

## New York State Governor Hochul signs legislation making Diwali a holiday in NYC public schools

**SAYS "NEW YORK CITY IS RICH IN DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CULTURES, AND WE'RE TAKING AN IMPORTANT STEP TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THIS DIVERSITY IN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR,"**



New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation making Diwali a holiday in NYC public schools during a special reception at the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing November 14, 2023. Seen, among others, are New York State Assemblyman David Weprin (extreme left), New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar (6th from left), New York State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr. (7th from left) and Uma Mysorekar, President of Hindu Temple (extreme right)

Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

**FLUSHING, NY (TIP):** In a historic move, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation making Diwali a school holiday for New York City public schools.

"New York City is rich in different religions and cultures, and we're taking an important step to recognize and celebrate this diversity in the school calendar," Hochul said on Tuesday, November 14.

The legislation requires that all public schools in New York City be closed on the "15th day of the eighth month of the Indian calendar in each year, which is known as Diwali," a press release issued by Hochul's office said.

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### 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 20. For any questions, please call 646-247-9458.

### INSIDE

SHAME ISN'T WORKING. GEORGE SANTOS MUST GO

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## Super Sunday: Determined India, formidable Aussies



Skippers Rohit Sharma and Pat Cummins pose with the ICC World Cup-2023 trophy ahead of the final match between India and Australia in Ahmedabad.

Photo credit / PTI

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

**AHMEDABAD (TIP):** Pat Cummins, the Australian captain, wishes to silence the crowd at the Narendra Modi Stadium

in the final of the World Cup on Sunday, November 19. If any team can silence 1.3 lakh people in the world's biggest stadium, it's Australia. **CONTD ON PAGE 36**

## Sikhs take out an Impressive Parade in celebration of Guru Nanak Dev's 554th Birth Anniversary



Community leaders walk behind the float carrying Guru Granth Sahib, with milling crowds all around

I.S. SALUJA

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP):** An impressive Parade (Nagar Kirtan) was

taken out by the Sikh community of the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on November 11 in celebration of the 554th Birth **CONTD ON PAGE 3**

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## GUEST COMMENT

## Biden-Xi summit

## THAW IN BILATERAL TIES IS WELCOME

The four-hour-long meeting between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco marks a much-needed thaw in relations between the world's most powerful nations. During their first in-person interaction in more than a year, they have agreed to open a presidential hotline and resume military-to-military communication. Addressing the media after the meeting, Biden candidly said that 'the US will continue to compete vigorously with China, but will manage that competition responsibly so that it doesn't veer into conflict or accidental conflict.' Striking a conciliatory tone in his address to a

gathering of American executives, Xi said the world needed China and the US to work together, and it was 'wrong to view China as a threat and play a zero-sum game against it'.

The bilateral ties had hit a new low in February after the US shot down a suspected Chinese surveillance balloon. Last year, China had snapped inter-military communication after then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan despite Beijing's objections and warnings. Taiwan continues to be a prickly issue as Biden has called for restraint in China's use of the military in and around the strait. He also raised concerns over alleged human rights abuse by China in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong.

The meeting indicates that the US and China are not averse to adopting a pragmatic approach in order to reduce bilateral tensions, even though Biden has riled Beijing by reiterating that Xi is a dictator. Both are prioritizing their interests and trying to find a common ground while being mindful of their differences. These developments are important for India, which is locked in a prolonged standoff with China in Ladakh. With New Delhi's strong relations with Washington not influencing its other bilateral ties, the onus is on Beijing to go the extra mile to maintain peace and stability in its neighborhood.

(Tribune, India)

## Bridge to nowhere: On India's voice, Israel and the Palestinian cause

## INDIA SHOULD BE FORCEFUL IN ARTICULATING ITS POSITION ON GAZA

Two weeks after abstaining from a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that called for a ceasefire in the Israeli strikes on Gaza, India voted in favor of five of six annual draft resolutions at the UNGA's Fourth Committee that criticized Israel for increasing settlements in the Occupied Territories, was in favor of Palestinians' right to homes and property, and supported the UN Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) operating in Gaza. The official explanation of the votes as "routine" affirmation of India's traditional policy has only added to the confusion over the government's stand on the crisis. Its Explanation of Vote in the original UNGA resolution in October said that India could not vote for a resolution that did not include an "explicit condemnation" of the October 7 attacks by Hamas. However, none of the six resolutions, including one in which India abstained, that discusses investigating Israel for rights violations, actually referred to the October 7 attacks. These were instead identical to

resolutions that India had voted for before, and neither India nor any other country at the Fourth Committee deliberations proposed amendments. The Israeli envoy, in fact, demanded a rejection of the "anti-Israel" resolutions as they did not contain references to the current situation. Cuba argued that the resolutions were important to vote for, but that they also did not contain references to the more than 11,000 Palestinians killed, including 4,000 children, and the displaced (nearly a million). India did not propose amendments, nor did any Indian diplomat speak, although a lengthier explanation may be expected when the resolutions are put to a vote by the UNGA next month - by which time more of Gaza would have been flattened.

At a time when every day counts, New Delhi appears unwilling to exert itself to making a difference. True, the government continues to hold its traditional stand on support for the Palestinian cause and a two-state solution (which it reaffirmed during the

recent India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial meeting), and that it "stands by" Israel, with "zero tolerance" for terror attacks. However, it has not joined the call for a ceasefire or explicitly asked for an end to the strikes on civilian targets, where Israel claims it is hunting for Hamas fighters and searching for hostages. Nor has it named Hamas for the terror attacks or changed Indian law, as the Israeli Ambassador to India called for, to designate Hamas as a terror group. More than a month after Israel's reprisals began, the government must explain its position on the conflict, including where, if anywhere, India could play a role in alleviating the situation. The upcoming Voice of Global South and G-20 virtual summits may present the opportunity to articulate options for ending the violence, recovering Israeli hostages, as well as post-conflict scenarios for Gaza and Palestinians. India's voice, once known for being forceful and balanced on such issues, must not be replaced by an expedient silence.

(The Hindu)

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# New York State Governor Hochul signs legislation making Diwali a holiday in NYC public schools

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Governor Hochul lights the lamp. To her right are seen Jenifer Rajkumar and Joseph Addabbo Jr.

Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

Hochul said that the legislation to designate Diwali as a New York City school holiday is "an opportunity for our children to learn about and celebrate traditions from across the world."

Hochul signed the legislation during a special reception at the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing here to commemorate Diwali.

In a post on X, Hochul said that she believes a celebration of light should not be commemorated in the dark. "That's why tonight, we took action to bring people together. As we gathered to celebrate Diwali, I was proud to sign historic legislation making Diwali a New York City public school holiday!"

According to the New York City Department of Education, there were 1,047,895 students in the NYC school system, the largest school district in the United States, in 2022-23.

Of those students, 16.5 per cent were Asians. There are 1,867 schools within the Department of Education as of Fall 2022, including 275 charter schools.

The press release said that the legislation amends the education law to declare Diwali a holiday for New York City public schools.

"Many people of the Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist faiths in New York City and throughout the state observe the festival of Diwali and more than 1 billion people around the world celebrate this holiday," the release added.

New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, who is the first Indian-American and first Hindu elected to New York State Office and led efforts to make Diwali a school holiday in New York City, said generations of New Yorkers to come will now observe Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

"By signing my bill, we say to over 600,000 Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist New Yorkers, 'We see you, we recognized you, and Diwali is an American holiday'", Rajkumar said.

Rajkumar said she was proud to lead and win the fight for the Diwali School Holiday this year.

"Today, my historic Diwali bill is officially signed into law," she said as she thanked Hochul for signing "my momentous bill."

Rajkumar noted that for over two decades, the South Asian community has lobbied for the Diwali holiday.

"With the signing of my bill, we have lit an everlasting lamp in the hearts and minds of all New Yorkers. This is an achievement that will outlive me," she said.

New York State Senator Joseph Addabbo said that in this



An Indian classical dance performance  
Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

time of "local and global racism and anger", Diwali's message is critically important and needed.

"Diwali is a joyous occasion that holds immense significance for millions of people around the world and in our state. As we come together to commemorate this festival, we are reminded of the Diwali holiday's message - the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil," Addabbo said.

"The Diwali celebration not only represents the rich cultural heritage of our diverse community but also serves as a reminder of the values that bind us together. It



An Indian instrumental music performance  
Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

reminds us of the importance of compassion, kindness, and understanding in our interactions with one another," he said. Addabbo voiced appreciation for Hochul's approval to acknowledge Diwali as a school holiday and commended Rajkumar for her initiative in passing the legislation in the Assembly and working with his legislative team in passing the bill in the Senate.

New American Voter Association President Dr Dilip Nath said in the release he is proud to see Hochul finally fulfilling a long past Diwali recognition holiday into law.

"On the day of the Diwali so no student will have to choose between celebrating with their family or their school obligations."

Indian Diaspora Council International President Ashook Ramsaran termed the signing of the legislation as a "significant achievement following decades of grassroots efforts" in New York.

Ramsaran said in the press release that Diwali is the 'triumph of light over darkness, of good over evil' and its lessons are more relevant as turmoil, inhumanity and divisiveness impact many people worldwide."

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad New York President Bhajan Sarker said the 300,000 New Yorkers who celebrate Diwali will now be able to celebrate it with their entire families without being forced to forgo sending their children to school."

Nepali Community Leader and Executive Member of the Hami Nepali NabarajKC said, "On behalf of the Nepali Community we are profoundly grateful to our beloved Governor Kathy Hochul for recognizing the Hindu community and Diwali festival of lights."

Before Governor Hochul signed the legislation, she lit the traditional Diya to inaugurate the program. Earlier, artists gave an Indian instrumental music and an Indian classical dance performance. (Source: PTI)

# Sikhs take out an Impressive Parade in celebration of Guru Nanak Dev's 554th Birth Anniversary



Guru Granth Sahib in a motorized vehicle is followed by thousands in a parade on 11 November, 2023 in celebration of the forthcoming 554th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



Young boys performed Gatka which is a Sikh martial art



Free food and beverages were served all along the route of the parade



A group of bards, called Dhadhi, sings praises of Guru Nanak at Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society on 118 Street in Richmond Hill from where the parade passed on way back to Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center

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anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the First Master of the Sikhs.

Thousands followed the Guru Granth Sahib, the Holy Book revered as the Living Master atop a motorized vehicle, with the priests attending and singing hymns (shabad kirtan). All along the 3-mile route of the parade, a number of organizations and

individuals served food and beverages, called langar (free food) to each and everyone. Langar (free food) is a unique feature of Sikhism.

Sikhism is the youngest and the fifth most followed religion of the world. The Sikhs, known for their enterprise, are present in every part of the world, and contribute richly to their nations of adoption. The U.S. Canada, UK, account for a larger percentage of the

Sikh population.

The annual Guru Nanak parade is organized by Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center in Richmond Hill in cooperation with the Sikh Gurdwaras and the Sikh organizations in the Tri-State area. The 2023 parade was in its 23rd year.

## Indian American Sikh Jag Bains creates history with 'Big Brother' win



Jag Bains has become the first Sikh-American to win the reality show "Big Brother".

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** Jag Bains, an entrepreneur and truck company owner from Washington, created history by becoming the first Sikh-American to win the reality show "Big Brother".

The 25-year-old TV personality defeated Matt Klotz, a professional swimmer, and DJ Bowie Jane to take the top spot at the 100-day-long season.

Bains was the first Sikh-American to enter the "Big Brother" house in the US and is now the first Sikh-American houseguest to win the US version of the international reality series in its 25th season.

"Big Brother" announced the results of the finale on its official handle on microblogging site X. Bains will be taking home a prize money of USD 750,000.

"And that's our season!! Congrats and thank you to our #BB25 houseguests!" "To be able to win this with integrity and loyalty the whole time is exactly what I wanted to do," Bains told host Julie Chen-Moonves at the end of the episode.

Bains is now the third straight winner to make history on the US version of "Big Brother". In 2021, Xavier Prather became the first Black individual to win the game, while last year Taylor Hale was announced as the first Black woman to win.

"Big Brother" season 25 aired in the US on CBS.

# Indian American Niraj Antani running for US Congress in Ohio

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

**COLUMBUS, OH (TIP):** Ohio's first Hindu and Indian American State Senator Niraj Antani (R-6) Tuesday, November 14, announced a campaign for Congress in Ohio's 2nd Congressional District "to be a warrior for our community's values."

The youngest Hindu and Indian American state or federal elected official in the United States would be contesting the Republican primary on March 19, 2024, for the seat currently held by Congressman Brad Wenstrup. Wenstrup announced Thursday that he will not seek re-election and will retire from Congress.

Antani thanked Wenstrup "for his many years of dedicated service to our nation, both in Congress and as an American hero serving as a combat surgeon in the Army."

Antani would become the youngest Hindu and Indian American Member of Congress in the nation's history and the



Niraj Antani announced a campaign for Congress in Ohio's 2nd Congressional District

first Republican Hindu Member of Congress in the country's history, according to a statement from his campaign.

"As the 1st Hindu and Indian American State Senator in Ohio history, I've worked hard every day to ensure

every Ohioan has an opportunity to achieve their American Dream," he stated. "Now, I am running for Congress to be a warrior for our community's values and fight against those who seek to wreak havoc on us."

Antani also vowed to "stand steel-spined for the policies that benefit our community and strongly oppose those who kowtow to those against us."

Ohio's 2nd Congressional District spans 16 counties across about 150 miles in southern Ohio. The district's partisan voter index leans significantly Republican.

Born and raised in southern Ohio, Antani is serving his first term in the Ohio Senate, having previously served three terms as State Representative in the Ohio House of Representatives.

He has received numerous awards from organizations for veterans, community college, small businesses, and more. Antani is a graduate of Ohio State University.

## Indian-origin five family members die in London house fire

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

**LONDON (TIP):** Five members of a family, including three children, have died in a house fire in west London, the Metropolitan Police said on Monday, November 13, as it announced an investigation into the tragic incident.

While the victims are yet to be named by the police, local reports suggest the family was of Indian heritage and had been celebrating Diwali before the fire broke out on Sunday night.

A sixth victim remains unaccounted for in the fire and one male remains in hospital with injuries that are not thought to be life-threatening.

