to your celebratory spread. Banana slices can be added to sweet rice dishes, they can be blended into a creamy smoothie or shakes, or even a delicious banana-based halwa. Another quick recipe would be banana chips which are made by cutting raw banana into thin wafer strips and frying them.

Raisins, dried grapes, are a delightful and guilt-free way to enhance the flavour of your gluten-free creations. Raisins in every bite would bring forth an exquisite fusion of flavours that harmonise seamlessly with ingredients like pistachios, honey, almonds, cashews, and mixed seeds. Dark chocolate infused with raisins is high in micronutrients and anti-oxidants, with a low glycaemic index.

Source: HT

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Instagram to allow users to disable read receipts in DMs

Mark Zuckerberg recently announced that Instagram is testing a new feature that will let users disable read receipts in DMs (Direct Messages), The Verge reported.

While Zuckerberg did not share any details on when the feature will be available to everyone, Instagram head Adam Mosseri shared a screenshot of the upcoming read receipts toggle on his broadcast channel. A similar feature is already available on the Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp, which lets users disable read receipts for reading messages privately. Also, Zuckerberg and Mosseri did not mention if that option will be coming to Messenger, which also forces users to use read receipts with no way to disable them. Meanwhile, Instagram is planning to come up with a Threads application programming interface. This will help developers to create different apps and experiences around Threads, TechCrunch reported. *Source: ANI*

Euclid space telescope sends back first colour images of cosmos from 'dark universe' mission

The first images sent back by the Euclid space telescope from its "dark universe" mission have been revealed. On Tuesday, November 7, astronomers hailed the powerful space telescope, which captured detailed colour images of the cosmos. The Euclid telescope's initial release includes five space observations made from its orbital home, 1 million miles or 1.5 million km away from the Earth. Before unveiling the pictures Euclid project scientist René Laureijs said, "We have never seen astronomical images like this before, containing so much detail."

"They are even more beautiful and sharp than we could have hoped for, showing us many previously unseen features in well-known areas of the nearby universe," Laureijs added. Back in July, the European Space Agency first launched the Euclid telescope, calling it their "dark universe detective." According to the ESA, Euclid will observe the shapes, distances, and motions of billions of galaxies spanning over 10 billion light-years over the next six years. This will lead to the creation of the largest cosmic 3D map ever made with the primary goal of observing dark matter and dark energy in the cosmos.

ESA's director of science Carole Mundell said before revealing the high-quality pictures, "I'm absolutely delighted to say that is the point where we say that we have reached all of our engineering milestones for the mission and we're now able to move into the science phase." In a never-seen-before series of pictures, the striking Perseus Cluster and its 1,000 galaxies, along with its 100,000 additional distant galaxies in the background can be seen in an unfathomable detail. The space telescope also observed spiral galaxy IC 342 a.k.a "The Hidden Galaxy."

El Nino likely to last till April, push temperatures up globally: WMO

The ongoing El Niño event is expected to last at least until April 2024 contributing to further spike in global temperatures on land and the ocean, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has warned. The result could be a record warm year in 2024, close on the heels of 2023, which is set to be the warmest ever. For India, the impact could be a warm winter, more fog, and summer heat waves, an expert said.

"E Niño impacts on global temperature typically play out in the year after its development, in this case in 2024. But as a result of record high land and sea-surface temperatures since June, the year 2023 is now on track to be the warmest year on record. Next year may be even warmer. This is clearly and unequivocally due to the contribution of the increasing concentrations of heat-trapping greenhouse gases from human activities," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

As of mid-October 2023, sea surface temperatures and other atmospheric and oceanic indicators in the central-eastern tropical Pacific are consistent with El Niño, the warm phase of El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the agency said. The El Niño developed rapidly during July-August, and reached moderate strength by September, 2023 and is likely to peak as a 'strong; event in November - January 2024. There is a 90% likelihood it will persist throughout the upcoming northern hemisphere winter/southern hemisphere summer, WMO added. Based on historical patterns and current long-range predictions, it is expected that El Niño will gradually diminish around April.

El Niño occurs on average every two to seven years, and typically lasts nine to 12 months. It is a naturally occurring climate pattern associated with warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. HT reported on November 2 that ocean and land temperatures continued their record-breaking spree in October. Sea surface and land temperatures have been at record highs for seven and five months respectively, according to data maintained by



University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer. October was the warmest on record, Europe's climate monitor said.

The trend started in April, a result of an intensifying El Niño in addition to global warming. Copernicus Marine's data said that as of 20 October, sea surface temperature anomalies reached peaks of +3 to +5°C at various locations in the Mediterranean Sea. September was the warmest September in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA's) 174-year global climate record, NOAA said in a statement on October 13. "Extreme events such as heatwaves, drought, wildfires, heavy rain and floods will be enhanced in some regions, with major impacts. That is why WMO is committed to the Early Warnings for All initiative to save lives and minimize economic losses," said Taalas.

The previous warmest year on record was 2016 due to a "double whammy" of an exceptionally strong El Niño and climate change.

Since May 2023, monthly average sea surface temperature anomalies in the central-eastern equatorial Pacific have warmed significantly, rising from about 0.5 °C above average in May, 2023) to around 1.5 °C above average in September, 2023. *Source: HT*

ISRO's Aditya L1 captures first high energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares

ISRO's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, has captured its first high energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares. During its first observation period from approximately October 29, the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) on board Aditya-L1 spacecraft has recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, the space agency said in a statement.

A solar flare is a sudden brightening of solar atmosphere.

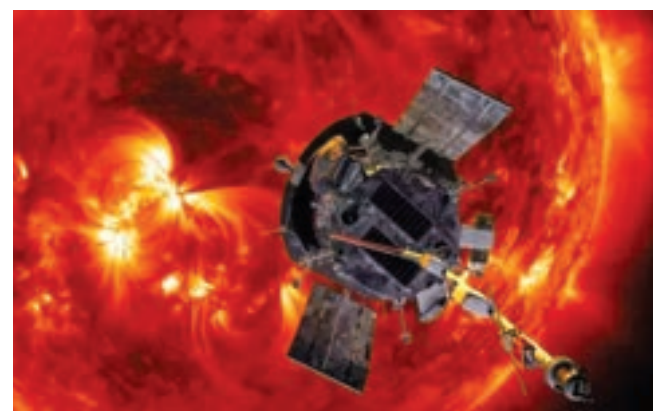
The recorded data is consistent with the X-ray light curves provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES).

"Commissioned on October 27, 2023, HEL1OS is currently undergoing fine-tuning of thresholds and calibration operations. The instrument is set to monitor the Sun's high-energy X-ray activity with fast timing and high-resolution spectra," it said.

HEL1OS data enables researchers to study explosive energy release and electron acceleration during impulsive phases of solar flares.

HEL1OS was developed by the Space Astronomy Group of the U R Rao Satellite Centre, ISRO, Bengaluru, the agency added.

HEL1OS, the hard X-ray spectrometer on Aditya-L1 Solar Mission by ISRO, is the harbinger of flaring activities on the Sun, with the ability to capture the



early impulsive phase of the solar activity.

According to ISRO, flares produce enhanced emission in all wavelengths across the electromagnetic spectrum – radio, optical, UV, soft X-rays, hard X-rays and gamma-rays. Flare emission consists of emissions from accelerated particles and hot plasma.

Aditya-L1 spacecraft is designed for providing remote observations of the solar corona and in-situ observations of the solar wind at L1 (Sun-Earth Lagrangian point), which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.

Apple suffers setback in fight against EU's \$14 bn tax order

Apple might end up on the hook after all for billions of Euros in back taxes to Ireland in the latest twist in a long-running European Union dispute, following a legal opinion on Thursday, November 9, from an adviser to the bloc's top court.

A decision by a lower court that the US tech giant doesn't have to repay the 13 billion Euros (\$13.9 billion) in taxes "should be set aside," Advocate General Giovanni Pitruzzella said in his opinion to the European Court of Justice.

The case drew outrage from Apple when it was opened in 2016, with CEO Tim Cook calling it "total political crap." Then US President Donald Trump referred to European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who spearheaded the campaign to root out special tax deals and crack down on big US tech companies, as the "tax lady" who "really hates the US." In its 2020 ruling, the European Union's General Court disagreed with the European Commission, which had accused Apple of striking an illegal tax deal with Irish authorities so that it could pay extremely low rates.

Pitruzzella advised the European Court of Justice that it should "set aside the judgment and refer the case back to the General Court for a new decision on the merits." *Source: AP*

Adani's Colombo port terminal project to get USD 553 million funding from US DFC

The US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will provide USD 553 million financing to Colombo West International Terminal Pvt Ltd – a consortium of India's largest port operator Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, Sri Lanka's leading enterprise John Keells Holdings (JKH) and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

DFC is the US government's development finance institution.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) in a statement said that the US fund will support the development of a deep-water shipping container terminal in the Port of Colombo. "(It) will facilitate private sector-led growth and attract crucial foreign exchange to Sri Lanka to aid in its economic recovery," it added.

According to the statement, the US, Sri Lanka and India will foster an enduring legacy of cooperation in the development of sustainable infrastructure, like smart and green ports.

DFC partners with the private sector to finance solutions to the most critical challenges facing the developing world. It invests across sectors, including energy, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and small business and financial services.

World's biggest bank forced to trade via USB stick after hack

NEW YORK (TIP)

On Thursday, November 9, trades handled by the world's largest bank in the globe's biggest market traversed Manhattan on a USB stick.

Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd.'s US unit had been hit by a cyberattack, rendering it unable to clear swathes of US Treasury trades after entities responsible for settling the transactions swiftly disconnected from the stricken systems. That forced ICBC to send the required settlement details to those parties by a messenger carrying a thumb drive as the state-owned lender raced to limit the damage.

The workaround — described by market participants — followed the attack by suspected perpetrator Lockbit, a prolific criminal gang with ties to Russia that has also been linked to hits on Boeing Co., ION Trading U.K. and the U.K.'s Royal Mail. The strike caused immediate disruption as market-makers, brokerages and banks were forced to reroute trades, with many uncertain when access would resume.

The incident spotlights a danger that bank leaders concede keeps them up at night — the prospect of a cyber attack that could someday cripple a key piece of the financial system's wiring, setting off a cascade of disruptions. Even brief episodes prompt bank leaders and their government overseers to call for more vigilance.

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The incident spotlights a danger that bank leaders concede keeps them up at night — the prospect of a cyber attack that could someday cripple a key piece of the financial system's wiring, setting off a cascade of disruptions. Even brief episodes prompt bank leaders and their government overseers to call for more vigilance. "This is a true shock to large banks around the world," said Marcus Murray, the founder of Swedish cybersecurity firm Truesec. "The ICBC hack will make large banks around the globe race to improve their defenses, starting today."

As details of the attack emerged, employees at the bank's Beijing headquarters held urgent meetings with

the lender's U.S. division and notified regulators as they discussed next steps and assessed the impact, according to a person familiar with the matter. ICBC is considering seeking help from China's Ministry of State Security in light of the risks of potential attack on other units, the person said.

Late on Nov 9, the bank confirmed it had experienced a ransomware attack a day earlier that disrupted some systems at its ICBC Financial Services unit. The company said it isolated the affected systems and that those at the bank's head office and other overseas units weren't impacted, nor was ICBC's New York branch. The extent of the disruption wasn't immediately clear, though Treasury market participants reported liquidity was affected. The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, or Sifma, held calls with members about the matter on Nov 9. *Source: Bloomberg*

Domestic demand to sustain India's growth, says Moody's

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday, November 9, retained India's economic growth forecast for 2023 at 6.7% and said strong domestic demand will likely sustain the growth in the near term.

With exports remaining weak against an unfavourable global economic backdrop, Moody's in its Global Macroeconomic Outlook 2024-25 said sustained domestic demand growth is propelling India's economy.

"We expect India's real GDP to grow about 6.7% in 2023, 6.1% in 2024 and 6.3% in 2025," Moody's said.

India's real GDP rose 7.8% year-over-year in June quarter, up from 6.1% in March quarter and bolstered by a 6% increase in household consumption and solid capital expenditure and service sector activity.



Moody's said high-frequency indicators show that the economy's strong June quarter momentum carried into July-September as well.

"Robust goods and services tax collections, surging auto sales, rising consumer optimism and double-digit credit growth suggest urban consumption demand will likely remain resilient amid the ongoing festive season.

However, rural demand, which has

shown nascent signs of improvement, remains vulnerable to uneven monsoons that could lower crop yields and farm income," Moody's said.

On supply side, expanding manufacturing and services PMIs and healthy core industries' output growth add to evidence of solid economic momentum, it said.

"With exports remaining weak amid an unfavourable global economic backdrop, strong domestic demand will likely sustain growth in the near term. Domestic demand dynamics beyond the festive season will depend on the trajectory of inflation and the lagged impact of the RBI's monetary policy tightening," it said.

Headline inflation in September eased to 5% from 6.8% in the month prior, dropping back within the RBI's target range. *Source: PTI*



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly Horoscope by Chirag Daruwalla, son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOVEMBER 13 TO 19, 2023

of opportunities in your personal life, career, finance, love, and self-improvement. Be open to the idea of growth and change, and enjoy the journey. If you focus on becoming a better person and feeling satisfied, you can make this week meaningful, satisfying, and full of happiness. See this week as a step towards a better and more meaningful life.

LEO : Ganesha says take some time to appreciate your loved ones and listen carefully to their needs. Honest conversations, empathy, and support can foster more fulfilling relationships. If you're looking for a partner, be open to new experiences and opportunities, as love may come unexpectedly. When you are facing changes in aspects related to your personal life, career, finance, and love life, remember that it is important to find balance in life. Prioritize tasks, focus on responsibilities and practice self-discipline. Seek support and guidance from trusted advisors, loved ones, or professionals who can provide valuable information. Patience, perseverance, and adaptability will help you achieve new heights of success very soon.

VIRGO : Ganesha says this week may provide a chance to take care of existing relationships or begin a new romantic journey. For those in committed relationships, this week may encourage open and honest conversations, deepening the connection between partners. Surprise your partner with small efforts, like a love note or planning a date night. Single people may get an opportunity to meet new people and have romantic conversations. Such meetings happen naturally or by attending social events. By focusing on personal growth and fulfilment, you can create a week full of purpose, satisfaction, and happiness. Let this week be a step toward a more rewarding and meaningful life.

LIBRA : Ganesha says focus on open dialogue, honesty, and agreements to maintain a harmonious bond with your loved ones. Spend quality time with your partner, family, or friends and engage in activities that promote emotional well-being and connection. However, when it comes to love and relationships it is equally important to have an introspective approach to understand your needs and desires. While facing challenges and opportunities this week, it is essential to find balance in your personal life, career, finances, and love. Prioritize self-care to ensure your personal growth, so you can be your best self in every aspect of your life. Be open to professional opportunities, manage your finances responsibly, and give your relationships time to foster growth and fulfilment.

SCORPIO : Ganesha says you may hear some surprising news about your finances, such as a good opportunity or a perfect solution to a financial problem. Take advantage of this by making smart choices and having clear goals for your finances. Love and relationships will give you peace and happiness this week. Keep your heart open so you can strengthen existing relationships. Communicate honestly and optimally with your loved ones, as this will promote mutual understanding and growth. People who are

single feel attracted to someone. Embrace the potential for growth, embrace change, and enjoy the journey.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says talk with your partner and take some time to connect on a deeper level. Engage in meaningful conversations and express your love and appreciation for your partner. For those looking for love, this week may provide a chance to make new connections or deepen existing ones. Be ready to look for romantic opportunities that may come your way this week. Life is a constant process of ups and downs, full of both challenges and triumphs. Emphasize personal growth, take advantage of opportunities in your career, take a sensible approach to your finances, and foster love and connection in your relationships.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says this week can be a strong step towards your personal growth and happiness. Whether you are in a new relationship or already committed, your love life may improve this week. If your relationship is built on trust, respect, and talking openly with each other, it will become even stronger. If there is a problem in your relationship, being understanding and good at handling emotions can help. Things are also looking good for those looking for love, you may meet someone special. So, be prepared for new connections because love often happens when we least expect it. Keep in mind that with every new week, we can grow personally, and do better in our careers.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says moving into the week, it is important to find a good balance between personal development, a successful career, managing finances, and relationships. When it comes to personal development, it's always good to keep challenging yourself. It is important to work on your personal development. This week may give you a chance to become a better person, as well as show you where you can improve and set realistic goals. Remember, each day is a chance to make a fresh start and create the life you want. For single Aquarius, this week can bring unorthodox romantic possibilities. Embrace authenticity and allow potential partners to appreciate you for who you really are.