"My thoughts are with the loved ones of those who very sadly lost their lives in this tragic incident," said Met Police Chief Superintendent Sean Wilson, responsible for policing in Hounslow where the fire occurred.

"I don't underestimate the impact that this will have on the wider community and beyond. I understand that there will be a demand for answers and my officers are working to establish exactly what has happened," he said.



Five members of a family, including three children, have died in a house fire in west London. The victims have not yet been named.

Police said they were called at about 2230 local time on Sunday to reports of a fire at a residential address in Channel Close, Hounslow, where its officers attended alongside several London Fire Brigade firefighters and the London Ambulance Service (LAS).

The bodies of five victims were found inside the property and a sixth person is currently unaccounted for.

"It is believed that all five are members of the same family. One man left the house prior to the arrival of emergency services. He was taken to hospital by LAS. His injuries are not believed to be life-threatening," reads the Met Police statement.

The police said nearby properties of the area were evacuated as a precaution and enquiries into the cause of the fire are ongoing. At this early stage in the investigation there have been no arrests, the Met Police said.

"We sent a number of resources including five ambulance crews, an advanced paramedic, two clinical team managers, two incident response officers and members of our Hazardous Area Response Team," LAS said in a statement.

Dileep Singh, 54, from Manchester, told reporters that his brother-in-law was at the property with his wife, three children and two adult guests.

Singh told the 'Evening Standard' newspaper: "I received a call and came as soon as I could with my wife. We are desperate for information. My brother-in-law is alive, but I don't know what has happened to everyone else."

"We are desperate. I was told the fire came from outside from a bin. We are going to the hospital to try to get more information."

It is reported that the family had moved to the house in London relatively recently from Belgium.

## Indo-Canadian Sikh man, his 11-year-old son shot dead by rival gangsters outside gas station



Harpreet Singh Uppal, 41, and his son were gunned down outside a gas station in City of Edmonton. Photo for representation

NOVEMBER 11, 2023

**EDMONTON (TIP):** An Indian-origin Sikh man, described as a "higher-level figure" in the organized crime scene in Canada, and his 11-year-old son were shot and killed in what police have called a "sick and twisted" escalation of gang violence in the city of Edmonton.

Harpreet Singh Uppal, 41, and his son were gunned down outside a gas station on Thursday afternoon in a brazen, daytime shooting, Edmonton Police

Service acting superintendent Colin Derksen told the media on Friday. The boy's young friend, who was in Uppal's car at the time, survived with no physical injuries. Derksen said police do not know whether the shooter or shooters knew children were in the car when they began following Uppal.

"But what we do know, sadly, is that once the shooter or the shooters learned that the son was there, they intentionally shot and killed him," the Edmonton

Journal quoted Derksen as saying.

He said killing children was once a "line in the sand" gang members refused to cross, but that is changing.

"That is sick and twisted," Derksen said. "I think most gang members would agree." Police have not released the name of the boy, pending autopsy.

Derksen said a suspect vehicle—a stolen 2012 BMW X6—was located on fire north of Beaumont.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Five Indian Americans named to Time Magazine's Inaugural List of Influential Leaders Driving Business to Real Climate Action

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The list, which draws attention to the people who are shaping and leading climate action, comes at a critical moment, ahead of the 2023 U.N. Climate Change Conference.

Five Indian Americans are named in 'TIME100 Climate,' the magazine's inaugural list of "the world's most influential leaders driving business to real climate action," released today (Nov. 16). While "climate leadership is embedded across all of our coverage today," Time believes that "more could be done to draw attention to the people who are shaping and leading climate action." The list, which the magazine calls "a community," comes at a critical moment, ahead of the 2023 U.N. Climate Change Conference. Apart from being a



Ajay Banga, Manoj Sinha, Jigar Shah, Rajiv J. Shah and Geeta Aiyer, are the five Indian Americans named to Time Magazine's Inaugural List of Influential Leaders Driving Business to Real Climate Action

community, the list is also "an argument for how we see the future," Time says, "because we believe progress for the planet will come from the engagement with and leadership with the business world."

Geeta Aiyer, founder and president of Boston Common Asset Management, Rajiv J. Shah, president of The Rockefeller Foundation, Ajay Banga, who began his five-year term as World Bank Group president in June, Jigar Shah, the director of the U.S. Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, and Manoj Sinha, CEO and co-founder of Husk Power Systems (HPS) are the five Indian Americans named to Time Magazine's Inaugural List of Influential Leaders Driving Business to Real Climate Action.

## Four Indian Americans among 32 Rhodes Scholars win Rhodes Scholarships



Mrinalini S Wadhwa, Suhaas Bhat, Nayantara K Arora and Aishani Aatresh are the four Indian Americans among 32 to win the Rhodes Scholarship

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Four Indian Americans are among 32 Rhodes Scholars chosen from the United States who will go to Oxford University in England in October 2024 to pursue graduate degrees with scholars from over 70 countries.

The four Indian American students among 32 selected from 862 candidates endorsed by 249 different colleges and universities in 16 US districts are Mrinalini S Wadhwa, Suhaas Bhat, Nayantara K Arora and Aishani Aatresh.

"They inspire us already with their accomplishments, but even more by their values-based leadership and selfless ambitions to improve their communities and the world," said Ramona L. Doyle, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, announcing their names.

Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford-ranked the #1 university in the world in some global rankings-and may allow funding in some instances for four years, according to a press release.

Dr. Doyle called the Rhodes Scholarships, "the oldest and best-known award for international study, and arguably the most famous academic award available to American college graduates."

Wadhwa from New York City is a senior at Columbia University where she majors in History and Mathematics. She is co-editor-in-chief of multiple student journals, including the Columbia Journal of Asia, which she co-founded.

She has won fellowships to support research in

archives around the world, including in India, France, and the United Kingdom, and is current chair of the Columbia History Association. Mrinalini also co-founded a program providing a three-year English curriculum for low-income Indian students in New Delhi.

At Oxford, Mrinalini will pursue an MPhil in Modern European History.

Suhaas Bhat from Marshfield, Wisconsin, is a senior at Harvard University majoring in Social Studies and Physics. He co-founded an organization at Harvard that provides peer-facilitated group psychotherapy to students.

He has developed machine learning models for designing novel drugs. He helped organize Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, resulting in the university divesting its endowment from the fossil fuel industry.

He has eight peer-reviewed publications and was selected as part of the Junior 24 cohort for Phi Beta Kappa. He has worked as a machine learning researcher at DE Shaw Research, American Family Insurance, UbiquiTx, and the Church and Chatterjee labs at Harvard and Duke, respectively.

At Oxford, he will pursue an MSc in Mathematical Modeling and Scientific Computing and an MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine.

Nayantara K. Arora from Portland, Oregon, is a senior at the University of Oregon, Clark Honors College, where she majors in Neuroscience, with minors in Global Health and Chemistry.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian American Shakuntla L. Bhaya is appointed to the Council of Administrative Conference

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

**(TIP):** President Biden has named Indian American lawyer Shakuntla L. Bhaya to the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States. The independent federal agency is charged with convening expert representatives from the public and private sectors to recommend improvements to administrative processes and procedures.

The first South Asian Indian to be admitted to the Delaware Bar Association, she has been working towards "diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and in politics," the White House said in a press release announcing the appointment. Co-owner of a statewide law firm, her "practice focuses on representing individuals who are seriously injured as a result of businesses and people making unsafe decisions." She has been a member of Governor Carney's Judicial Nominating Commission for the past seven years.

In addition to practicing law, she is involved in Delaware politics and is currently a member of the Delaware Democratic Party's State Executive Committee. She is past president of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association, and "continues to be involved in protecting consumers' 7th Amendment Right to a jury trial and access to courts," the White House said.

A member of the American Association for Justice and American Civil Liberties Union, she is involved in helping pro-choice democratic women become elected to office, as well as fighting for rights for the LGBTQ+ community and helping members of her community to adopt children, seek legal redress when discriminated in the workplace, and permit people to marry. Bhaya is a graduate of Northeastern University School of Law.



The first South Asian Indian to be admitted to the Delaware Bar Association, she has been working towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession and in politics.

# Eric Adams axes \$547 million from NYC Education Department budget, more cuts on the way

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** New York City's Education Department will cut nearly \$550 million from its budget this year as part of a sweeping round of citywide reductions ordered by Mayor Eric Adams.

Many of the cuts are expected to take effect immediately. They will touch a wide range of programs and positions that directly affect students, from the city's massive free preschool program, to community schools that support families with out-of-school needs, to the popular pandemic-era Summer Rising program.

A big chunk of this year's savings will come through a hiring slowdown and the elimination of 432 vacant non-classroom positions, which officials said on Thursday will lead to a combined \$157 million in savings.

Budget officials didn't specify which roles would be eliminated but emphasized cuts to central offices and other roles that support schools. A hiring freeze has been in place since earlier this fall, but has not applied to teaching positions. Education Department officials didn't immediately say whether the agency would continue to spare teaching positions from the freeze.

A mandate to rein in spending on "supplemental pay for administrative staff" is expected to save another \$86 million this year, but officials didn't immediately provide details on what that means.

In September, Adams directed all city agencies to find cuts equal to at least 5% of the city's contribution to their annual budgets by November, in response to what he described as unsustainable levels of spending on the ongoing influx of asylum seekers. Additional cuts of 5% are expected in January and again in spring 2024.

In all, that means the Education Department could face up to \$2.1 billion in cuts. The department's overall budget is roughly \$37.5 billion this school year.

Starting next fiscal year, the department will cut \$120 million from the Universal Pre-K program, which enrolled about 100,000 3- and 4-year-olds this year and is the signature legacy of former Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration. The program has been beset by payment delays to childcare operators and enrollment declines during the pandemic.

Officials said they're reducing the size of the program because there are about 37,000 vacant seats, but did not specify how many of those slots they plan to eliminate.

"While we don't know many details yet, there is no way a cut this large would not hurt the services available to



children and families," said Gregory Brender, the chief of policy and innovation at the Day Care Council of New York, a membership organization of childcare providers.

A range of longstanding programs with a direct presence in schools are also facing small cuts.

An initiative to expand the teaching of computer science is losing \$3.5 million this year, while the budget for community schools will be cut by \$10 million this year. Community schools were another major educational priority of de Blasio's administration, and have continued to grow under Adams.

Separately, nearly \$20 million in funding for Summer Rising, the pandemic-era free summer school program that served roughly 110,000 students last year, is being slashed from the budget of the city's Youth and Community Development Department, which jointly operates the program with the Education Department. The cuts will mean reduced hours and no Friday programs for some middle-schoolers, officials said.

The program has proved immensely popular with families and had about 45,000 more applicants than slots last year.

"For months, we have warned New Yorkers about the challenging fiscal situation our city faces," Adams said in a Thursday statement. "To balance the budget as the law requires, every city agency dug into their own budget to find savings, with minimal disruption to services. And while we pulled it off this time, make no mistake: Migrant costs are going up, tax revenue growth is slowing, and COVID stimulus funding is drying up."

Budget analysts have pointed out that the cuts ordered by

Adams are far greater than the expected costs of serving the asylum seekers. The city also collected nearly \$8 billion more in revenue last fiscal year than anticipated, according to a recent analysis from Comptroller Brad Lander.

Michael Mulgrew, the president of the United Federation of Teachers, called the cuts "unnecessary" and "driven by City Hall's false political narrative that New York City is about to fall off a fiscal cliff."

"Revenues are higher than expected, investment from Albany is up, and reserves are at a near-record high," he added.

Other groups warned that the city's hiring and budget freeze is already affecting services for vulnerable children, and that further cuts could threaten their legal rights.

Advocates for Children, a nonprofit group, said the city has been unable to hire 15 additional staffers to help families living in shelters navigate the education system, an urgent concern given the influx of migrant families.

The organization also said short staffing appeared to be causing delays in providing preschool special education evaluations and services in the Bronx.

"We are particularly concerned that these budget plans will result in even more egregious violations of the rights of students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students in temporary housing or foster care," Advocates for Children executive director Kim Sweet said in a statement.

## More cuts ahead for NYC schools

The city-directed budget cuts are part of a perfect storm of fiscal trouble facing city schools.

About \$7.7 billion in one-time pandemic aid from the federal government has padded the Education Department's budget in recent years and funded critical initiatives, including expanded preschool and summer enrichment programs. That money will dry up next September, and the looming expiration of that aid has already prompted some painful cuts.

For the first time in four years, the Education Department clawed back money this week from schools where enrollment numbers fell short of projections.

Because enrollment went up overall across the city, the majority of schools didn't have to return money, and instead got extra funding because of higher-than-projected enrollment. But there were still more than 650 schools that saw a total of \$109 million in midyear cuts, according to a United Federation of Teachers analysis. (Source: Chalkbeat)

## Legislator Drucker Celebrates Success of New York State Governor's Cup 2023 Cricket Championships



Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker presenting citation to Imran Pasha, Ali Zar, and ZAR Sports for the success of the New York State Governor's Cup 2023 Cricket Tournament

Photo credit / Office of Legislator Arnold W. Drucker

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

**EAST MEADOW, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker (D - Plainview) congratulated Imran Pasha, Ali Zar, and ZAR Sports for the success of the New York State Governor's Cup 2023 Cricket Tournament, which was played at Eisenhower Park on Sunday, Oct. 22. The event came at a time when cricket is growing in popularity and importance in Nassau County - earlier this fall, Nassau County won a bid to host the 2024 International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Men's T20 World Cup at Eisenhower Park.

"Cricket is one of the world's most popular sports, and it is wonderful to see that Nassau County is leading the way as interest in it grows across America," Legislator Drucker said. "Thank you to everyone who worked so diligently to make this event a tremendous success."

## Senator Liu inducts Flushing resident, Michael Louis Vulcano, into New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

**FLUSHING, NY (TIP):** State Senator John Liu inducted Flushing resident Michael Louis Vulcano into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame on Sunday, November 12. The Hall of Fame was established in 2005 to honor and recognize outstanding veterans from the Empire State who have distinguished themselves in both military and civilian life. State Senator John Liu stated, "Corporal Michael Louis Vulcano is a testament to the resilience, sacrifice and indomitable spirit of the Greatest Generation. He nobly answered the call of our country at a time of tremendous uncertainty and worldwide conflict, and he served honorably alongside his brothers in arms. His induction into the Veterans Hall of Fame is just one small way we can thank him and his family for his tremendous service to our nation."



Senator John Liu (second from left) with Michael Louis Vulcano and his family

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Dr Jagdish Gupta bestowed President Gold Medal by the Brooklyn Medical Society in a Bicentennial Year Honor

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**BROOKLYN, NY (TIP):** The Medical Society of the County of Kings (MSCK), Brooklyn's oldest scientific organization, honored Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta with the President Gold Medal, inducting him into its Prestigious President-Club.

The County Society was celebrating its 174th President's Dinner at Dyker Beach Golf Club, culminating in a grand finale to its Bicentennial Year Celebrations.

MSCK President Dr. Madhu Gudavalli introduced the guest of honor, Dr. Gupta, President of the Association of Indians in America - (AIA-NY chapter), and invited 14 past presidents of the society, along with Dr. Parag Mehta, past President of the Medical Society of the State, to honor Dr Gupta with the 174th President Gold Medal.

Dr. Robert Frankle, Chairman of the Board of the Medical Society of the State of New York, presented the plaque-award to Dr. Gupta. Additional citations from NYS Senator Andrew Gounardes and Assemblyman Lester Chang were presented to Dr Gupta by Dr. Lance Austein, past President, and Dr. Donald Moore, past President and Vice Chairman of MSCK.

Mrs. Meena Gupta was presented with the Golden Charm as the 174th First Lady.

While accepting the honor with humility, Dr. Gupta reflected on the



Dr. Jagdish K Gupta was presented the award-plaque by Dr. Robert Frankel, Chairman of the Board of the Medical Society of the State of New York

highlights of the MSCK's Bicentennial Year Celebrations that started last year marking 200 years of its advocacy, dedication, and patient care. Proclamations at the state Assembly and City Council had declared May 25, 2022 as the "Bicentennial Celebration Day for MSCK."

Another notable achievement of MSCK involved a collaborative session with other New York counties and MSSNY at the iconic Brooklyn Borough Hall. A video message from NYS Senate Majority Leader Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and a personal session with NYS Health Committee Chairman, Hon. Gustav



Cake Cutting with all the past Presidents

Rivera, and six other Assembly members emphasized opposition to the Wrongful Death Liability Expansion Bill. The successful veto of the bill by Governor Kathy Hochul marked a rare achievement against the trial lawyers' association.

The prestigious event was chaired by Dr. Neeraj Acharya, Past President and Treasurer of MSCK, and unfolded under the guidance of Dr. Sherman Dunn, Chairman of the MSCK Board, and Dr. Gudavalli, the current President.

The keynote address by Dr. Sanjiv Chopra on "Reflections on Lasting Happiness and Living with Purpose" received a standing ovation. An exhibition curated by County Historian, Dr. Moore, displayed historical artifacts,

The dinner event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony, where the past Presidents of the MSCK and other prominent guests joined Dr. Jagdish Gupta to celebrate his induction into the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn.



Dr. Jagdish K Gupta, Mrs Meena Gupta, Dr. Madhu Gudavalli & Dr. Parag Mehta, Past President of MSSNY.

## NOTICE

State Bank of India, New York office, invites proposals for engagement of Real Estate Broker to assist them in exploring and finalizing option for office space requirement (lease or purchase) in New York. Real Estate Broker Firms / Companies interested in providing these services are invited to submit their proposal. For details, please visit our website at <https://sbinewyork.statebank.com/others>. All queries should be e-mailed to [vppna.nyb@statebank.com](mailto:vppna.nyb@statebank.com). Real Estate Broker Firms / Companies desiring to provide services must deliver sealed copies of their proposal to

Vice President (P & A)  
State Bank of India,  
460, Park Avenue, New York,  
NY - 10022  
Or email to:  
[vppna.nyb@statebank.com](mailto:vppna.nyb@statebank.com)

no later than November 22, 2023. Proposals received after this specified time will not be considered.

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# Hitting below the belt in poll season

**CENTRAL INVESTIGATION AGENCIES AND GOVERNORS BEING USED TO WEAKEN THE OPPOSITION'S WILL TO FIGHT**



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

**“The BJP was touted as the 'party with a difference'. We thought it signified better governance, but instead we got the electoral bonds to finance political parties in place of the crossed cheques that electoral trusts established by corporates would issue transparently to various parties operating in the vicinity of their factories. Another step the BJP took to ensure an 'Opposition-mukt' polity was to literally release 'tigers' in the form of Governors and Lt Governors on hapless Opposition parties. The most recent example is of one of my own tribe (the Indian Police Service), who sits in the gubernatorial chair in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu. Governor RN Ravi has forced even a dyed-in-the-wool politician like DMK's MK Stalin to approach the Supreme Court, pleading to be allowed to function like BJP governments in the Hindi heartland.”**

**C**an you blame the Prime Minister if voters give him credit for the superb performance of the Indian cricket team in the ongoing World Cup? I would not. But if the Enforcement Directorate (ED) shows its true colors and leaks unverified information against a popular Chief Minister like Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel just before the voters in that state wend their way to the polling booths, that would be called 'hitting below the belt'. Boxers get disqualified if their blows land below the belt of the opponent. Why then is it permitted during elections, which have almost entered the category of a blood sport?

The double-engine governments, of course, do not require class monitors. They know what they have to do.

The Congress has sought the intervention of the Election Commission



AT LOGGERHEADS: Tamil Nadu is witnessing a faceoff between CM MK Stalin (right) and Governor RN Ravi

of India. That august body is making efforts to rebuild its good name, which was in danger of being obliterated. Recently, it has acquired the spine to question Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. But I doubt if it will find the law on its side in this distasteful matter.

The 'caged parrot', the CBI, has been replaced by a puppet on strings. The power of appointment has served the party in power well. The Delhi Chief Minister has been served with a notice in the liquor policy case, which has succeeded in keeping some important AAP leaders in limbo. It is a novel method of dispersing political opponents and it has certainly marred AAP's ability to give the poorer sections of Delhi's population quality education at the school level and quicker access to medical help at the mohalla level.

The BJP was touted as the 'party with a difference'. We thought it signified better governance, but instead we got the electoral bonds to finance political parties in place of the crossed cheques that electoral trusts established by corporates would issue transparently to various parties operating in the vicinity of their factories.

Another step the BJP took to ensure an 'Opposition-mukt' polity was to literally release 'tigers' in the form of Governors and Lt Governors on hapless Opposition parties. The most recent example is of one of my own tribe (the Indian Police Service), who sits in the gubernatorial chair in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu. Governor RN Ravi has forced even a dyed-in-the-wool politician like DMK's MK Stalin to approach the Supreme Court, pleading to be allowed to function like BJP governments in the Hindi heartland.

Non-cooperation of Governors with

Opposition-ruled parties was not so common before 2014. Reports of such adversarial contests have been recorded in an alarming degree from Punjab, West Bengal, Kerala and Telangana. The double-engine governments, of course, do not require class monitors. They know what they have to do.

The Supreme Court has never been assailed by so many complaints against Governors. When it was asked to adjudicate the Tamil Nadu imbroglio, I sensed a sense of fatigue in the Chief Justice's remarks in the court. He asked the parties why they could not sort out their differences keeping the Constitution in mind. But the contestants are not bothered about the Constitution. One wants to install a 'double engine', while the other thinks that a 'single engine' is more appropriate for the people. There is, subsequently, no meeting point and rapprochement is not likely to happen. Incidentally, a 'single-engine' government is permitted by our Constitution.

Delhi has a governance system under which babus take policy decisions. The government elected by the people has no real role to play. In the union territory of Puducherry, the Centre installed an old colleague of mine from the police service as Lt Governor. She gave the Chief Minister a rough time till he was voted out of office.

The use of Central investigation agencies and Governors to weaken the Opposition's will to fight and thereby get re-elected to high office is accompanied by the targeting of the hearts and minds of Opposition legislators en masse to form double-engine governments. Had that resulted in improved governance, all sins would have been forgiven. But that does not happen. On the contrary, the

temptation to indulge in corruption is reinforced!

It is clear that the route to power has been mapped out. First ensure emasculation of Opposition parties by setting the ED, the CBI, the NIA, et al, on their tails. If they win the elections even after the investigating agencies have dug their teeth into them, go for mass defection of elected legislators of Opposition parties by the lure of office so that double-engine governments are installed in the states. If the difference in numbers is not conducive to a takeover, release Governors or Lt Governors to make the government in question impotent.

This plan will backfire when the voters see through the game. That is what the ruling party, which is working according to those plans, should worry about. Even the poorer sections of the populace have cottoned on to what is being perpetrated. They are beginning to realize that jobs will not be forthcoming through such machinations and that their present lot of poverty and deprivation will end only if those who have benefited greatly from the right-wing policies invest their money in creating jobs. But that is not happening.

In the meantime, the government is changing laws to give itself the last word on appointments in the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and other centers of higher learning. If the autonomy enjoyed by these institutions is taken away, the standing of these IIMs and others in the job market will diminish. This will force bright students to seek avenues in foreign universities. But then the students, besides being bright, will also have to be well-heeled, which puts the poorer sections at a disadvantage.

(The author is a highly decorated Indian Police Service Officer and a former governor)



# As Gaza war rages, waiting for the other shoe to drop



BY MAHESH SACHDEV

**WITH THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR DRAGGING ON, THE WORLD WONDERS HOW BIG A CRATER IT WOULD CAUSE ON GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS AND THE ECONOMY**

The Israel-Hamas war is now in its sixth week. Like the proverbial landlord, West Asians and much of the world, are currently in suspended animation wondering when and where the "second shoe" will drop and how big a crater it would cause on regional and global geopolitics and the economy.

While West Asia is no stranger to such shoe falls, several aspects of the current scrimmage are familiar, although some are new. We need to dwell on them briefly before making any prognosis of the crisis. It has been just over 50 years since the 19-day Yom Kippur War of 1973, 41 years since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 and 17 years since a 33-day inconclusive war between Hezbollah and Israel in 2006.

Israel was forced to leave Gaza in 2005, largely due to Palestinian resistance after a 38-year-long occupation. Since then, it has launched several military campaigns against Gaza: 2008 (lasting 22 days); 2012 (eight days); 2014 (50 days); and 2021 (11 days). Almost all Gaza conflicts involved Hamas firing rockets and the Israel Defense Forces making extensive air raids and missile attacks with occasional forays by armor-tipped infantry. Their ceasefires were always mediated by Egypt, the only Arab country that has a border with Gaza. Of late, Qatar has developed some proximity with Hamas and the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ), a sister militancy in Gaza, through financial support and sheltering their leaders.

## LANDING A BLOW ON ISRAEL

Counting the differences, this ongoing conflict has proven to be far bloodier and more destructive than all its predecessors. It has already lasted longer than any - except the conflict in 2014. It has been the first time that Israel has suffered a major intelligence and security failure since 1973, denting its fabled impenetrable security and omniscient intelligence set-up. It has resulted in Israel suffering the largest number of war deaths and hostage-taking in a single day. Unlike previous instances of Israel fighting a non-state actor, this time it has had to contemplate the real possibility of a combination of Hamas, the PIJ, Hezbollah and the Houthis with Iran-allied Shia groups harassing the American military presence in Iraq and Syria in tandem. Further, following the "Abraham Accords" and recent progress towards normalization with Saudi Arabia, the regional geopolitics has shifted from an Arab-Israeli binary set-up to a more complex arrangement now. A prolonged and wider conflagration could risk a reversal of these hard-won diplomatic gains. In addition, it could draw in Iran which has become a more potent existential threat. At the same time, Israel's abject failures on October 7 have dimmed its role as the possible anchor of a regional anti-Iran security alliance. While

**India needs to be on its toes watching the Israel-Hamas conflict, which could do considerable harm given our huge exposure to West Asia. Resultant high oil prices would be bad for our economy. The current account deficit and inflation would surge. If global growth is impacted, our exports and investment inflows may suffer. The geopolitical instability may pose a threat to the security of our nine million-strong diaspora in West Asia, and raise questions about the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor launched with great fanfare in September.**



Palestinians look for survivors of the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah on Monday, Oct. 23, 2023  
File photo

the Israel-Hamas conflict has hogged attention, other distractions such as the Ukraine-Russia war, China-United States frictions and global economic fragility are lurching around.

## A RE-ENFORCEMENT OF REGIONAL TENETS

All these weighty new factors notwithstanding, the Israel-Hamas conflict has re-enforced some long-forgotten regional tenets. First, it has dramatically re-established the centrality of the "Palestine Cause", demonstrating that 35 years of U.S.-sponsored peace-making has failed to bury it. An Israeli military solution at huge humanitarian costs could delay and complicate the situation, but may not take it to status quo ante October 6 2023. Second, the conflict has demonstrated that despite all talk of West Asia's growing multipolarity, the U.S. remains the ultimate arbiter of the region's security and stability. Third, thanks to its hydrocarbon assets, trade choke points and the existence of potent non-state terror actors, West Asia's geo-economic importance remains undiminished. Even as West Asian events are often counter-intuitive, the Israel-Hamas war seems to be moving towards a denouement. Israel has gone for broke by besieging the major Gazan hospitals by alleging that Hamas uses them as human shields. It is a high-risk gambit: if the information is correct and the siege

succeeds, Israel would achieve its twin objectives of breaking the back of Hamas and releasing the hostages. Otherwise, it would have to eat a humble pie at home and face a public relations disaster abroad.

For several reasons, Israel does not have time on its side after six weeks of tumult. According to an Israeli newspaper, even if war remains confined to Gaza, it could be financially ruinous, with cost estimates running to \$51 billion, or a tenth of the national annual GDP. A rough Indian equivalence could be a war costing \$350 billion. Israeli rulers are already on notice domestically, in abeyance due to the national crisis, for their various lapses. If the Gaza conflict goes awry or expands into a "forever" regional war, public support for the "national" government could easily evaporate. Israel's iron fist pursuit of its war aims may be popular at home, but the serious collateral damage is a hard sell abroad, particularly to Arabs and Muslims. In recent days, the tide of global sympathy has perceptibly shifted away from the Israelis' anguish after the October 7 outrage towards the suffering of the Gazan civilians. Most Arab regimes have no love lost for Hamas - long shunned by them as part of "political Islam" that could stir up the masses. However, by waging a protracted, no-holds-barred asymmetric conflict, Israel is pushing the Arab regimes towards Hamas, much to their chagrin. Arab regimes' evident

failure to prevent mass death and destruction in Gaza discredits them in the eyes of the putative Arab street. Thus, Israel's single-minded pursuit of a military solution has a huge accompanying cost for the moderate Arab regimes - and they do not like it. Even the U.S., Tel Aviv's ultimate protector, has gone beyond the usual "bad cop, good cop" routine and publicly distanced itself from Israel by calling for a "two-state" solution and "humanitarian pauses" in Gaza.