Pisces

PISCES : Ganesha says this week, try to take care of both your romantic and friendly relationships. Spend quality time with your partner, and make small efforts to show your love. Talk from the heart to build emotional closeness and understanding. If you are looking for love, you may get unexpected opportunities this week. Be open to new connections and be genuine when you meet new people. This week may bring opportunities for personal growth, career success, financial stability, and strong relationships. To have a balanced and happy week, take care of yourself, set ambitious career goals, handle your money wisely, and take care of your loved ones too. Remember, finding balance takes effort and a willingness to adapt to changes. To move forward this week, stay focused, positive, and open to the possibilities ahead.



Aries

ARIES : Ganesha says take time to communicate your feelings and intentions to your partner or loved ones. Try to show them how much you care by planning a nice activity or surprise. Seek balance in life by listening to their needs and concerns, fostering a deeper connection. If you're single, this week may provide opportunities to meet new people or deepen existing friendships. Approach new relationships with an open mind, let go of past disappointments, and embrace the opportunity for new love. Remember that life is a unique mix of challenges and opportunities. Take advantage of the possibilities in your personal life, career, love, and personal growth.



Taurus

TAURUS : Ganesha says whether you're single or in a relationship, be prepared to foster deep emotional connections with others. Invest time and energy in taking care of existing relationships or exploring new romantic possibilities. Maintain mutual understanding, and communicate openly with each other to create a great and balanced love life. As you step into the week with new hopes, keep in mind that it is essential to approach every aspect of your life with dedication and enthusiasm. By focusing on personal growth, career advancement, financial stability, relationships, and personal growth, you can view this week as an important step toward your goals. Take advantage of opportunities, stay open-minded, and always remember that each day brings some new possibilities.



Gemini

GEMINI : Ganesha says having open and honest conversations will lead to greater understanding between you and your partner. During this time, single people should embrace opportunities to meet new people and step outside their comfort zone. Remember to stay true to your desires, and trust that things will get better with time. Be prepared for the possibilities ahead this week. Pay attention to all aspects of life personal, professional, financial, and emotional because each aspect contributes to improving our life. Seek growth and take care of relationships. By being actively involved in your life and pursuing your goals, you can have a fruitful week ahead. Stay positive, have confidence in your abilities, and take advantage of opportunities that come your way.



Cancer

CANCER : Ganesha says look for ways to increase your income, such as taking on extra work or exploring new investment options. When it comes to love and relationships, this week can give you a chance to strengthen your relationships. Whether you're single or in a committed relationship, spend quality time with your loved ones. Keep in mind that life is a mix of both challenges and opportunities. Make the most

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE NOVEMBER 13 TO 19 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 13

Ganesha says today is a day that is a blank canvas, ready to be filled with the vivid hues of possibility and vigour. Your inherent charisma and creative potential are heightened as a result of the way the universe is arranged. At this juncture, putting your creative energy into the arts or beginning a project that is important to you could not be more appropriate. The happiness that you discover in expressing today has the potential to motivate others and bring about optimism.

NOVEMBER 14

Ganesha says today is a day that carries with it a calm and reassuring sense of comprehension. Now is the time to give your carefully cultivated plans for personal development the attention and care they deserve. The spirit of empathy and kindness will lead the relationships you create today, both inside yourself and with other people. These connections will guide your day. Today is a day to reflect on how far you've come on your own personal journey and to look forward to what lies in store for you with excitement and anticipation.

NOVEMBER 15

Ganesha says the ups and downs of communication are the primary focus of the vitality of today. It's almost as if the cosmos is making new pathways available for people to connect with one another. The words that were spoken today carry weight and significance, regardless of whether it was a chat that led to the discovery of new opportunities or a message that informed someone of good news. On this day, keep in mind that the words you choose to say have the potential to bring about positive changes in your life.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 16

Ganesha says the scales of the cosmic balance are tipped in the direction of harmony and peace today. It's the kind of day when everything seems to fall into place, resulting in a beautiful symphony of life's simple pleasures and serenity. It is a fantastic day for restoring order and peace in any chaotic areas of your life, as the efforts you make today towards finding balance in your life are met with the supportive energy of the stars, making it an excellent day for achieving balance in your life overall.

NOVEMBER 17

Ganesha says on this day, the focus is on individual accomplishments and celebration of those accomplishments. There is a good chance that the effort and commitment that you've demonstrated will be recognized. Today is a day to bask in the glory of accomplishment and to give yourself permission to take proud in what you've accomplished in the past. The encouragement and support you receive in the

here and now has the potential to serve as a potent driver for your future aspirations.

NOVEMBER 18

Ganesha says today is a day with an emphasis on getting out and discovering new things. It's almost as if the entire universe is trying to get you to move outside of your routine and do something completely different. This could take the form of an unplanned trip, an opportunity that presents itself out of the blue, or a chance meeting with someone who broadens your perspectives. Embrace the exploratory mindset, and allow it to infuse each new moment of your day with a sense of awe and excitement.

NOVEMBER 19

The vitality of the day offers a sense of accomplishment and fulfilment to one's life. Today is the day when all of your projects will be finished, and you will finally get to enjoy the results of your hard work. Honour the milestones that have been attained and the goals that have been achieved. It is also a day to express thanks, both for the journey that has been taken up to this point and for the people who have travelled beside you. Your dogged determination and unwavering dedication paid off, as evidenced by the fulfilment you experience in today's world.

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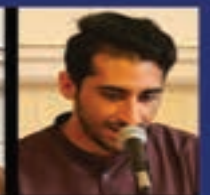
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Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 10 TO NOVEMBER 16

10th November

1880 First ever Punjabi weekly, "Gurumukhi Akhbar," was started by Singh Sabha, to popularise the Sikh ideals.

1955 Sri Bhim Saen, then Chief Minister, visited Sri Darbar Sahib and sought forgiveness of Sikh Sangats for the July 4, 1955 incident.

11th November



1534 Bhai Mardana passed away at Kurram in Afghanistan. Bhai Mardana was born at Talwandhi to mother Lakho and father Badro in Sanmat 1516. After becoming a Sikh of Guru Nanak, he righteously earned the status of "Bhai". He accompanies Guru Nanak Dev Ji on his world trip and served as a key participant in Kirtan. He dies in 1591 in Karam Nagar on the banks of Karam river in Afghanistan. Guru Nanak, personally conducted the last rights for Mardana. As per his wishes no monument was erected in his remembrance. Since Mardana was a "Rabab" player, hence all his descendants came to be known as Rababis. Mardana's writings are included in Guru Granth Sahib. He is recalled in two Saloks by Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Rag Bihagda, see Paudhi 12. His role during Guru Nanak's travels is well illustrated by the popular phrase "Mardana, Jagat Nu Taran Da Bahana" - Mardana, a reason to save this world.



1675 Patshahi ninth, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was beheaded in public at Chandni Chowk, Delhi by orders of the Mughal Emperor. He was brought into the open place of execution in Chandni Chowk, Delhi and beheaded around 11am. Guru Ji's dead body was cremated by Lakhi at Rakab Ganj around 8pm. While Guru's severed head was smuggled to Anandpur Sahib by Bhai Jaita, a distance of 350 kilometers that was covered in 5 days. Today is the actual date of Guru Sahib's martyrdom, although it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth. Kashmiri Pandits, led by Kirpa Das of Mattan (Martand), reached Chak Nanki, Kahlur (old name of Anandpur Sahib). He appealed to Guru Tegh Bahadur for his help in against the prosecution of Kashmiri Pandits by Aurangzeb's

forces and resulting extinction of Hindu dharma. After appointing Gobind Rai as the next Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur left for Delhi on July 11, 1675. After Guruji's martyrdom, Pandit Kirpa Das stayed back and became Kirpa Singh after taking Amrit in 1699 and died fighting at Chamkaur along with the two elder Sahibjadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

When Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed himself to save the Kashmiri Pandits from extinction in 1675, Guru Gobind Singh put his stamp on this truth by proclaiming "The Lord (Guru Tegh Bahadur) protected the sacred thread and the frontal mark of the Hindus: He performed a great deed in the age of Kalyug." However, it is strange that the Kashmiri Pandits did not build any memorial in honour of Guruji. On the other hand the present generation had started doubting the veracity of this event.



1675 Guru Gadhi was bestowed on Tenth Patshah, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He became Guru at the age of 9 when his father was tortured to death by the ruling Mughals. From the age of 9 to 42 when he breathed his last, life had been occupied fighting the Mughals against injustice and tyranny. Today is the actual date when Guru Sahib was bestowed Guruship, though Guru Khalsa Panth observes it on a different date.