It is still too early to predict the eventual outcome of the conflict. In the worst-case scenario, it could be a Greek tragedy involving the killing of the hostages, conflict expanding to envelop first the non-state actors and, eventually, Iran. The World Bank predicted on October 31 that in the war's worst-case scenario, oil prices could rise to \$157 a barrel. Many Wall Street honchos foresee such eventuality upending the fragile post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery into a global recession. Further, Israel still seems to be thinking aloud about its exit strategy, abjuring the adage, "The longer you stay, the more chaotic the exit". It appears to have no good options to extricate itself from the messy aftermath of October 7.

## FOR INDIA

India needs to be on its toes watching the Israel-Hamas conflict, which could do considerable harm given our huge exposure to West Asia. Resultant high oil prices would be bad for our economy. The current account deficit and inflation would surge. If global growth is impacted, our exports and investment inflows may suffer. The geopolitical instability may pose a threat to the security of our nine million-strong diaspora in West Asia, and raise questions about the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor launched with great fanfare in September. With both Russia and Israel, India's two most important defense suppliers, being currently mired in wars, our defense procurement may face uncertainty. A protracted conflict may also fan international terrorism. On the positive side, high oil income may raise prospects for higher investment and remittances from the Gulf countries. India would need to be careful to leverage putative job openings in Israel, lest it put its citizens in harm's way. Besides, replacing Palestinian workers with Indians may further stereotype India. The conflict has already subjected Indian diplomacy to some inelegant shifts, although we quickly regained our traditional balance. All in all, New Delhi should keep its ear close to the ground and wait for the second shoe of the Gaza conflict to drop, hopefully, without any further seismic convulsions.

(The author is a former Indian ambassador and an Arabist)

# SHAME ISN'T WORKING. GEORGE SANTOS MUST GO



BY RUTH MARCUS

**SHAME IS NOT IN THE SANTOS LEXICON. AT THIS STAGE, THE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WOULD BE SET BY ALLOWING HIM TO REMAIN**



Community members of New York's 3rd Congressional District rallied outside of U.S. Rep. George Santos' district office in Douglaston, Queens on Jan. 7. Many showed up with handmade signs to express their disdain for the congressman.  
File photo : Courtesy Ana Borruto / Herald

**Rep. George Santos has had all the process he is due - and all the donor-financed Botox he deserves.**

With the release by the House Ethics Committee of a damning report that offered new details about Santos's endless lies and sordid self-dealing, the New York Republican must be expelled as soon as possible. Santos poses a test that even this House should be able to summon the will to pass, and his belated declaration that he will not seek election to a second term is entirely inadequate to the appalling circumstances of his conduct.

Before the ethics report, the question of how his fellow lawmakers should deal with Santos presented a tough case. He faces federal indictment on multiple felony charges, and it has been clear since even before Santos was sworn in that he was elected under false pretenses. Pretty much everything he told voters about his background was a lie, and his self-serving assertions that he is somehow the victim of a smear campaign, not the perpetrator of a massive fraud on his constituents, only deepen his culpability.

And yet, expulsion from the House is a drastic measure, one the Constitution

wisely requires be accomplished by a two-thirds majority. The House has resorted to that step just five times - ousting three members for joining the Confederacy and, more recently, two others who were convicted of criminal offenses. So, it was understandable earlier this month that lawmakers of both parties balked at voting to expel Santos.

"This would be a terrible precedent to set," Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.) said at the time, "expelling people who have not been convicted of a crime and without internal due process."

"I can think of four or five Democratic members the Republicans would like to expel without any criminal conviction or adverse ethics findings tomorrow simply because they hate their politics," Raskin added. "Indeed, the same New York Republicans who want to expel Santos now because he is a complete political albatross for them acted to vigorously defend him in the spring because they wanted his vote for their party on the floor. If members are not going to be expelled for purely political reasons, we need to stick to due process and the rule of law." Good for Raskin, and the 30 other Democrats who voted with him.

If New York Republicans had a vested interest in seeking to oust Santos, others, including new House Speaker Mike Johnson (La.), were not coy about

conflating matters of due process and political survival. "We have a four-seat majority in the House," Johnson told Fox News's Sean Hannity. "We have no margin for error, and so George Santos is due due process, right?" No, he's entitled to due process whatever the margin, not simply because it's politically expedient.

Now, the due process argument has evaporated with the Ethics Committee's unsparing conclusion that there is "substantial evidence" Santos violated the law and that his conduct "warrants public condemnation, is beneath the dignity of the office, and has brought severe discredit upon the House." Indeed, the panel's Republican chair plans to introduce an expulsion resolution.

As the report lays out, Santos "sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal financial profit. He blatantly stole from his campaign. He deceived donors into providing what they thought were contributions to his campaign but were in fact payments for his personal benefit. He reported fictitious loans to his political committees to induce donors and party committees to make further contributions to his campaign - and then diverted more campaign money to himself as purported 'repayments' of those fictitious loans."

The details are sordid bordering on

satire. Santos spent thousands in campaign funds at spas, including for multiple Botox treatments. He used campaign funds to pay for a Las Vegas trip at a time when he told campaign staff he was on his honeymoon. He had \$20,000 in campaign funds transferred to his company, then tapped the money to make \$6,000 worth of purchases at Ferragamo, withdraw \$800 from an ATM at a casino and pay his rent. He set up a political consulting firm, solicited contributions from supporters and then diverted \$50,000 into his personal accounts, and used the money for, among other things, a \$4,127.80 purchase at Hermes and "smaller purchases at Only Fans," an adult website.

If any doubts remained about whether he deserves expulsion, Santos dispelled them with a self-serving post on X, formerly known as Twitter. Santos decried the bipartisan report as a "disgusting politicized smear that shows the depths of how low our federal government has sunk. Everyone who participated in this grave miscarriage of Justice should all be ashamed of themselves."

Shame is not in the Santos lexicon. At this stage, the dangerous precedent would be set by allowing him to remain.

(The author is Associate editor with the Washington Post)

# Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. This year, the day falls on Thursday, November 23. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as...served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists. Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups socialized without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the feast, which included the fowl and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair, but it sealed a treaty between the two groups that lasted until King Philip's War (1675-76), in which hundreds of colonists and thousands of Native Americans lost their lives.

The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings," days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought. The U.S. Continental Congress proclaimed a national Thanksgiving upon the enactment of the Constitution, for example. Yet, after 1798, the new U.S. Congress left Thanksgiving declarations to the states; some objected to the national government's involvement in a religious observance, Southerners were slow to adopt a New England custom, and others took offense over the day's being used to hold partisan speeches and parades. A national Thanksgiving Day seemed more like a lightning rod for controversy than a unifying force.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions prevailed in the mid-19th century, the editor of the popular magazine Godey's Lady's Book, Sarah Josepha Hale, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won the support of President Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date



back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition. Thanksgiving Day football games, beginning with Yale versus Princeton in 1876, enabled fans to add some rowdiness to the holiday. In the late 1800s parades of costumed revelers became common. In 1920 Gimbels department store in Philadelphia staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1924 the annual Macy's parade in New York City has continued the tradition, with huge balloons since 1927. The holiday associated with Pilgrims and Native Americans has come to symbolize intercultural peace, America's opportunity for newcomers, and the sanctity of home and family.

Days of thanksgiving in Canada also originated in the colonial period, arising from the same European traditions, in gratitude for safe journeys, peace, and bountiful harvests. The earliest celebration was held in 1578, when an expedition led by Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in present-day Nunavut to give thanks for the safety of his fleet. In 1879 Parliament established a national Thanksgiving Day on November 6; the date has varied over the years. Since 1957 Thanksgiving Day has been celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October.

Thanksgiving is the most popular and well-known American holiday. Each year on the fourth Thursday of November, Americans gather to eat a traditional meal of turkey and pies, and spend time with family and friends. In fact, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is the biggest travel day of the year in the country, as Americans drive and fly to go meet family.

The holiday has become so much more than a simple day of thanks. With parades, TV specials, and more, Thanksgiving is seen as the kickoff of the holiday season. The Friday following



the holiday has been dubbed "Black Friday" – a day that shoppers lineup early in the morning to get the best sales and discounts for their holiday shopping.

## Thanksgiving Day food

Turkey has become all but synonymous with the holiday. According to the National Turkey Federation, nearly 90 per cent of Americans eat the bird – whether roasted, baked or deep-fried – on Thanksgiving Day. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

## Pardoning of turkey ceremony

Since the beginning of the mid-20th

century, the president of the United States has "pardoned" one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year, sparing the birds from slaughter and sending them to a farm for retirement.

## Other countries that celebrate Thanksgiving Day holiday

Canada has its own Thanksgiving Day, on the second Monday in October, and Liberia celebrates Thanksgiving on the first Thursday of November.

## Black Friday sale

A month-long shopping season for the winter holidays begin after Thanksgiving, with Black Friday kicking off the season.

# Tax season rapidly approaching: Get ready now to file 2023 federal income tax returns in early 2024



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): With the nation's tax season rapidly approaching, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers there are important steps they can take now to help "get ready" to file their 2023 federal tax return.

This is the first in a series of special IRS "Get Ready" reminders to help taxpayers prepare for the upcoming tax filing season in early 2024. A little advance work now can help people have the paperwork and information ready to file their tax returns quickly and accurately. As part of this education effort, the IRS has a special page outlining items taxpayers can look into now to get ready to file their 2023 tax returns.

## Get helpful information to file through IRS Online Account

Taxpayers can create or access their Online Account at [IRS.gov/account](https://www.irs.gov/account). New users should have their photo identification ready.

With an Online Account taxpayers can access a variety of helpful information to help them during the 2024 filing season, including:

View key data from the most recently filed tax return, including adjusted gross income.

Get account transcripts.  
Sign power of attorney and tax information authorizations.  
Receive notices electronically.  
Get email notifications for new account information or activity.

Make and view payments.  
View, create or change payment plans.  
See the amount owed by year.  
Gather, organize and update tax records

Organizing tax records makes it easier to prepare a complete and accurate tax return. It helps avoid errors that can slow down refunds and may also help find overlooked deductions or tax credits.

**Most income is taxable**, including unemployment compensation, refund interest and income from the gig economy and digital assets. Taxpayers should gather Forms W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, Forms 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and other income documents before filing their return.

Don't forget to notify the IRS of an address change and be sure to notify the Social Security Administration of any legal name changes as soon as possible.

Be sure paychecks have enough tax withheld; time running out to make 2023 changes

The Tax Withholding Estimator is a tool on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) that can help taxpayers determine the right amount of tax to have withheld from their paychecks. This tool can be helpful if an earlier tax return resulted in tax owed or a large refund. And for those that have life changes or events such as getting married or divorced or welcoming a child, or for those taking on a second job or managing self-employment income, it can help calculate estimated tax payments. To change federal tax withholding,

taxpayers will need to update their withholding with their employer, either online or by submitting a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.

But to make adjustments in time to affect 2023 tax withholding, taxpayers need to act quickly. Only a few pay periods remain in the year, and payroll systems need time to make withholding changes.

## SPEED REFUNDS WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT

Direct deposit is the fastest and safest way to get a tax refund. Taxpayers can make direct deposits to bank accounts, banking apps and reloadable debit cards, but will need to provide the routing and account information associated with the account. If the routing and account number cannot be located, taxpayers should contact their bank, financial institution or app provider.

Taxpayers requesting a paper check are much more likely to report an issue getting their refund because of non-receipt, forgery, theft or checks returned for a bad address, compared to taxpayers using direct deposit.

Need a bank account? Taxpayers without a bank account can learn how to open an account at an FDIC-insured bank or with a credit union through the National Credit Union Locator tool. Veterans can use the Veterans Benefits Banking Program to find participating banks and credit unions that offer free accounts.

## VOLUNTEER TO HELP ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS FILE THEIR TAX RETURNS

The IRS and its community partners are looking for people around the country interested in becoming IRS-certified

volunteers. Join the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs and help eligible taxpayers with free tax preparation. Visit [IRS.gov/volunteers](https://www.irs.gov/volunteers) to learn more and sign up. After signing up, volunteers will receive more information about attending a virtual orientation.

## BOOKMARK IRS.GOV RESOURCES AND ONLINE TOOLS

Everyone should make [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) their first stop. Here they'll find online tools to help get them the information they need. The tools are easy-to-use and available 24 hours a day. Millions of people use them to help file and pay taxes, track their refunds, find information about their accounts and get answers to tax questions.

## TIPS FOR CHOOSING A TAX PRO

Tax professionals play an essential role for taxpayers and the nation's tax system. There are many types of tax return preparers, including certified public accountants, enrolled agents, attorneys and many others who don't have a professional credential. Preparers should be skilled in tax preparation and accurately filing income tax returns. Taxpayers trust them with their most personal information.

Most tax return preparers provide outstanding and professional tax service. However, choosing the wrong tax return preparer hurts taxpayers financially every year. Be sure to check tips for choosing a tax preparer and how to avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers.

People can use the IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications.

# IRS highlights International Fraud Awareness Week; taxpayers urged to protect against scams, schemes



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): As part of ongoing efforts to protect taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service reminds people that International Fraud Awareness Week serves as an important time to protect personal and financial information from scam artists and tax schemes.

International Fraud Awareness Week, which runs through Nov. 18, is an effort

to minimize the impact of fraud through awareness and education. During the special week, the IRS - including the agency's Office of Fraud Enforcement and IRS Criminal Investigation - continue working to raise awareness of fraud and scams affecting taxpayers across the country.

The IRS continues to encourage individuals, businesses and tax professionals to take time now to know the red flags of a scam, and to ensure defenses are in place to stop scammers and those who promote unscrupulous tax schemes.

Although this special week highlights international fraud, the IRS works throughout the year to raise awareness about tax scams and schemes. These efforts range from the annual Dirty Dozen list of tax scams to other tax schemes, including aggressive marketing involving Employee Retention

Credit claims. In addition, the IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax industry work together in the Security Summit initiative to protect taxpayers, businesses and the tax system from identity thieves and related scams.

"During this special week, the IRS reminds taxpayers that we are on their side and looking out for them," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "Our work on tax scams and schemes reflects this commitment. IRS employees are working to protect honest taxpayers from scam artists, raising awareness about emerging issues and rooting out the nefarious actors that perpetrate them. With modernization funding in place, the IRS is well positioned to disrupt scams as part of our transformation efforts."

## IRS OFFICE OF FRAUD ENFORCEMENT: SHINING A LIGHT ON FRAUD

The IRS Office of Fraud Enforcement

(OFE) promotes compliance with tax laws by strengthening the IRS response to fraud and mitigating emerging threats. This includes improving fraud detection, identifying areas of high risk, enhancing enforcement and helping develop and submit fraud referrals to IRS Criminal Investigation where appropriate.

During International Fraud Awareness Week, the IRS reminds taxpayers to be especially wary of scammers and promoters of bogus tax schemes aimed at reducing taxes or avoiding them altogether.

Many of these tax avoidance schemes are included in the 2023 IRS Dirty Dozen list and often involve unscrupulous asset protection professionals or promoters who lure people into placing their assets in offshore accounts and structures.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

# IOCUSA establishes Southwest Chapter and appoints Mr. Gurdev Singh Hehar as President



NOVEMBER 5, 2023

**DALLAS, TX (TIP):** In a significant show of solidarity and commitment, the Indian Overseas Congress, USA (IOCUSA) conducted a landmark membership drive at the 'Our Place Indian Cuisine' in Dallas, Texas. The event, characterized by spirited discussions, united prominent community leaders and political figures in their vision for a stronger, more inclusive Indian community.

The drive was kick-started with a stirring address by Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President of the IOCUSA. Mr. Gilzian's message resonated deeply with the attendees, emphasizing the crucial need for active political participation in the upcoming elections in India. He said, "Our engagement in the democratic process is essential to safeguarding the unity and progress of our motherland. Let us unite to ensure a future where diversity and harmony would triumph."

Mr. Sam Pitroda, the Chairman of IOC, and a renowned innovator, joined the meeting through Zoom. He touched upon his connections to Dallas and the broader role of the Indian diaspora. "Our roots here in Dallas are just as important as our ties to India. By harnessing our collective strengths, we can significantly contribute to India's journey towards modernization and inclusivity," Pitroda said. He then reminded the audience of the pivotal role of the diaspora in shaping India's future.

In his address, Mr. Gurdev Singh emphasized the significance of unity and collective efforts. He said, "Our strength lies in our diversity and ability to work together, transcending religious and cultural differences, towards a common goal - a thriving and united India, reaffirming the ethos of the IOC."

Avi Dandiya, the Global Social Media Chief for the IOC, played a key role in

the local coordination and setup of the event. His efforts in leveraging social media platforms greatly enhanced the membership drive and brought many community leaders to the event.

The membership drive by the Indian Overseas Congress in Dallas marks a new chapter in the annals of Indian diasporic engagement. It was an event that echoed the sentiments of unity, attention, and proactive participation, critical tenets in shaping a future that the Indian community across the globe aspires for.

Ms. Sophia Sharma, General Secretary of the IOCUSA, moderated the event.

The Indian Overseas Congress is a platform for Non-Resident Indians to participate actively in India's growth and development. It seeks to bridge the gap between the Indian diaspora and their homeland, fostering democratic principles and inclusive development. ([www.iocusa.org](http://www.iocusa.org))

## 600 LAID OFF US H-1BS FIND ALTERNATIVE



The Canadian government launched a three-year open work permit scheme on July 16th, providing a path to employment for up to 10,000 US-based H-1B visa holders. Over 6,000 have already taken advantage of this opportunity, prompting the closure of the application process.

Photo for representation only

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** (TIP): Canada is increasingly becoming a sought-after destination for H-1B visa holders affected by layoffs in the US tech sector. The Canadian government launched a three-year open work permit scheme on July 16th, providing a path to employment for up to 10,000 US-based H-1B visa holders. Over 6,000 have already taken advantage of this opportunity, prompting the closure of the application process.

The H-1B visa, highly sought by international students for post-education work in the US, suffered setbacks due to tech layoffs. Major companies like Amazon, Microsoft, and Google announced significant staff reductions, giving H-1B holders a 60-day ultimatum to leave, transfer visas, or find new sponsors. In response, Canada's three-year work permit scheme, launched in July, provided with a timely alternative, offering them the opportunity to move to Canada for employment. As of October, more than 6,000 laid-off H-1B visa holders have been granted permits, contributing to Canada's flourishing tech industry, which has outpaced the US in talent growth by over 11% between 2020 and 2022. Meanwhile, the US Department of Homeland Security is considering changes to the H-1B visa scheme.

# George Santos faces new motion to expel him from Congress

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Rep. George Santos will face a third vote to oust him from Congress the week after Thanksgiving as a growing number of lawmakers say they will back a new expulsion motion filed Friday, November 17, a day after the release of a scathing House Ethics Committee report, *Newsday* reported.

Santos (R-Nassau/Queens), in an interview with *Newsday* Friday, November 17, defended some of the expenses cited in the report - such as payments for Botox treatments - accusing his former campaign treasurer of telling him the purchases were considered campaign expenses.

His assertions came hours after House Ethics Committee Chairman Mike Guest (R-Miss.) on Friday filed a motion to

expel Santos that is expected to start the process to require a vote within two legislative days when the House reconvenes on Nov. 28.

Santos survived one expulsion vote on May 16, initiated by Rep. Robert Garcia (D-Calif.) and another on Nov. 1 on a measure sponsored by Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-Island Park), but he may not dodge the third try after the release Thursday of a detailed and damning Ethics Committee report.

A growing number of lawmakers who voted previously against expelling him say Santos no longer should be a member of the House after release of the 55-page report that laid out the case that Santos exploited his position for personal gain.

Only five House members have been expelled - three for disloyalty in the Civil War era and two after being convicted of

criminal activity. It takes two-thirds of those voting to approve a motion to expel, a high hurdle considering that Santos would be the first to be expelled while indicted but before conclusion of a trial.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), who had raised concerns about ousting Santos because of the slim Republican House majority and Santos' due process rights, issued a statement Thursday night that did not discourage his Republican conference from ousting Santos.

"As members from both parties, members of the Ethics Committee and Representative Santos return to Congress after the Thanksgiving break, Speaker Johnson encourages all involved to consider the best interests of the institution as this matter is addressed



Rep. George Santos is facing a new motion from the chairman of the House Ethics Committee to expel him from Congress.

further," Johnson spokesman Raj Shah said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

Arindam Bagchi  
Spokesperson (MEA)

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

## Appeal process in case involving 8 Indians on death row in Qatar under way: India

India on Thursday, Nov 16, said the appeal process against the death sentence handed down to eight former Indian Navy personnel by a Qatari court is under process and it was hopeful of a positive outcome from it. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India is engaged with the Qatari authorities on the matter and that the government will continue to extend all legal and consular assistance to the Indian nationals.

"The case is currently in a legal process there. As we mentioned, an appeal has been filed in Qatar's Court of Appeal. We are also engaged with the Qatari authorities on the matter and we will continue to extend all legal and consular assistance (to them)," Bagchi said.

"I would again urge everyone not to engage in speculation considering the sensitive nature of the case," he said.

The judgement in the entire process has been made confidential by the Qatari side. "The appeal process is underway and we would hope for a positive outcome," Bagchi said, replying to a question on the matter at his weekly media briefing.

He also described as "factually incorrect" some reports that suggested the appeal in the case has been adjudicated.

# Modi unveils Rs 24k-cr tribal welfare plan

RANCHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a Rs 24,000 crore mission aimed at benefiting 2.8 million people from particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) across 220 districts, marking a mega push by the government to reach out to India's tribal communities just months ahead of general elections.

Launching the mission in Jharkhand's Khunti district on the birth anniversary of tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda, Modi also underlined his government's commitment to the development of the poor and marginalised communities, and explained what secularism meant to his administration.

"Modi has made the deprived his priority... I have come to this land of Bhagwan Birsa Munda to repay the debt that I owe to the deprived," he said. "I assure the women, young and the poor that it is a guarantee that Modi's guarantee would be delivered. Social justice is now a generic term. Modi is now looking at adivasi nyay (justice for tribals)."

He also inaugurated and laid the foundation of projects worth Rs 7,200 crore, including those to widen the 52-km stretch of the Mahagama-Hansdiha section of National Highway-133 and the 45-km stretch of Basukinath-Deoghar section of National Highway-114A; the KDH-Purnadih coal handling plant; and a new academic and administrative building of the Indian Institute of Information Technology-Ranchi.

"True secularism comes only when all possibilities of discrimination against any citizen of the country are eliminated," Modi said, adding that social justice was ensured only when the benefits of government schemes reach everyone in the same measure.

This is the spirit behind the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which he flagged off on Wednesday. "In this journey, the government will go to every village of the country in mission mode and will make every poor and deprived person a beneficiary of government schemes," Modi added.

Officials said that under the PVTG mission, basic facilities such as road and telecom connectivity, electricity, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition and sustainable livelihood opportunities will be provided to PVTG habitations, which are mostly remote, scattered and inaccessible.

"Today we are launching the PM Jan Man (PM PVTG) mission to reach out the last person standing among the most primitive of tribes. We have identified 75 PVTGs across over 22,000 villages who are in lakhs. We will provide them everything required for their mainstreaming and pasting



PM Modi paid floral tributes to the 25-foot tall statue of the tribal icon Birsa Munda in Ranchi on his birth anniversary at his native village Ulihatu in Khunti district of Jharkhand.(PTI)

them fruits of development," Modi said.

Tribal communities form 8.6% of the country, according to the 2011 census. They hold sway in a number of states across broad swathes of central and eastern India, and the North-East, and 47 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats are reserved for the communities. The PM's announcement mark an outreach by the BJP to these communities in a manner similar to the party's efforts to attract Dalits into its fold ahead of the 2019 general elections.

Tribal communities also form a key demographic in the ongoing elections in five states — especially in the heartland provinces of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, where 29 and 45 assembly seats are reserved for the community.

Earlier in the day, Modi visited Birsa Munda's birthplace Ulihatu and paid floral tributes to him on his birth anniversary, which is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas since 2021. Modi, the first PM to visit Ulihatu, was accorded a warm welcome with local residents dancing to the tunes of traditional instruments. He was accompanied by chief minister Hemant Soren, governor CP Radhakrishnan and Union tribal affairs minister Arjun Munda.

"It was during the Vajpayee government that a separate ministry (for tribal welfare) was put in place. Today, the budget for that department has increased sixfold," said Modi.

He released ₹18,000 crore as part of the 15th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) and hailed the administrative record of his government.

## India not ruling out probe into Canada's allegations over Khalistani separatist Nijjar, but wants evidence: Jaishankar

LONDON (TIP)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is not ruling out an investigation into Canada's allegations about the involvement of the Indian government's agents in the killing of a Khalistani separatist in that country but wants it to provide evidence to back its claims.

Jaishankar made the comments on Wednesday in response to questions during a conversation with veteran journalist Lionel Barber titled 'How a Billion People See the World' here.

"If you have a reason to make such an allegation, please share the evidence because we are not ruling out an investigation," Jaishankar, who is here on

a five-day official visit to the UK, said while responding to a question.

He emphasised that Canada has not shared any evidence with India to support its allegations.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

Jaishankar said that freedom of speech and freedom of expression come with a



certain responsibility and the misuse of those freedoms and the toleration of that misuse for political purposes would be very wrong, referring to the pro-Khalistani activities in Canada.

Jaishankar said that he was in touch with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly on the issue.

He recalled the attacks on the High Commission of India in Canada, or smoke bomb attacks on the High Commission and Consulate General, and said Indian diplomats were intimidated in public, with no action from the Canadian authorities against culprits.

Last week, Prime Minister Trudeau underlined that a "fight" with India was not something Canada wanted to be having right now but reiterated his allegations and said Ottawa wanted to "work constructively" with New Delhi on this "very serious matter".

Source: PTI

*Will launch movement if Bihar not given special category status: CM Nitish Kumar*

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday announced that he will launch a state-wide movement if the Centre does not grant special category status to the state "at the earliest".

The JD(U) leader, who has been demanding special status for many years, said the state needs this in order to move forward.

"If the Centre does not grant special status to Bihar at the earliest, we will launch a state-wide movement... The demand for a special status will be heard in every nook and corner of the state during the movement," he said while speaking at a function here.

Those who do not support the demand are not interested in the development of the state, Kumar said.

He said the Bihar legislature recently cleared bills to hike the quota for deprived castes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent in government jobs and educational institutions, taking the overall reservation to 75 per cent, on the basis of the caste survey, conducted by the state government.

"We have planned a number of welfare initiatives for the economically weaker sections of the society and it would cost a poor state like Bihar several crores of rupees. We will have to spend it in over five years.

"If the demand for special status to Bihar is fulfilled, we will be able to provide all benefits to the people concerned within two and a half years. Therefore, Bihar needs the status immediately," the chief minister said.

*Deeply concerned: MEA on fighting between Myanmar's military and anti-junta groups near border with India*

India on Thursday, Nov 16, called for cessation of fighting between Myanmar's military and anti-junta groups near the Indo-Myanmar border that has triggered an influx of Myanmarese refugees to Mizoram.

There have been mounting hostilities between Myanmar's anti-junta groups and government forces in several key towns and regions near the border with India in the last few weeks, fuelling concerns in the Indian military establishment about the possible spillover effect.

At his weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi expressed deep concerns over the incidents of violence close to the Indo-Myanmar border.

"As a result of the fighting, in the Rihkhawdar area in Chin State, opposite Zowkhathar in Mizoram on the India-Myanmar border, there has been movement of Myanmar nationals to the Indian side," he said.

## 'BJP transfers money into Adani's pockets': Rahul Gandhi in poll-bound Rajasthan

CHURU (TIP)

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party, accusing it of transferring money into the pockets of industrialist Gautam Adani.