1710 Fort of Rahon was conquered by Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur).

1757 Bada Deep Singh Ji accepted Shahadat in Amritsar. The Sikh's attack on returning Afghan forces from Ahmad Shah's 4th invasion infuriated Ahmed Shah. He sent an expedition against the Sikhs that resulted in the destruction of Sri Harimandir Sahib. Subsequently, the Sikhs collected at Amritsar in Oct. 1757 to celebrate Diwali. They were attacked repeatedly by Jaham Khan, Governor of Punjab. It is during these battles Baba Deep Singh Ji accepted Shahadat reclaiming and preserving the sanctity of Sri Harimandir Sahib.

12th November

1675 A day after the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the bodies of Bhai Mati Das, Sati Das, and Dayal Das were handed over to the Sikhs who cremated the bodies by the site of Jammu. This is the same site where Guru Har Krishan's body was cremated earlier.

1708 Guru Gadhi was bestowed upon Sri Guru Granth Sahib. This is the actual date of this event, though it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth.

13th November

1862 Maharaja Narinder Singh of Patiala passed away. He was noted for his zeal in establishing and

propagating the Punjabi language as well as his respect for the Punjabi writers.

1923 Jawala Singh of Kotli Bawa Dass was murdered by the Babbar.

14th November

1908 Dr. Charan Singh passed away in Amritsar.

1915 Sardar Kartar Singh of Sarabha was hanged to death.

15th November

1900 Dr. Ganda Singh was born in Hoshiarpur. GANDA SINGH was born on November 15, 1900, at Hariana, an ancient town in Hoshiarpur district of the Punjab. He started his schooling in the village mosque and then joined the local Government Middle School. After some time he transferred himself to the D.A.V. Middle School, eventually taking his matriculation from Government High School, Hoshiarpur. The inter-religious polemic which raged in the Punjab in the early part of this century, stirred young Ganda Singh's curiosity. He turned to reading Sikh literature. The stories of Sikh heroes of the eighteenth century and their brave deeds and sacrifices made a deep impression on his imagination. This was the origin of his interest in Sikh lore. The liberating impulse generated by the Singh Sabha, the Sikh renaissance movement, gave a critical bias to his study of Sikh history. A deeply embedded streak of adventure, tough physique and strong, indomitable character were the other constituents of the equipment of the future historian of the Punjab.

1920 The gathering at Akal Takhat constituted a committee of 175 members, to manage the Golden Temple and all Gurudwaras in Punjab and other parts of India. The representation was according to districts in Punjab and according to provinces outside. Members were also elected to represent Sikh states and Sikh bodies in Burma, Malaya, China, and America. This committee was proclaimed as the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC). The leadership consisted of S. Sunder Singh Majithia, S. Harbans Singh Atari and S. Sunder Singh Ramgarhia.

1921 Master Mota Singh appears and delivers a fiery speech at Nankana Sahib, on the occasion of the Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev Patshah.

1921 Baba Gurdit Singh of Koma Gata Maru fame offers himself for arrest at Nankana Sahib.

16th November

1675 Guru Tegh Bahadur's beheaded head was brought to Kiratpur. The Sikhs in Delhi showed a daring courage in seizing both parts of Guru Sahib's beheaded body. Taking advantage of the dust storm which engulfed the city, Bhai Nannu Rai, Agya and his son Jaita, and Udha Rathaur took the Guru's head to Jaitas house. Jaita along with Bhai Nannu and Udha took it to Kiratpur. It was cremated at Makhwal the following day. Meanwhile the severed body of the Guru was taken over by Bhai Lakhi Das also called Lakhi Shah Vanjara and his three sons Nigahia, Hema, and Harhi of Jacobansia Barhtia Kanaut, and Naik Dhooma, son of Bhai Nannu. It was taken to the house of Lakhi Das in Raisina and cremated the following night when he performed the ceremony in the process putting his house on fire, to prevent detection by the authorities.

1880 Khalsa Diwan Lahore told Maharaja Dalip Singh not to enter Punjab.

1957 11th Akali Conference was organized by Shiromani Akali Dal, under the leadership of Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala and held in Bathinda.

Third eye of Lord Shiva

Being one of the most widely worshipped Gods in Hinduism, Lord Shiva is also referred as Tryambaka Deva (Three-eyed lord) for the third eye placed on his forehead. The sun is said to be his right eye, the moon is said to be the left eye while fire is this third eye. While the other two eyes indicate his activity in the physical world, the third eye stands as a symbol of wisdom, free from "Maya" (illusion) and duality of life. It looks beyond the obvious happenings with clear perception, and shows one what is known to be true. This eye of Lord Shiva is known as the "Spiritual eye" which stands for deeper consciousness and allows us to see the real world for the world as we see it is an illusion.

As per the modern spirituality, the third eye is a symbol of enlightenment. It is often referred to as "Gyananakashu" (the eye of knowledge). In the Indian and East Asian iconography, the third eye is the "Ajna chakra" (the sixth chakra). It is also known as brow chakra or brow center.

This third eye of Lord Shiva is also famous for emitting flames that destroy the vice and the evil. It is believed that Lord Shiva has only opened the third eye in extreme cases, when there no more space for forgiveness was left and no question of granting another chance existed. It was his third eye, which gave him the name of the destroyer; when the eye opened it destroyed the person who befell for the vision.

History saw instances where Lord Shiva opened his third eye, yet there are no evidences on how many times, this event took place. The Shiv Purana lays down a few instances when Mahadeva opened his third eye. We have jotted down a few of such popularly known instances.

Sati and the Burning of Kamadeva

Daksha Prajapati, Lord Brahma's wish-born son, was entrusted with the duty to populate the Universe. He with his wife, Prastuti, had many daughters who were married off to gods and sages. Sati, his youngest daughter, was his favourite. Sati was the reincarnation of Ardhashakti, or the better half of Lord Shiva which he had sacrificed to maintain the balance in the Universe and was thus, destined to marry Lord Shiva. Sati then appeases Lord Shiva and marries him against the wishes of her father, Daksha. He then organizes a yagna (fire-sacrifice) and invites all his sons-in-law except Shiva, to participate in the ritual. Angry at the exclusion of her husband, Sati rushes into the sacrificial precinct and confronts her father, who mocks Shiva's ascetic ways in front of all the assembled guests. Unable to bear this humiliation in front of the other Devas, Sati kills herself by jumping into the sacrificial fire thereby causing the Yagna to stop.

Lord Shiva was furious after learning about Sati's death at the Yagna. Unable to control his anger, he brought forth superior beings Virabhadra (a fierce warrior) and Bhadrakali (the female fierce warrior) to behead Daksha. Although many gods tried to defend Daksha, Virabhadra and Bhadrakali destroyed his army and beheaded him.

Lord Brahma pleaded to Lord Shiva for his son's life and asked for forgiveness for his behaviour. Lord Shiva calmed down, and revived Daksha by replacing his head with a goat's head. He placed Goddess Sati's body on his shoulder and started walking through the Universe, neglecting his duties. Lord Vishnu attempted to pacify Shiva, who was left in deep grief upon seeing the half-burned corpse of his beloved wife, Sati. To bring Lord Shiva out of his grief, Lord Vishnu uses his sudarshan chakra (a celestial weapon) to cut Sati's body to pieces, which fell on earth. Sati's body was cut into a total of 52 pieces that fell on different places on the earth, each of which have evolved into Shakti Pithas (Shakti Temples). There is a Kali or Shakti temple in each of these 52 places.

Lord Shiva then returned to Mount Kailash to meditate and mourn his wife's death, cleansing himself of all anger and pain rejecting all worldly things. Much later, Sati is reborn as the daughter of Himavath (the king of mountains). The couple name her Parvati and showed immense devotion towards Lord Shiva. She tries her best to please him to marry her. Although Lord



Shiva remains impassive, disappointing both her and the Devas who are eager to get Lord Shiva married. The Devas were informed that the demon, Taraka, who got them in trouble was destined to be killed by Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati's son. So, they decide to help Parvati please Lord Shiva by sending Lord Kama (the god of love & lust) to Mount Kailash. While Lord Shiva is seen meditating, Kamadeva raises his sugarcane bow, pulls his bowstring buzzing with bees and shoots flowery darts of kama (desire) into Shiva's heart.

The result was not something the Devas expected it would be. Instead of opening his eyes and expressing his desire for Parvati, Lord Shiva opens a third eye. It is in the centre of the forehead and blows out a missile of fire that sets Kamadeva aflame. Right in front of Parvati, Kamadeva is reduced to a pile of ashes in no time. It is then that Shiva gets the name destroyer. Such is the power of the third eye of Lord Shiva. Through this incident, the third eye has been accompanied by emotions of rage and anger.