"Narendra Modi had said - if black money is not erased, hang me...During Corona, Narendra Modi told you - turn on your mobile phone torches, clang utensils. People were dying across the country, there was no oxygen or medicines. Narendra Modi came and said that COVID is here, people are dying, clang your utensils now," Gandhi said at a rally in poll-bound Rajasthan's Churu.

"On the other hand, here was Bhilwara model. Utensils were being clanged here and food packet was being distributed to houses in Rajasthan; medicines were being distributed and patients were being saved. Why? Because we run a government of the poor, farmers and workers...Congress party's work is to transfer money into the pockets of the poor. They transfer money into the pockets of Adani," he added.

During the rally, Gandhi invoked GST implementation and 2016 demonetisation move to attack the prime minister. "Here, we run a government of the poor, we protect you. Narendra Modi implemented GST. For the first time in India, farmers have to pay taxes. He did demonetisation and finished all small businessmen."

"Wherever you see, Adani is doing some or the other business - airports, ports, cement plants, roads are all his. So, he works for the rich. He helps



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and party leaders Sachin Pilot and Govind Singh Dotsra during 'Congress Guarantee Rally' ahead of the State Assembly elections, at Taranagar in Churu district.

Adani, Adani earns money and that money is used abroad. Foreign companies are purchased," he added.

Hailing the incumbent Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in the state, Rahul Gandhi said, "State Government has worked for you a lot...Remember one thing, if BJP Government is formed here, whatever we did - be it a pension scheme, health scheme, ₹500 gas cylinder or ₹10,000 for women - will all be scrapped by them and they will once again start helping billionaires. If you vote for Congress, the poor, farmers and small businessmen will be benefitted".

Gandhi said that the party was united and would sweep the Rajasthan assembly polls next week amid murmurs

of infighting within the state unit. "We aren't just seen together. We are together and will be together," Gandhi said in capital Jaipur, in the presence of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy and rival Sachin Pilot.

The Congress leader made the remarks before leaving for Tara Nagar in Churu to address a rally. Gehlot, Pilot and Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotsra accompanied Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi's comments assume significance amid speculation over a truce between Gehlot and Pilot. In 2020, Pilot, who was then Deputy Chief Minister, and 18 Congress MLAs loyal to him led a revolt against Gehlot.

## Governor Purohit prorogues Budget Session of Punjab Vidhan Sabha, gives assent to FRBM Bill

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

After the tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reached the Supreme Court, the former on Thursday prorogued the Budget Session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

Governor Purohit has also given his consent to the Punjab Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill (FRBM), 2023. The Bill is to be presented in the Winter Session of the Vidhan Sabha, which is proposed to be held in the last week of November.

With this, all three money Bills that the government wanted to be tabled in the Vidhan Sabha have been given the nod by the Governor. The other two money Bills — The Punjab Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Indian Stamp (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2023 — were given the nod on October 31.

However, no decision has been taken on the four Bills passed by the Punjab



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann



Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit

Vidhan Sabha in its two-day special sitting held on June 19-20. These Bills include the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Punjab Universities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023; the Punjab Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and the Punjab Affiliated Colleges Amendment Bill, 2023. Though the Governor had termed the special sitting of the Vidhan Sabha in June invalid, the apex court, on November 10, had declared the sitting as valid and asked the Governor to decide on the fate

of these Bills.

It may be mentioned that the Punjab Government had approached the Supreme Court last month against the decision of the Governor declaring the October 20 special sitting as invalid and his refusal to give consent to the Money Bills.

The Governor had been objecting to the extension of the session after its adjournment and convening special sittings of the House without getting it prorogued. *Source: TNS*

# India in history this Week

## NOVEMBER 17 TO NOVEMBER 23

### 17 NOVEMBER



1931 Freedom fighter and Punjabi writer Lala Lajpat Rai was martyred.

2012 The founder of Shiv Sena, Bal Thackeray, who made his strong identity in the field of politics, died.

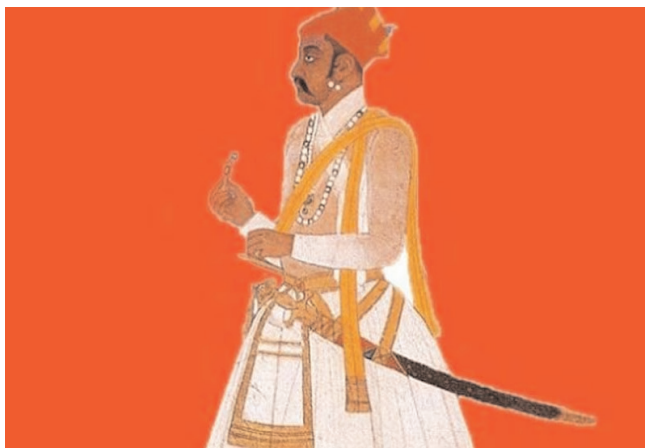
1525 For the purpose of conquering India, Babur entered here for the fifth time through Sindh.

1966 Rita Faria of India won the title of Miss World. She was the first Asian woman to become Miss World.

2009 T. S. Thakur was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.

2006 The US Senate approved the Indo-US nuclear treaty.

### 18 NOVEMBER



1727 Maharaja Jai Singh II founded the city of Jaipur. The architect of the city was Vidyadhar Chakraborty of Bengal.

1772 Peshwa Madhavrao I died and his younger brother Narayan Rao succeeded him.

1901 The famous Indian film director V. Shantaram was born.

1948 500 people drowned after the steamer 'Narayani' crashed near Patna, the capital of Bihar.

1972 The tiger was chosen as the national animal.

1993 The first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit took place in Seattle.

2017 Manushi Chhillar of India won the title of Miss World.



1910 One of the famous revolutionaries of India, Batukeshwar Dutt was born

### 19 NOVEMBER

1828 Rani Laxmibai, an example of bravery, was born.

1917 The first woman Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi, was born on this day.



1975 The country's first Miss Universe Sushmita Sen was born.

1932 The third Round Table Conference on Indian Independence was opened in London.

1994 Indian film actress Aishwarya Rai won the title of Miss World.

1995 Indian weightlifter Karnam Malleswari made a world record in weightlifting. She is the first woman player of India who won the medal in the Olympics.

1997 Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian woman to go to space.

1986 Environmental Protection Act came into force.

2006 India sought Australia's support for nuclear power and uranium supplies.

### 20 NOVEMBER

1750 Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore, was born.

1917 Bose Research Institute was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1981 The Bhaskar satellite was dropped.

2016 PV Sindhu won the first Super Series title after defeating Sun Yu of China in a three-game match in the final of the China Open Super Series.

1989 An Indian female freestyle wrestler Babita Phogat was born.



2009 Versatile genius, scholar, thinker and poet of many disciplines Shyam Bahadur Verma died.

### 21 NOVEMBER

1517 Sultan of Delhi Alexander Shah Lodi died.

1899 The birth of Hare Krishna Mehtab, a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress and one of the makers of modern Odisha.

1872 Birth of famous Rajasthani poet and freedom fighter Kesari Singh Barhat.

1916 Birth of Yadunath Singh, the revered Indian military hero, Paramveer Chakra

1947 Post independence, postage stamps were issued for the first time in the country.

1962 During the India-China border dispute, China announced a ceasefire.

1921 The Prince of Wales (Emperor Edward VIII) arrived in Bombay (now Mumbai) and the Congress announced a nationwide strike.

1963 India's space program began with the release of rockets from the Thumba region of Kerala.

1970 Renowned Indian scientist Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman passed away.

2006 India and China decided to increase joint cooperation in the field of civil nuclear energy.



2007 PepsiCo chairman Indira Nooyi was included on the board of directors of the American Indian Business Council.

### 22 NOVEMBER

1517 After the death of Alexander Lodi, his son Abraham Lodi became the ruler of Delhi.

1968 The proposal to change the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu got approval from the Lok Sabha.

1992 In Assam, a bomb blast on a bus by Bodo militants killed 27 people.

2008 Eminent Hindi poet Kunwar Narayan was selected for the Jnanpith Award in the year 2005.

1939 Birth of Samajwadi Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

1971 Pakistan violated the Indian air border and aerial conflict ensued between the two countries.

1830 Jhalkari Bai, the chief member of Rani Laxmibai's army, who was waging a war of independence against the British, was born.

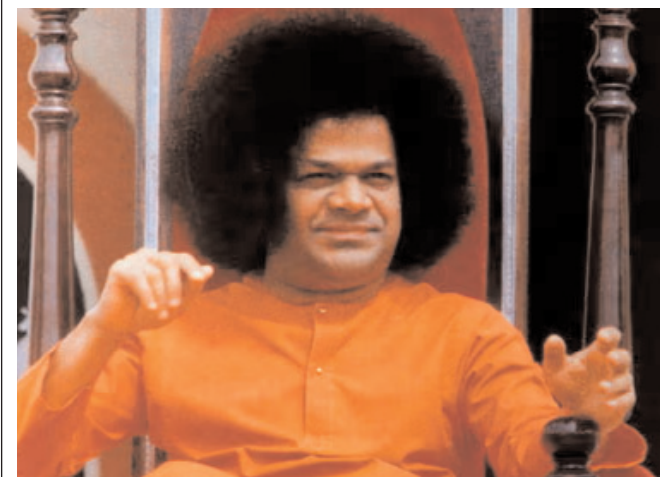
### 23 NOVEMBER

1937 The country's famous scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose died.

1983 For the first time in the country, a Commonwealth summit was held in New Delhi.

1997 Sahitya Academy Award winner Nirad C Chaudhary completed 100 years of his life.

1926 Spiritual Guru Sai Baba was born.







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# HOLIDAY CLASSIC TRADITIONS

## STAY WITH NJS IN NJ

BY MABEL PAIS

### SYMPHONY CONCERT WITH JOSHUA BELL



Joshua Bell

Credit / njsymphony.org

Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell joins the New Jersey Symphony in concert in a program featuring Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4.

The world-renowned artist will not only play the solo violin in the incredibly virtuosic violin concerto but will also lead the orchestra from the concertmaster's chair during the entire program, including Beethoven's Symphony No. 4, making Bell both the soloist and the conductor of the performances.

The program includes Mendelssohn's Overture to his opera, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' based on Shakespeare's play.

*Bell, an Indiana native who has been playing professionally since age 14, is currently on a world tour of major orchestras, including the New Jersey Symphony, and has just released a new*

*album on Sony Classical, 'Butterfly Lovers.' He recently commissioned a series of new works for violin and orchestra called 'The Elements,' from composers Jake Heggie, Jennifer Higdon, Edgar Meyer, Jessie Montgomery, and Kevin Puts.*

In addition to his busy concert career, Bell is Music Director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, a chamber orchestra based in London (United Kingdom).

#### PROGRAM

Joshua Bell Leads the New Jersey Symphony  
New Jersey Symphony Classical  
Joshua Bell conductor and violin  
New Jersey Symphony  
**Newark - Thursday, November 30, 1:30 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center**

**Newark - Friday, December 1, 8 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center**  
**Morristown - Sunday, December 3, 3 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center**

Mendelssohn Overture to A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto  
Beethoven Symphony No. 4

#### PRE-CONCERT CONVERSATION

The Symphony invites all ticket holders to attend a free classical conversation starting one hour before the performance on Friday, December 1, at 7 pm and Sunday, December 3, at 2 pm. Learn more about the music from New Jersey Symphony musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders.

#### TICKETS

More information on Concerts and Tickets to the Performances are available at [njsymphony.org/events](http://njsymphony.org/events)

## GOSPEL HOLIDAY CONCERT

**WHEN: SATURDAY,  
DEC 9 @ 4 PM**

**WHERE: NEWARK  
SYMPHONY HALL'S  
TERRACE BALLROOM**

#### CONCERT INFORMATION

New Jersey Symphony Gospel Chorus | Gwen Moten, director

Dorthaan Kirk emcee

New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

This family concert is general admission.

Spotlighting celebrated artists from Newark and beyond, the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players laud the power of the first instrument-the human voice-with a gospel music-inspired holiday extravaganza. All are invited to come ready to sing, dance and clap along!

#### TICKETS

Tickets are available for purchase at [my.njsymphony.org/20344/21017](http://my.njsymphony.org/20344/21017)

## HOLIDAY CLASSIC: HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'

**Sherezade Panthaki, soprano joins the singing**



Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Credit / njsymphony.org

The New Jersey Symphony will present two performances of the beloved holiday tradition, Handel's 'Messiah,' Friday, December 15 at 8 pm, and Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm. The Symphony will perform the entire Oratorio, including Part I (popularly known as the Christmas portion) as well as the familiar 'Hallelujah Chorus.'

The concerts will be conducted by Nicholas McGegan, Music Director Laureate of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, and Principal Guest Conductor of Capella Savaria in Hungary. With a career spanning more than five decades, McGegan is considered an expert in 18th-century music, of which 'Messiah' might be the most famous example.

Joining the Symphony and McGegan are a host of guest vocalists, including Sherezade Panthaki, soprano; Key'mon W. Murrah, countertenor; Thomas Cooley, tenor; and Tyler Duncan, baritone. Singing the well-known choral sections are the Montclair State University Singers, under the direction of Heather J. Buchanan.

The performance on Friday, December 15 takes place at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, located on the Princeton University campus, directly across from Palmer Square in downtown Princeton. Preceding the performance, at 7 pm, audiences are invited to join Buchanan and the Montclair State University Singers as they lead a festive singalong of holiday songs and carols, which includes a brief rehearsal of the famous "Hallelujah Chorus."

The Sunday, December 17 performance takes place at Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Seating is general admission and priced based on location inside the basilica.

Handel composed the famous oratorio in just 24 days. Messiah was premiered in Dublin, Ireland, in April of 1742. It became an annual tradition in London after 1750 and has been performed countless

times by orchestras and choruses around the world since.

#### PROGRAM

**Handel's Messiah**  
New Jersey Symphony Holiday Tradition  
Nicholas McGegan conductor  
Sherezade Panthaki soprano  
Key'mon W. Murrah countertenor  
Thomas Cooley tenor  
Tyler Duncan baritone  
Montclair State University Singers | Heather J. Buchanan, director  
New Jersey Symphony  
**Princeton - Friday, December 15, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium**  
**Newark - Sunday, December 17, 7 pm, Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart**  
**Holiday Singalong**  
**Princeton - Friday, December 15, 7 pm, Richardson Auditorium**

#### TICKETS

For more information on concerts and tickets, visit [njsymphony.org/events](http://njsymphony.org/events)

#### NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

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

#### CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY:

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Email: [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

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

# FINALISTS COMPETE FOR COVETED SASSY AWARDS

BY MABEL PAIS

As part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival (November 3-19), and closing the Fest, the top five finalists of the 12th Annual Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition will compete for coveted prizes.

The top five finalists are Daryann Dean (Los Angeles, CA), Bianca Love (New Orleans, LA), Tyreek McDole (St. Cloud, FL), Ekep Nkwelle (Washington, DC), and Emma Smith (London, UK). Chosen from a record 280+ submissions representing 37 countries, these gifted young contestants from around the world represent the next generation of great jazz singers.

They will compete on Sunday, November 19, 2023, on the iconic NJPAC stage in front of a live audience and before a distinguished panel of judges, including acclaimed female vocalists Jane Monheit, Madeleine Peyroux, and Lizz Wright; NJPAC's Jazz Advisor and multi-Grammy-winning bassist Christian McBride; and three-time Grammy Award-winning producer and executive vice president of Mack Avenue Records Al Pryor. Hosted by WBGO Radio's Pat Prescott, this special event will also include performance by G. Thomas Allen, winner of the 2021 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition.

## PRIZES

The first-prize winner of The SASSY Awards will receive a \$5,000 cash award, second-place \$1,500, and third-place \$500.



Competition Finalists

Credit / NJPAC

The winner will perform alongside past winners and special guests at the Sarah Vaughan Centennial Concert Hosted by Dee Dee Bridgewater on April 19-20, 2024, at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

## THE SASSY COMPETITION

The Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, also known as "The SASSY Awards," is open to singers over the age of 18, of all genders and nationalities, from anywhere in the world, and not signed by a major label. Entrants are judged on vocal quality, musicality, technique, performance, individuality, artistic interpretation, and ability to swing. What has become one of the top annual vocal competitions in jazz, The SASSY Awards offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz stars of tomorrow. Past winners include Cyrille Aimée, Jazzmeia Horn, Ashleigh Smith, Arianna Neikrug, Deelee Dubé, Quiana Lynell, Laurin Talese, Samara Joy

(Grammy winner for Best New Artist 2023), Gabrielle Cavassa and Tawanda Suessbrich-Joaquim, G. Thomas Allen, and Lucía Gutiérrez Reboloso.

## SARAH VAUGHAN & NJPAC

The competition recalls the humble beginnings of legendary jazz singer/NEA Jazz Master Sarah Vaughan (1924-1990) who, back in 1942, was a Newark teenager and winner of an amateur singing contest at the Apollo Theater. That memorable night helped launch the lifework of one of the most successful, influential jazz vocalists in the history of American music. NJPAC has a long history of preserving and celebrating Sarah Vaughan's music and impact. In 1999, NJPAC officially proclaimed the street in front of it as "Sarah Vaughan Way." In addition to The SASSY Awards, NJPAC hosts several celebrations in the 2023-24 season honoring the centennial of Vaughan's birth. Earlier this year, NJPAC paid tribute to "The Divine One" at its Women@NJPAC Spotlight Gala. In 2024,

NJPAC partners with Jazz at Lincoln Center for the Centennial Concert series (April 19-20), and more.

## THE COMPETING FINALISTS

Daryann Dean  
Learn more at [darynndean.com](http://darynndean.com).  
Bianca Love  
Learn more at [linkedin.com/in/bianca-love](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bianca-love).  
Tyreek McDole  
Learn more at [tyreekmcdole.com](http://tyreekmcdole.com).  
Ekep Nkwelle  
Learn more at [ekepnkwelle.com](http://ekepnkwelle.com).  
Emma Smith  
Learn more at [emmasmithmusic.co.uk](http://emmasmithmusic.co.uk).

## TICKETS

For tickets to watch the performances, visit [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org)

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Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand  
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

# ENCHANTING HOLIDAY CONCERT TRIUMPHS LIGHT OVER DARKNESS

BY MABEL PAIS

Light up this holiday season with a stunning performance by the New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) and special guest handbell choir, the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir from the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains. This enchanting holiday concert is illuminated by candles of peace, hope, renewal, and the triumph of light over darkness.

As part of the 2023-24 season's vision to engage alumni by building a passionate, caring, and broad community of chorus members, the concert features NJYC Alumna Emmalee LaFeau. Readings and Carols: Season of Light ([whartonarts.org/calendar/njyc-readings-and-carols](http://whartonarts.org/calendar/njyc-readings-and-carols)) will take place on Sunday, December 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the Morristown United Methodist Church located at 50 South Park Place, Morristown.

NJYC Founder and Director Trish



NJ Youth Chorus singers

Credit / Wharton Arts

Joyce said, "Since the dawn of time, light has been celebrated as a symbol of hope, peace, wisdom, truth, and goodness. It is a common thread, woven throughout humanity. We are excited to present a program which celebrates the importance of light in the cultures dear to our NJYC families. Our choristers will light the Advent wreath, Menorah, and Diyas;

share readings and poetry; and lead the audience in songs and carols honoring the light within all of us."

Joyful selections performed by NJYC's Coriste ensemble, led by Director Trish Joyce, and Camerata ensemble, led by Director Dan Malloy, include 'Veni, Veni Emmanuel' by Michael John Trotta, 'T?ReKiTa' by Reena Esmail, 'One Light' by Evan

Ramos, 'Night of Silence' by Daniel Kantor, 'Faith is the Bird that Feels the Light' by Elizabeth Alexander, 'Hold Out Your Light' by Stacey V. Gibbs, 'Season of Light' by Jacob Narverud, and 'Carol of the Bells' arranged by Peter J. Wilhousky. Arrangements of seasonal favorites will be performed by the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir and soloist Emmalee LaFeau.

## TICKETS

Tickets priced for adults, discounts for seniors & students, are available at [NJYC.org](http://NJYC.org)

## WHARTON ARTS

Learn more at [WhartonArts.org](http://WhartonArts.org)

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



### Priyanka Chopra in talks for Don 3: Sources

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas was recently in India, and she used the chance to meet people from the industry to decide her next move in the Hindi film industry. And we hear the Don franchise is on her mind.

After making the official announcement about Ranveer Singh taking forward the Don franchise in the upcoming sequel instead of actor Shah Rukh Khan, filmmaker Farhan Akhtar has turned all his attention to Don 3. It is also because the journey of Jee Le Zara has been slow, with date issues turning out to be a big hiccup.

According to a source, Akhtar is now working towards reuniting with his Dil Dhadakne Do co-stars.

"The team of Don 3 has indeed approached Priyanka Chopra to revisit her character. In fact, the first few meetings also took place when Priyanka came to India recently for another professional commitment. She used her time in India to align the talks and figure out her next project in the Hindi film industry," says a source.

In the Don franchise, Chopra featured as Roma Bhagat, also known as Junglee Billi. The insider adds, "Priyanka has a very close bond with Farhan, and is trying to make it work and checking her schedule. Her return might also become a reality as Shah Rukh is no longer associated with the project".

## Zoya Akhtar reveals why she picked Suhana, Khushi for 'The Archies'

Director Zoya Akhtar, who is all set to release her next film Archies on Netflix, addressed the reason for casting newbies in the film. In an exclusive chat with India Today, in, the Gully Boy director revealed the reason for not casting A-listers in her much-awaited film.

The Archies is an adaptation of the popular comic book series of the same name. The film features Agastya Nanda, Suhana Khan, Khushi Kapoor, Mihir Ahuja, Vedant Raina, Aditi 'Dot' Saigal, and Yuvraj Menda. Now speaking about casting these young actors, Zoya told IndiaToday in, "We were always very clear that we would cast newcomers. See, Archies is a very iconic comic. The characters are iconic. So if we have to take a known actor, I feel somewhere that actor's image or past image or baggage or whatever you know, would come in there. That was one reason we wanted them to be completely new. So they really had to embody these characters and the audience had to believe that they are these characters. The second thing was we wanted them to be 17 years old looking. So we needed very young actors and they had to be newcomers. It had to be them."

Further divulging details about the casting, Zoya said that all the actors had to audition for every character: "They're all newcomers, so you don't know what to expect. So what our casting directors did is they put everyone on tape for everything because one thing is the physicality of it, but the other thing is that you want to get a sense of the person, what the makeup of that person is, their



personality, their essence, and does that resonates with a particular character. So we had to put them on tape, to see what are they feeling like, besides the fact that they can act and all that. So it takes time. It was a long process."

When asked who is her favorite character from the film, Zoya smiled and said, "I oscillate between Betty and Veronica."

The Archies will be released on Netflix on December 7.

Source: India Today

## Katrina's 'Merry Christmas' to now release on Jan 12

Filmmaker Sriram Raghavan's upcoming directorial 'Merry Christmas' has a new release date of January 12, the makers announced on Thursday, November 16.

The Katrina Kaif-Vijay Sethupathi starrer has been delayed multiple times and it was last slated to come out in theatres on December 12 this year.

Presented by Tips Films and Matchbox Pictures, the upcoming film is described as "a genre-defying tale" shot in Hindi and Tamil with a different set of supporting actors, according to a press release.

In a statement, the film's team expressed their deep love for the project and their unwavering commitment to delivering a truly exceptional cinematic experience.

"We have made this film with a lot of love

& passion like every filmmaker does however with the back to back movie releases and packed last two months of 2023, we have taken the decision to extend the season of joy and bring our film to the theatres on 12th January 2024," they said.

While the Hindi version of 'Merry Christmas' co-stars Sanjay Kapoor, Vinay Pathak, Pratima Kannan, and Tinnu Anand, the Tamil iteration has Radhika Sarathkumar, Shanmugaraja, Kevin Jay Babu, and Rajesh Williams in the same roles.

The film also introduces Pari, a child actor.

Produced by Ramesh Taurani, Jaya Taurani, Sanjay Routray and Kewal Garg, the film also features cameos by Ashwini Kalsekar and Radhika Apte. Source: PTI





### Kim Kardashian, Lauren Sanchez recall fighting over dress at auction

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian went head-to-head with Lauren Sanchez, who recently got engaged to Jeff Bezos, at an auction for a dress.

In a joint interview with Lauren, Kim said, "I'm a big auction girl, and my strategy was to come in at the last minute. I called 'We'll share it!' (across the room). I thought, 'You wear it once, I'll wear it once, it'll be so cute.'"

In the end, two dresses were made, and both women paid \$200,000 and travelled to Paris together for the fitting.

Meanwhile, Kim went on to add that she and Lauren are always in touch with each other via their DMs and described the bride-to-be as a "girl's girl".

She said, "Lauren and I are always sending DMs building each other up. Every time there's a look that we like, she'll say, 'Wow,' or, 'OMG you look amazing.' She's such a girl's girl!"

In August, the couple held a lavish engagement party with a select group of friends aboard the billionaire's \$500 million super yacht.

## Zendaya and Tom Holland win hearts as they sign Spider-Man posters for charity

Power couple Tom Holland and Zendaya often keep their relationship low-key and rarely make public appearances. However, the 27-year-old Marvel stars recently gave fans a glimpse at a sweet moment they shared together. Over the weekend, Holland and the Euphoria star were spotted signing Spider-Man posters for a charity organisation The Brothers' Trust. While giving out autographs, Zendaya affectionately held onto Holland's arm. The adorable moment was captured in a video, which went viral soon after it was shared on social media. Fans were left amazed at their public display of affection, calling them "couple goals."

In the video shared on X, formerly Twitter, the duo can be seen joking and smiling while signing several posters side-by-side. Social media users flooded the platform with comments on their gesture and the strong bond they have developed over the years. One user wrote, "It's heartwarming to see Tom Holland and Zendaya using their Spider-Man magic for a good cause. Acts like this are what make them real-life superheroes!"

Another X user commented, "It's great to see Tom Holland and Zendaya using their platform to support charitable causes, such as signing 'Spider-Man' posters for The Brothers Trust." One more user said, "The way she holds him & just behaves like a child around him- why're they so adorable."



Yet another user commented, "The Brothers Trust, founded by Tom Holland and his brothers, aims to raise funds and awareness for various charitable causes around the world."

For their charity work, Zendaya kept her look casual, wearing a grey sweater with minimal to no make-up while Holland donned a black pullover with glasses over his head. The fan-favourite

couple is no stranger to charity work as this comes after their visit to British charity Battersea Cats and Dogs Home in London. Zendaya shared a picture of herself holding a little puppy in her hands on her Instagram story, leaving fans gushing. She wrote "puppy heaven" on the picture, in which she can be seen beaming with joy.

Source: HT

## Jennifer Aniston shares Matthew Perry's text message, 'you always made my day'

Actress Jennifer Aniston is reflecting on the loss of her longtime friend Matthew Perry. For the first time since Perry, 54, died from an apparent drowning on October 28, Aniston has spoken out about her 'Friends' co-star and his enduring legacy after his death.

Aniston's Instagram tribute for Perry featured a photo of the pair on set together alongside their loving text exchange containing the same image, reports People magazine.

Additionally, she included a scene of the duo during the sitcom's 2004 series finale, where their characters Rachel Green and Chandler Bing expressed their love for one another. "Oh boy this one has cut deep ... Having to say goodbye to our Matty has been an insane wave of emotions that I've never experienced before," began the actress, 54. "We all experience loss at some point in our lives. Loss of life or loss of love. Being able to really SIT in this grief allows you to feel the moments of joy and gratitude for having loved someone that deep. And we loved him deeply. He was such a part of our DNA."

She further mentioned in her note, quoted by

People: "We were always the 6 of us. This was a chosen family that forever changed the course of who we were and what our path was going to be. For Matty, he KNEW he loved to make people laugh. As he said himself, if he didn't hear the 'laugh' he thought he was going to die. His life literally depended on it. And boy did he succeed in doing just that. He made all of us laugh. And laugh hard."

Noting how she's continued to process this loss, Aniston said that she had been looking back on their many text conversations, even sharing one of them in her second slide.

"In the last couple weeks, I've been poring over our texts to one another. Laughing and crying then laughing again. I'll keep them forever and ever. I found one text that he sent me out of nowhere one day. It says it all. (See the second slide...)," she said. "Matty, I love you so much and I know you are now completely at peace and out of any pain. I talk to you every day... sometimes I can almost hear you saying 'could you BE any crazier?'" she added.