The birth of Andhaka

As the Shiv Purana narrates, once playfully Parvati closes the eyes of Lord Shiva with her hands from behind. As soon as Mahadeva's eyes were thus covered, all the regions became dark and life seemed to be extinct everywhere in the universe. All living creatures became cheerless and filled with fear. Birds froze in the air mid-flight. Cows became living statues while grazing in their lush green fields. The tiger about to pounce on her prey was rooted to her hiding spot while the deer was fastened to his feeding ground. All life became still and quiet. When the eyes of the lord of all life forms were closed, the universe seemed to become sunless. Soon, overspreading darkness disappeared. A mighty and powerful flame of fire started to radiate from Mahadeva's forehead. A third eye, resembling another sun, appeared on his forehead. This eye provided light to the world when his other two eyes were closed.

While covering Lord Shiva's eyes, Goddess Parvati's hands started perspiring. The sweat filled with the power of Shiva (heat) and Shakti (water) transformed into a child – a blind child. It sang, cried, laughed, danced, put out its tongue like a serpent and thundered fiercely. The couple named this child – Andhaka. At this time, there was an asura (demon) named Hiranyaksha who had no sons. He then prayed to Lord Shiva and pleased by his devotion, the couple decided to offer him with Andhaka, to raise him as his son.

Andhaka went on to become the kind of Hiranyaksha's kingdom. Later, Andhaka gets blessed with a boon from Lord Brahma. Andhakasura asked him for victories throughout his life and immortality. Lord Brahma granted him the first boon but asked him how he wanted die, as death was inevitable. To this, Andhakasura replies that he would be killed by his own father if he ever decides to marry a woman who was like a mother to him. Empowered by this boon, he went on to conquer all the three worlds. During his invasion, he meets Parvati and gets aroused by her beauty. He then decided to make her his queen. As he chased her, Lord Shiva who came to Parvati's rescue and struck Andhaka by his trident. After being suspended on Lord Shiva's trident for over thousand years, Andhakasura realised his mistake and sought forgiveness from Lord Shiva. This story narrates the dark side of the third eye. When desire is destroyed, then all divisions fall apart – there is no right side or left side, nothing good or nothing bad. It metaphorically illustrates that the physical world, blinds one to worldly realities. Andhaka means the 'blind one', so blind that he does not even distinguish between mother and wife.

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contd from page 1

The Real Message of Diwali: "Dispel the Inner Darkness through the Light of Knowledge"



A line up of dignitaries, with Neeta Bhasin, founder of Diwali at Times Square, addressing



A vibrant Bhangra performance



A western dance performance



An Indian dance performance

"The festival prioritized including children and teaching them to be responsible citizens, compassionate individuals, and good neighbors. Recognizing America as a nation of immigrants, the event aimed to unite people from diverse backgrounds, focusing on education to foster unity and diversity", said the Founder of Diwali at Times Square, Neeta Bhasin.

KIA America, the presenting sponsor of Gopi Diwali at Times Square, proudly shares their support for this vibrant event: "Diwali's core values of balance, harmony, and joy are mutual guiding principles of Kia's



A presentation of Shakti

'Opposites United' design philosophy, which takes inspiration from the contrasts found in nature and humanity," said Steven Center, COO & EVP, Kia America. "That's why Kia is proud to participate as presenting sponsor of Diwali in Times Square and recognize the festival of lights."

The title sponsor of this year's festival was Gopi, a family run dairy company from California, serving the South Asian community for over a decade. Annie Keropian-Dilsizian, Marketing Manager for Gopi expressed the significance of such a historic event and the importance of spreading the universal message of peace and love through Diwali, the festival of light, knowledge, family and food. "Let Gopi Dairy illuminate your kitchen with purity and tradition, infusing your Diwali with joy and delight!" To reinforce the message, festival goers in attendance were given complimentary full-size product samples of Gopi Lassi in Mango, Rosewater and Original as well as Gopi Paneer to cook and enjoy at home.

One of the evening's highlights was the grand Diya (lamp) lighting on stage, synchronized with the countdown on the One Times Square tower. The ceremony drew distinguished guests, including Eric Adams, NYC Mayor, Senator Chuck Schumer, Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi, Consul General of India Randhir Jaiswal, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Justice Karen Gopee, and various esteemed dignitaries.

The event featured an awards segment to recognize individuals who have made substantial contributions in their respective fields.

Neera Tanden, Director of US Domestic Policy Council, was honored with the "Woman of the Year Award in Public Service,"

Shailesh Jejurikar, the COO of Procter and Gamble, received the "Man of the Year in Private Service."

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, instrumental in establishing the NYC school holiday and a strong supporter of Diwali at Times Square, was presented with the Samman Award.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams said "It's our responsibility to let the light triumph over darkness, and that's what this celebration symbolizes.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar expressed her joy, "With your support, we successfully made Diwali a public-school holiday in NY City, enshrining this important cultural celebration into law".

Senator Chuck Schumer said he loves the Indian community. He further said 'I wrote laws to allow more Indians to come to America and New York. The more Indians are in New York, the better New York is. I will change the law to make it more so'.

Randhir Jaiswal, the Consul General of India, NY stated, "As we celebrate Diwali in Times Square, we mark not just a festival but a milestone in the recognition of our culture, as Diwali becomes a public holiday in schools."

The "Light Up Concert" featured Bollywood sensation Mika Singh, Indian American singer Shuba, and local talent, making it a musical spectacle. The event showcased the city's vibrant cultural diversity and celebrated individuals who have left an enduring impact on society. A R Helping Hands Diwali at Times Square is an annual event that celebrates Diwali with grandeur, bringing together people from diverse

backgrounds to embrace unity in diversity, honor outstanding achievements, and celebrate the festival of lights.

For further information, visit <https://diwalitimesquare.com> or contact 212.216.9305.

India's EAM Jaishankar, U.S. Secy...

The Defense Ministry said a number of strategic, defense and technology issues are expected to be discussed at the '2+2' dialogue and the bilateral meeting between Mr. Singh and Mr. Austin. On November 9, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the '2+2' dialogue will enable a high-level review of progress being made in cross-cutting aspects of defense and security cooperation, technology value chain collaborations and people-to-people ties.

"The Ministers will take the opportunity to progress the futuristic roadmap for the India-U.S. partnership as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden, in their discussions in June and September this year," the MEA said in a statement.

It said both sides will also take stock of contemporary regional issues and exchange views about shared priorities for augmenting cooperation in multilateral platforms, and through frameworks such as Quad. (Source: PTI)

Framed purely for political reasons...

Five opposition members of the panel -- PR Natarajan (CPIM), Danish Ali (BSP), Ve Vaithilingam (Congress), Uttam Kumar Reddy (Congress) and Girdhari Yadav (JDU) -- submitted dissent notes against the adoption of the committee report.

While Natarajan, Ali, Yadav and Vaithilingam were physically present at the meeting of the ethics panel where the report was adopted, Reddy -- who is contesting the assembly polls in Telangana -- emailed his dissent note.

The sources said the opposition members in their dissent notes said the complaint against Moitra has "no merit, is unfounded and without a shred of evidence, and is being used to malign and defame a Lady Member of the Lok Sabha".

The recommendation is "erroneous" and has been framed "purely for political reasons", the opposition members contended in their notes, which were more or less similar in their content, the sources said.

An opposition member, the sources said, also raised the issue of a news channel accessing the draft report. The conclusion of this inquiry and this draft report was a "fixed match" from day one, a member was quoted as saying by the sources in his dissent note.

The opposition MPs in their dissent notes asked why a "totally unsubstantiated" allegation without any evidence against an MP by an interested party, with a "previously well-known personal animosity and desire for vendetta", was allowed to be forwarded by another MP, with a similar history of animosity, to the committee by the Speaker.

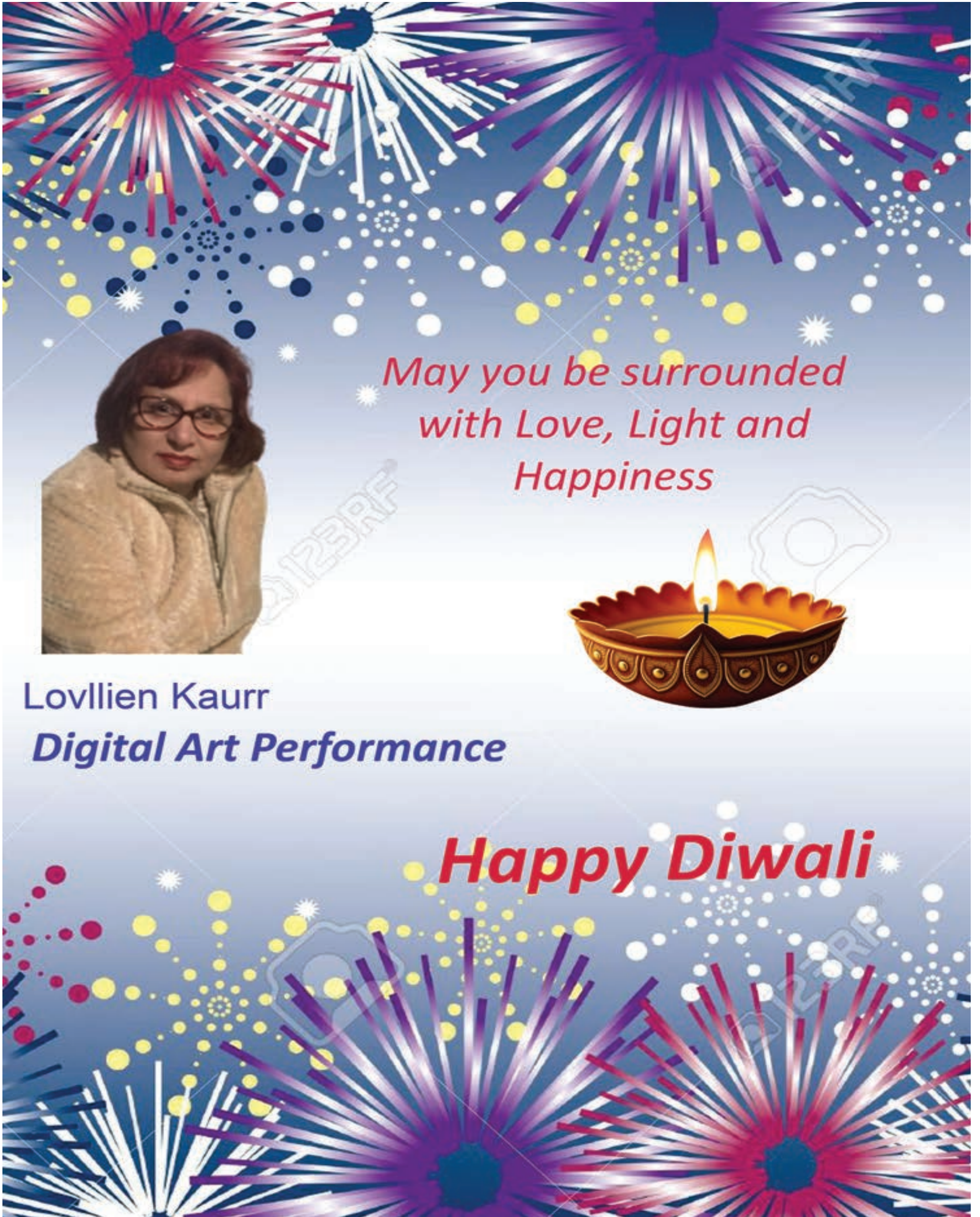
They argued that the first rule of an ethics complaint is it cannot be "false, frivolous, vexatious" and has to be made in good faith.

This will set a dangerous precedent and open up MPs to all sorts of harassment by interested parties in future, they claimed.

On the charge of cash and gifts, the opposition members contended that "no documentary evidence" of any cash or kind in bribe, being either given or taken, was provided by the complainant either in the written complaint or at the oral hearing on October 26.

The opposition members also asked how the committee is recommending "admonishing" Ali for speaking against the "derogatory questioning" of Moitra. "All of us walked out in protest and it was incumbent upon us to make people aware of the unparliamentary method of enquiry being adopted inside. Kunwar Danish Ali cannot be singled out for breach of Rule 275(2) because you yourself have breached this rule by speaking to the press repeatedly," the opposition members were quoted as saying.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



*May you be surrounded
with Love, Light and
Happiness*

Lovlien Kaurr
Digital Art Performance

Happy Diwali

History This Week NOV 10 - NOV 16

NOVEMBER 10



November 10, 1928 - Hirohito was crowned Emperor of Japan. He was Imperial Japan's Emperor during World War II. Following Japan's defeat, he was allowed to stay and remained Emperor until his death in 1989.

November 10, 1942 - Following the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Birthdays - Reformation founder Martin Luther (1483-1546) was born in Eisleben, Saxony. In 1517, Luther tacked his 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg's castle church asserting the Bible should be the sole authority of the church, and calling for reformation of the Roman Catholic Church.

Birthdays - Actor Richard Burton (1925-1984) was born in Pontrhydyfen, South Wales (as Richard Jenkins). The son of a coal miner, he came to be regarded as one of the greatest acting talents of his day, although he never received an Oscar and was never knighted. He led a tempestuous personal life, highlighted by twice marrying actress Elizabeth Taylor. He died at age 58 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

NOVEMBER 11



November 11, 1938 - Irving Berlin's God Bless America was first performed. He had written the song especially for radio entertainer Kate Smith who sang it during her regular radio broadcast. It soon became a patriotic favorite of Americans and was one of Smith's most requested songs.

November 11, 1972 - The U.S. turned over its military base at Long Binh to the

South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct American military participation in the Vietnam War.

November 11, 1973 - Egypt and Israel signed a cease-fire agreement sponsored by the U.S.

November 11, 1987 - In Russia, Boris Yeltsin was removed as Moscow Communist Party chief for criticizing the slow pace of Soviet reform.

November 11, 1992 - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

Birthdays - Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She was the wife of John Adams, the 2nd U.S. President.

Birthdays - Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) was born in Moscow. Best known for The Brothers Karamazov, Crime and Punishment and The Idiot.

Birthdays - World War II General George S. Patton (1885-1945) was born in San Gabriel, California. In 1942, he led the Allied task force that landed at Casablanca in North Africa. He commanded the U.S. 7th Army during the invasion of Sicily, then received worldwide attention and an official reprimand for slapping a hospitalized soldier suffering from battle fatigue. After D-Day, he led the U.S. 3rd Army across France and into Germany. He died at Heidelberg, Germany on December 21, 1945, of injuries from an automobile accident.

NOVEMBER 12



November 12, 1923 - Adolf Hitler was arrested in Germany after the failed Beer Hall Putsch.

November 12, 1942 - During World War II in North Africa, The city of Tobruk was captured by the British Eighth Army under General Bernard Montgomery.

November 12, 1948 - Japanese General Hideki Tojo and six others were sentenced to death by an Allied war crimes tribunal.

November 12, 1974 - The U.N. General Assembly suspended South Africa over its policy of apartheid.

November 12, 1982 - In Russia, Yuri Andropov was elected First Secretary of the Soviet Communist party following the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

Birthdays - French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) was born in Paris. Best known for his statues St. John the

Baptist Preaching, Eve, The Age of Bronze and The Thinker.

Birthdays - American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) was born in Johnstown, New York. During the first Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, she stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal."

Birthdays - Grace Kelly (1929-1982) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was an award-winning actress who left Hollywood in 1956 to marry Prince Rainier, becoming Princess Grace of Monaco. She died of injuries from an automobile accident, September 12, 1982.

NOVEMBER 13

November 13, 1927 - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.



November 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser USS Juneau by a Japanese torpedo off Guadalcanal during World War II in the Pacific. Following their deaths, the U.S. Navy changed regulations to prohibit close relatives from serving on the same ship.

November 13, 1945 - General Charles De Gaulle was appointed president of the French provisional government.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 13, 1973 - A state of emergency was declared in Britain after power workers and coal miners began work slowdowns.

November 13, 1995 - Israel began pulling its troops out of the West Bank city of Jenin, ending 28 years of occupation.

Birthdays - American jurist Louis Brandeis (1856-1941) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as an associate justice of U.S. Supreme Court from 1916 to 1939.

Birthdays - Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Best known for Treasure Island, Kidnapped and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

NOVEMBER 14

November 14, 1994 - The first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

Birthdays - Steamboat developer Robert

Fulton (1765-1815) was born in rural Pennsylvania.

Birthdays - French painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) was born in Paris. He pioneered the impressionist style in his landscapes including the Haystacks, Poplars, and Rouen Cathedral series.



Birthdays - Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) was born in Allahabad, India. He spent over 20 years working with Mahatma Gandhi to free India from British rule. Following independence in 1947, Nehru became India's first prime minister, serving until his death in 1964.

Birthdays - American composer Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was born in Brooklyn, New York. He created a quintessential American music style in his ballets, film scores, and orchestral works including Fanfare for the Common Man, Rodeo, and Appalachian Spring for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. His film score for The Heiress won an Oscar.

NOVEMBER 15

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.



November 15, 1980 - Pope John Paul II visited West Germany, the first papal visit to Germany in 200 years.

Birthdays - American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She painted desert landscapes and flower studies and was the subject of more than 500 photographs taken by her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz.

NOVEMBER 16

November 16, 1918 - Hungary was proclaimed an independent republic following the break up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



November 16, 1933 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the U.S. and Soviet Russia had resumed diplomatic relations, suspended since 1919.

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਿਅ ਮਿਟੀ ਧੰਧ ਜਡ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ ॥
ਜਿਉਂ ਕਰ ਸੂਰਜ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਤਾਰੇ ਟਪੇ ਅਧਿਰ ਪਲੇਆ ॥

ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ

ਧੰਨ ਧੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਹਿੱਕਸਵਿਲ ਵਿਖੇ
25, 26, 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023

ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਪੂਰਵਕ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ

ਆਰੰਭ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 25 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:00 ਵਜੇ
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਅਤੇ ਸ੍ਰ. ਰਵੇਲ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ੍ਰ. ਤੇਗਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਧਾਨ, ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ
ਭੋਗ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸੋਮਵਾਰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:00 ਵਜੇ
ਉਪ੍ਰੰਤ ਰਾਤ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਸਜਣਗੇ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਥ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥੇ
ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੇ।

ਮਹਾਨ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਸਮਾਗਮ 27, 28, 29 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ, ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ
ਵਿਚ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ - ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੀਆਂ

ਐਤਵਾਰ 12 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਬੰਦੀ ਫੋਤ ਦਿਵਸ (ਦੀਵਾਲੀ) ਸਵੇਰੇ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਰਾਤ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਪੂਰਵਕ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ

ਮਹਾਨ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦਰਬਾਰ 24 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ੁਕਰਵਾਰ ਰਾਤ 6:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।
ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਥ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥੇ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੇ।










ਭਈ ਕੁਰੰਗ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਭਵ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਈ ਰਾਏ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਈ ਅਮਰੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਭੁਵਾਲਪੁਰੀ)

ਭਈ ਕਲੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਖੰਡਾ ਵਾਲਾ UK)

ਭਈ ਨਰਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਭੰਨਾ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਸ੍ਰ. ਵਰਿੰਦਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਈ ਕਲੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਕੁਕ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਪ੍ਰਭਾਤ ਫੇਰੀਆਂ ਹਰ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਐਤਵਾਰ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਤੋਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਗ੍ਰਹਿ ਵਿਖੇ ਜਾਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।
ਲਤੀਵਾਰ ਸਹਿਤ ਪਾਠ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਦੀ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਂਝਾ ਸਹਿਤ ਪਾਠ ਗਰੁਪ ਵਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ।
ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਚੌਲੇ ਦੀ ਬਦਲੀ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਵਿਚ ਗੁਰਬਾਣੀ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਅਤੇ ਜੋਕਾਰਿਆ ਦੀ ਗੂੰਜ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ
ਲੰਗਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ 25, 26, 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ

ਨੋਟ: 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਾਰਕਿੰਗ ਲਾਟ ਵਿਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ
ਦੀ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਤੰਬੂ (TENT) ਲਗੇਗਾ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਟਾਲ ਲਗਣਗੇ
ਤਰਾਂ ਤਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਕਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਣਗੀਆਂ

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਤਾ : ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ
Guru Nanak Darbar of Long Island
11 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 Tel : 516-933-4878



Dutch want to rock India in last dance

Netherlands are far from intimidated by the prospect of finishing their ODI World Cup campaign on Sunday with a game against India, the tournament's only unbeaten team, all-rounder Teja Nidamanuru said.

The Dutch side, who came through the qualifiers, upset South Africa and beat Bangladesh to register two wins from their eight matches so far.

"I think to play arguably the best team in the competition at the top of the table is something that we're very excited by and it's another opportunity for us," Nidamanuru said. "Every time we step on the park, we're trying to showcase our skills and do the best that we can, especially being at the World Cup and coming through the journey that we've done."

This is the first time the Dutch managed two wins at a World Cup but Nidamanuru felt their performances have been inconsistent.

"We haven't put together the ideal game yet, if I'm really honest," he said.

A middle-order batter who bowls off spin, Nidamanuru said limited resources back home made it difficult to compete at the top level.

"And then you're thrust onto the ICC World Cup scene, or the qualifiers, and then you're facing quality bowlers who are bowling 135-plus km/h turn the ball and bowl it long and effectively," he said.

Despite the gulf in resources at the World Cup, Nidamanuru said the Dutch could improve significantly with more exposure against top teams and cited the example of Afghanistan, who managed just one win at the last two World Cups but stunned three former champions in the current edition.

"We see this as a learning block, but we're out there to compete," he said. *Source: Reuters*

Virat Kohli mania has been driving much of the Indian fans' interest in the Cricket World Cup. First, will India's star batter get 49 centuries and equal Sachin Tendulkar's record? Now that he has, will he get to 50? Then, what about 51... and so it will go on. The figures are mind-boggling. Indian batters in ODI cricket occupy the top slots among century-makers, with captain Rohit Sharma third with 31.

On Nov 5, India beat South Africa, the second-placed team in the league, by 243 runs, dismissing them for just 83. Is that really the difference between India and the rest? Or is that merely what happens when 11 players perform at their peak, everything coming together on a single day at a single venue with a single purpose? Can they do it two more times?

Kohli mania might have pushed into the background the terrific work of some others. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah's 15 wickets, for instance, have come at an average of just over 15; and batters have not managed to score off 70% of his deliveries. In the powerplay (first 10 overs), the percentage of dot balls - balls bowled without a run - rises to 83. This is any bowler's dream - to both take wickets and keep the runs down. Bumrah puts the opposition under pressure from the start.

His skipper Rohit Sharma does the same with the bat, hitting out straight away. The tactic has worked well. The

ICC WORLD CUP

New Zealanders scripts crushing win over Sri Lanka, put one foot in semis

BENGALURU (TIP)

New Zealand returned to winning ways at the World Cup following a four-match slump as they defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium today and all but secured their place in the semifinals.

Opening batsmen Devon Conway (45) and Rachin Ravindra (42) got fourth-placed New Zealand's chase of 172 off to a fast start and Daryl Mitchell (43) took them close before they crossed the finish line in 23.2 overs.

Victory left New Zealand on 10 points, in pole position to claim the last semifinals spot and join India, South Africa and Australia. Pakistan will now need to beat England by an almost impossible margin to leapfrog New Zealand on net run-rate.

Afghanistan, who also had slim hopes of qualifying for the knockouts, find themselves in a similar position as their Asian neighbours before their clash with South Africa.

"Really good performance," said New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson. "The early wickets and spin was a challenge through those middle overs. The pitch really slowed down later. "The guys showed some good intent later with the chase, so great performance overall. We thought there was going to be some weather later but there wasn't any. Hard to read such things."

Earlier, seamer Trent Boult and off-spinner Mitchell Santner landed timely blows as Sri Lanka limped to 171 all out after an early blitz by Kusal Perera (51) and a defiant late effort by Maheesh Theekshana (38



With 565 runs, Rachin Ravindra overtook Sachin Tendulkar (523) for the most runs scored in a men's ODI World Cup by under-25 batters. PTI

not out). "Nice to get a bit of success at the top. A must-win game, the pleasure is about getting the result," said Player of the Match Boult, who went past 600 international wickets. Barring an unlikely miracle in Pakistan's last game, New Zealand will take on hosts India in the semifinals.

"Everyone wants a piece of the strong home nation," Boult said. "We're looking forward to it. It'll be exciting to face India in the semifinals. They're playing phenomenal cricket."

Williamson's decision to bowl after winning the toss paid off early, as Boult (3/37) and Tim Southee (1/52) tore through the Sri Lankan top-order to leave them in some trouble at 32/3 inside five overs.

Perera, who was dropped on zero

by Tom Latham in the second over, punished New Zealand with a 22-ball fifty but lost another partner when Boult trapped Charith Asalanka lbw to turn up the heat on the 1996 champions. A fit-again Lockie Ferguson (2/35) struck in his second over to dismiss the aggressive Perera as Sri Lanka collapsed to 70/5 and eventually folded in the 47th over for a modest total after Santner (2/22) and Ravindra (2/21) joined the party.

End of road for Pakistan?

To surpass New Zealand's NRR, Pakistan have to beat England by at least 287 runs. If they bowl first, Pakistan will have just 3.4 overs to chase down the target if they can restrict England to 150. Afghanistan must beat South Africa by at least 438 runs.

Why India looks unstoppable

South Africa match saw the best of this as India made 91 in the powerplay. Sharma made just 40 off 24 balls but saw his team pass 60 in the sixth over, thus giving Kohli and Shreyas Iyer time to settle down and add 134. Sharma and Shubman Gill picked Marco Jansen, until then the most successful bowler in the powerplay, for special attention. There was method in the mayhem.

Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid deserve credit for the strategy, while the Indian top order deserves praise for carrying it through. This is India's dream team.

India have never dominated a World Cup, perhaps any tournament, in the manner in which they are doing now. Each element - the seamers, the spinners, the openers, the middle order - has performed with casual confidence and gusto. There have been centuries, five-wicket hauls, excellent wicketkeeping, fabulous catches.

India's greatest fast bowling team in a World Cup - Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj - is meshing well with its most effective spin duo, both left armers, one a finger spinner (Ravindra Jadeja) and the other a wrist spinner (Kuldeep Yadav). You can't ask for



more in a World Cup played at home.

As they await the semi-finals in Mumbai, there are just two areas of concern: the fact that India play only five bowlers, and that the team hasn't been tested in a close match. *Source: BBC*

ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥
ਬਾਹਿਰਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕਾ ਖਾਨਡਾ ॥ ਬਾਹਿਰਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਬਹਾਦਿ ॥
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ਮਿਤੀ 11 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ

ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਤੋਂ ਬੜੀ ਹੀ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਸਹਿਤ ਸਜਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।

ਮਿਤੀ 9 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਦਿਨ ਵੀਰਵਾਰ
ਅਰੰਭ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਠ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.30 ਵਜੇ

ਮਿਤੀ 11 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ
ਭੋਗ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਠ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10.00 ਵਜੇ

ਭੋਗ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਸਜਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ। ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੁੰਛ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਰਾਗੀ ਢਾਡੀ ਜਥੇ ਅਤੇ ਕਥਾ ਵਾਚਕ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਚਰਣਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜਣਗੇ।

ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੀ ਅਰੰਭਤਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਤੋਂ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12.00 ਵਜੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਤੋਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਅਤੇ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ 111 ਐਟਰੀਟ ਤੋਂ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਨਿਯਮਤੀ ਖੇਚੋਨਿਓ, 123 ਸਟਰੀਟ, ਐਂਟਨਾਟਿਕ ਖੇਚੋਨਿਓ, 118 ਐਟਰੀਟ ਟੁਰਦੁਖਾਣਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਦੇ ਅਠਿਓ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ ਕਰੀਬਨ 3.30 ਵਜੇ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਪਤੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

12 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023 ਐਤਵਾਰ
ਮਿੱਠੀ ਪੀਰੀ ਦੇ ਖਾਣਕੇ ਧੰਨ ਧੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੰਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ
ਬੰਦੀ ਫੋੜ ਦਿਵਸ
ਦੇਰ ਵਾਰ ਤੱਕ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਸਜਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।

ਧੰਨ ਧੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਪਾਵਨ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਰਪਿਤ
ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ 24 ਤੋਂ 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਤੱਕ ਸਜਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।
26 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਦਿਨ ਐਤਵਾਰ ਸਾਮ 6 ਤੋਂ ਰਾਤ 12 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ
ਸਜਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਫੁੱਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਖਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਮਾਪਤੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

27 ਨਵੰਬਰ (ਸੋਮਵਾਰ)
ਨੂੰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10 ਵਜੇ
ਤੋਂ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 1 ਵਜੇ
ਤੱਕ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ
ਸਜਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।



ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਅਤੇ ਸਹਾਨ ਨਗਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਾਗਮਿਕੀ ਫੌਰ ਕੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਬਖਸ਼ਿਸ਼ਾਂ, ਬਹਿਮਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੁਹੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਪਾਤਰ ਬਣੋ ਜੀ।

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Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with Plexconcil hosts Buyers-Sellers Meet



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra addressed the Business Meet and highlighted the immense potential offered by the Central American market



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman Plexconcil, Mr. Marcos Aroany, AGEXPORT; and Ms. Mellany Diaz, Executive Director of COGUAPLAST with visiting Indian companies

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India, Guatemala City, in collaboration with Plexconcil (Plastic & Polymer Industry) from India, successfully hosted two Buyer Seller Meets on November 3, 2023. First event took place in the morning at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Guatemala City wherein a delegation of Indian companies, led by Mr. Heman Minocha, Chairman of Plexconcil engaged in face-to-face interactions with local Guatemalan companies. Additionally, the team conducted a virtual Buyer Seller Meet with companies from El Salvador and Honduras in the evening. The BSM featured physical participation from over 45-50 companies from Guatemala along with 12 participating companies from India who made presentations of their respective plastic products. The evening BSM was attended by approximately 40 companies from El



Indian companies made presentations to showcase their products and capabilities.



The Buyer-Seller Meet on plastic received an overwhelming response from the Guatemalan companies, who attended in large numbers

CONTD ON PAGE 60

Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with Plexconcil hosts Buyers-Sellers Meet

CONTD FROM PAGE 59

Salvador and Honduras.

The event was chaired by H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, the Ambassador of India along with Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman of Plexconcil; Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director of Plexconcil, India; Mr. Ing Marcos Aroany from AGEXPORT, Guatemala and Ms. Mellany Diaz, Executive Director of COGUAPLAST in the morning. While the virtual BSM in the evening was chaired by Mr Jorge Hasbun, Head for Camara de Comercio, El Salvador, Ambassador Ariel Andrade, former Ambassador to India from El Salvador and Mr Arturo Zacapa, Managing Partner, Denton from El Salvadore and Honduras.

In his opening speech, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized the Government of India's dedication to cultivating a strong and prosperous relationship between India and Guatemala. He particularly highlighted the immense potential offered by the Central American market. This region, strategically positioned near the United States, presents a unique opportunity for economic growth and trade partnerships. Dr. Mohapatra stressed the importance of leveraging this geographical advantage and fostering closer ties between India and Guatemala to promote trade, technology transfer, and cooperation across various sectors.

Mr. Hemant Minocha, Chairman of Plexconcil, during his address, emphasized the vast potential for trade



The visiting Indian companies had another BSM on Plastics with El Salvadorian and Honduran companies in the evening



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra addressed the El Salvadorian and Honduran companies

between India and Central America. He encouraged Indian companies to set their sights on the Central American market and underscored the pivotal

role that Guatemala plays in the regional plastic industry. Mr. Minocha presented an insightful overview of the Indian Plastic Industry and introduced the Indian companies participating in the event. He extended an invitation to Guatemalan companies to participate in Plexconnect, PLEXCONCIL's flagship event scheduled for June 2024 in Mumbai, India. The event also featured addresses by Mr. Ing Marcos Aroany from AGEXPORT and Ms. Mellany Diaz, Executive Director of AGEXPORT, Guatemala. They reiterated their commitment to support and facilitate the growth of trade in plastic and polymer products between India and Guatemala. Their presence and participation underscored the significance of this initiative and the positive impact it holds for strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

Following the presentations in the morning, a series of engaging Business-to-Business meetings were conducted between potential buyers from Guatemala and Indian companies. These meetings provided a hands-on opportunity for Indian companies to showcase their diverse range of plastic and polymer products. This direct interaction allowed Indian businesses to present their offerings, understand the specific needs and requirements of Guatemalan buyers, and explore potential collaborations. These B2B meetings were instrumental in not only forging new business relationships but also in creating a deeper understanding of the market dynamics, quality standards, and customer preferences in Guatemala. This personal engagement further reinforced the commitment of both parties to develop fruitful trade partnerships and to explore avenues for mutual growth in the plastic industry.

The Buyer Seller Meet showcased the immense potential for trade in the plastic and polymer industry between India and Guatemala. With India's growing expertise in the plastic manufacturing sector and its capacity to supply a wide range of plastic and polymer products, the event provided a platform for Indian companies to explore new trade avenues in the Guatemalan market. Guatemala's robust economy and the increasing demand for plastic products in various sectors, including agriculture, packaging, and manufacturing, make it an attractive destination for Indian plastic manufacturers. The event fostered productive discussions and laid the foundation for strengthening trade relations in this sector, benefiting both nations.



A series of engaging Business-to-Business meetings were held between potential buyers from Guatemala and Indian companies



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