The message from Matthew was: "Making you laugh just made my day. It made my day:"

"Rest little brother. You always made my day," she concluded.

Source: IANS



## 'QUEEN OF LATIN POP' SHAKIRA TO GO ON TRIAL IN SPAIN FOR TAX FRAUD



**BARCELONA (TIP):** Just days after her success at the Latin Grammys, Colombian pop idol Shakira is set to go on trial in Barcelona on November 14 for allegedly cheating Spain's tax office out of 14.5 million euros.

Prosecutors are seeking a jail term of eight years and two months, and a fine of nearly 24 million euros (USD 24 million) for the 46-year-old singer, who now lives in Miami with her two sons Milan and Sasha.

She has denied any wrongdoing and turned down a plea deal with prosecutors, paving the way for the trial which is set to get underway on Monday at 10:00 am (0900 GMT).

The case centres on where the singer, whose hit singles include "Hips Don't Lie", "Whenever, Wherever" and the 2010 World Cup song "Waka Waka", lived between 2012 and 2014.

Prosecutors allege Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll -- dubbed the Queen of Latin Pop -- spent more than half of that period in Spain and should have paid taxes in the country.

They say she moved to Spain after her relationship with FC Barcelona defender Gerard Pique became public in 2011, but maintained official tax residency in the Bahamas until 2015.

In its indictment, the prosecution claims that Shakira "used a set of companies" based in tax havens "with the intention of not paying" tax in Spain.

Shakira's lawyers say that until 2014, she was leading a "nomadic life" and earned most of her money from international tours and that she only moved permanently to Barcelona just before the birth of her second son in January 2015. The high-profile trial is expected to hear from nearly 120 witnesses and to run until December 14. While the singer is expected to testify during the opening session of the trial, she may request permission from the court to not be present at the remaining hearings.

Even without her presence, details of her private life will likely emerge during the proceedings, since Spanish prosecutors carried out a meticulous investigation to prove their case. They interviewed her neighbours, tracked her images on social networks, checked her payments at hairdressers and even the health clinic she attended during her pregnancy to prove their accusation. Questions about the singer's finances have been raised before. (AFP)

# 24 die at Al Shifa hospital, Israel allows only 2 fuel trucks a day into Gaza

**GAZA CITY (TIP):** The Hamas-controlled health ministry said on November 17 that 24 patients at a hospital in war-torn Gaza had died within 48 hours due to power outages, as Israeli forces searched the complex for Hamas hideouts.

The announcement came shortly after Israel agreed to a US request to allow two fuel trucks a day into Gaza, following a UN warning that the shortages had halted aid deliveries and put people at risk of starvation.

The situation was dire at the Al-Shifa hospital, the largest in Gaza, which Israel's army said it was searching for a third day for suspected hideouts of fighters from the Islamist movement's armed wing.

"Twenty-four patients... have died over the last 48 hours" at Al-Shifa hospital "as vital medical equipment has stopped functioning because of the power outage", Gaza health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said.

Israel's national security adviser says the country's war cabinet has agreed to allow two tanker trucks of fuel to enter the Gaza Strip each day -- a quantity he described as "very minimal".

Speaking at a news conference on Friday, Tzachi Hanegbi said the fuel would be allowed for Gaza's communications system and water and



sewage services.

He said the aim is to prevent the spread of disease without disrupting Israel's ability to continue its war against the Hamas militant group.

Hanegbi said the fuel amounted to roughly 2% to 4% of the normal quantities of fuel that entered Gaza before the war erupted on 7 October.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) earlier said its aid trucks were unable to enter Gaza from Egypt for a second straight day due to the lack of fuel and a near-total communications blackout.

UNRWA said it would be unable to "manage or coordinate humanitarian

convoys" from Friday because of the telecommunications outage.

"The situation in Al-Shifa is catastrophic" for patients, displaced people and health workers who are crammed inside without electricity, water and food, the hospital's director, Mohammed Abu Salmiya, told AFP on the phone later during a brief restoration of communications.

Israel earlier said it found the body of another hostage in a building adjacent to Gaza City's Shifa Hospital. The hospital has been the focus of clashing narratives over who is to blame for the widespread suffering of Palestinian civilians during the war between Israel and Hamas. (AFP)

## Croatia cracks down on migrants as Europe beefs up border checks

**BREGANA, CROATIA (TIP):** It took Croatia years to finally enter into Europe's passport-free travel zone that promised to ease access for other European nationals travelling to the country and boost its tourism-driven economy.

But less than a year since its border crossings with European Union peers were dismantled, temporary checks have been reintroduced amid a surge in illegal migration across the region.

Neighbouring Slovenia re-introduced checks along its borders last month, following similar moves by Italy and other EU countries.

"People ask themselves what kind of force could stop these people who passed so many frontiers and countries," said Perica Matijevic, the head of the Krnjak municipality near Croatia's border with Bosnia that has been a hot-spot for crossings.

Matijevic, who referred to a registration camp for incoming migrants that is being prepared in the area, is not alone in his weariness.

Locals in the scarcely populated area complain that groups of migrants -- almost all of whom are young men -- moving through the area have only



increased anxieties.

"One should feel safe in his own house but migrants pass through our yards ... there were thefts, it's not pleasant," said economics student Sara Matijevic from the village of Dugi Dol, close to where the camp will open.

Croatia, which guards one of EU's longest external land borders, has long been a magnet for illegal migrants hoping to enter the bloc.

Over the years, the country gained an infamous reputation for fiercely patrolling its borders, leading to accusations that its authorities used

violence to push back EU-bound refugees.

In 2021, Zagreb was forced to admit as much following the publication of an investigation by major European media outlets that uncovered alleged systematic targeting of refugees by special units in Croatia, Greece and Romania.

Atefa, a 29-year-old Afghan refugee who did not provide her surname for security reasons, said Croatian police treated her and eight fellow migrants "like animals".

Along with forcing them to collect garbage and pouring water in their shoes, officers groped women and made obscene noises, she told AFP. (AFP)

## Russian artist who swapped supermarket price tags with antiwar messages gets 7 years in prison in latest crackdown on free speech

**TALLINN, ESTONIA (TIP):** A Russian court on Thursday convicted an artist and musician for swapping supermarket price tags with antiwar messages, sentencing her to seven years in prison in one of the highest-profile cases involving the recent crackdown on free speech.

Sasha Skochilenko was arrested in her native St. Petersburg in April 2022 and charged with spreading false information about the military after replacing price tags with ones that decried Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The Russian army bombed an arts schools in Mariupol. Some 400 people were hiding in it from the shelling," one read. Another said, "Russian conscripts are being sent to Ukraine. Lives of our children are the price of this war."

A customer at the supermarket who found the slogans reported them to authorities.

Skochilenko's arrest came about a month after authorities adopted a law effectively criminalizing any public expression about the war that deviates from the official Kremlin line. The legislation has been used in a widespread crackdown on opposition politicians, human rights activists and ordinary citizens critical of the Kremlin, with many receiving lengthy prison terms.

Skochilenko, 33, has not denied replacing the price tags but rejected the accusation of spreading knowingly false information.

She did not intend to disparage the military, but rather wanted to stop the fighting, her lawyer Yana Nepovinnova



told The Associated Press last week.

"She is a very empathetic, peace-loving person. To her, in general, the word 'war' is the most terrible thing imaginable, as is the suffering of people," Nepovinnova said.

Russian independent news site Mediazona quoted Skochilenko as saying in her final statement in court Thursday that the case against her was "weird and ridiculous" — so much so that officials in the facility where she is detained "open their eyes widely and exclaim: 'Is this really what people are being imprisoned for now?'"

She also alleged that an investigator working on her case even quit his job, telling one of her lawyers that he "didn't join the Investigative Committee to work on cases like (the one) against Sasha Skochilenko."

Addressing the judge in a courtroom full of supporters, Skochilenko said:

"Everyone sees and knows that it's not a terrorist you're trying. You're not trying an extremist. You're not trying a political activist, either. You're trying a pacifist."

Her supporters applauded, Mediazona reported, adding that after the verdict was announced and Skochilenko was led away, they gathered in a hallway, chanting her name.

Skochilenko has been held for nearly 19 months before her trial, meaning that her overall term will be reduced by more than two years, since every day served in a pre-trial detention center counts as 1.5 days of time served in a regular penal colony.

But she has struggled while in custody due to health problems, including a congenital heart defect, bipolar disorder and celiac disease, requiring a gluten-free diet, her lawyers and her partner have said. (AP)

## MAGNITUDE 6.7 QUAKE SHAKES SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

**MANILA (TIP):** A strong magnitude 6.7 earthquake shook the southern Philippines on November 14, the US Geological Survey said, sending people fleeing buildings and causing part of a ceiling inside a shopping mall to collapse.

No tsunami threat was issued after the quake struck off Sarangani province on the main southern island of Mindanao at a depth of 78 kilometres (48 miles) at 0814 GMT, the USGS said in a statement.

There were no immediate reports of casualties but the quake was felt across a wide area of the mountainous island.

"I think it was the strongest earthquake I've ever experienced," Keeshia Leyran, 27, told AFP from Davao City, about 200 kilometres (124 miles) from the epicentre, where she was attending a conference.

"People around me were panicking and running to go outside. There are hundreds of people here at the event, so I was more scared of a stampede happening to be honest."

A photo shared on Facebook and verified by AFP showed a collapsed ceiling inside a shopping mall in General Santos City, less than 100 kilometres from the epicentre.

A damaged ceiling at a shopping mall in General Santos City in South Cotabato after a strong magnitude 6.7 earthquake shook the southern Philippines. (Photo | AFP)

About 30 students at a high school in the city were treated for breathing difficulties due to panic following the quake, said Adrian Imbong, an emergency medical services worker.

The 58-year-old Raquel Balabawas was with her grandchildren at a primary school in General Santos City when they felt the ground move.

"We were in an open field but the earthquake was so strong that the children got really scared and started crying," Balaba told AFP.

Some schools in Jose Abad Santos municipality in Davao Occidental province reported cracks in their buildings, said Jason Sioco, a member of the local disaster agency. But he said there had been no reports of injuries or "substantial damage".

"Power and telephone signals were cut off for a while but electricity is back on," he said.

Quakes are a daily occurrence in the Philippines, which sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic as well as volcanic activity that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. (AFP)

## CHINA READY TO BE 'PARTNER AND FRIEND' OF US: XI

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** China is "ready to be a partner and friend of the United States," President Xi Jinping told US business leaders on November 16, as concerns mount over the country's slowing economy. If one country sees the other as a main competitor and most consequential geopolitical challenge, "this will only lead to wrong policymaking, misguided actions and unwanted results," he told a dinner on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Xi's remarks in San Francisco came hours after his highly anticipated talks with US President Joe Biden, where both men pledged to reduce tensions as they met for the first time in a year.

The two sides announced a host of agreements after talks at the luxury Filoli Estate, starting with the reactivation of a high-level military hotline. "We should build more bridges and pave more roads for people-to-people interactions," Xi told an audience of around 400 business leaders, government officials and academics. (AFP)

## Blaze in north China coal mine company claims 25 lives

**TAIYUAN (TIP):** Twenty-five people have died and dozens sent to hospital after a fire tore through a building in northern China's Shanxi province on November 16, AFP reported quoting state media.

**THE FIRE BROKE OUT THURSDAY MORNING AT A BUILDING OF A COAL MINE COMPANY IN NORTH CHINA'S SHANXI PROVINCE, THE SHANXI BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL MINE SAFETY ADMINISTRATION WAS CITED AS SAYING BY THE CHINESE NEWS AGENCY XINHUA.**

The fire broke out at 6:50 a.m. at the four-story Yongju Coal Industry Joint Building in China's top coal-producing hub of Shanxi, Reuters quoted the state broadcaster China Central Television as reporting.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation, it added.



The fire ripped through the second floor of the five-story building located in Lishi District of Lyuliang City. Rescue efforts are underway, according to local authorities Xinhua said

The building belongs to the private Yongju coal mine company, which has a production capacity of 120 tonnes a year, the report added. (AFP)

## ABOUT 250 ROHINGYA REFUGEES REACH INDONESIA'S WEST ON DECREPIT BOAT

**BIREUEN (AFP):** About 250 desperate Rohingya refugees reached western Indonesia on a decrepit, overcrowded wooden boat November 16, bringing the total number reported by local officials to have arrived this week to nearly 600.

The boat holding the members of the persecuted Myanmar minority, many barefoot and some pleading for help, sat just off the coast in the archipelago nation's Aceh province.

Some made a dash for shore after residents refused to let them land, collapsing to the sand and begging for the vessel's exhausted passengers to be allowed to disembark.

The mostly Muslim Rohingya are heavily persecuted in Myanmar and thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia.

Men, women, children and babies could be seen looking to shore as angry locals told them not to land the boat, which some on board said had sailed from Bangladesh.

Young men on board held their arms out in exasperation as the open-topped boat listed to one side through overcrowding. The local Acehnese delivered food to the boat in the hope those on board would decide to move on, according to Mukhtaruddin, village head of Pulo Pineung Meunasah. The passengers, however, were insistent after almost three weeks at sea. After climbing down ropes to swim to shore and remonstrate with the Acehnese, one Rohingya man covered in plasters lay on the sand barefoot, shirtless, appearing almost lifeless. The rest of Thursday's arrivals were still waiting on the boat about 100 metres (110 yards) from the beach, Mukhtaruddin said.

Rohingya refugee Manzur Alam told AFP the boat had left Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh -- home to almost a million Rohingya refugees -- 20 days ago with 249 people on board.

Mukhtaruddin estimated there were "between 250 and 260" refugees on the boat or the beach.

Three people, including Alam, gave different passenger breakdowns but all said mostly women and children were on board. "There are many babies, little children, please protect them, they are very hungry because they didn't get anything," said Alam, 23.

Some of the Rohingya men straddled the vessel's sides, using their hands to shield their faces from the sun as they looked for answers on shore.

A young Rohingya girl could also be seen cupping her hands upward in a gesture of prayer. The latest boat brings the total number of Rohingya arrivals in Indonesia over the past 72 hours to nearly 600, according to figures provided by local officials. (AFP)

# Cash-strapped Pakistan sold weapons worth USD 364 million to Ukraine: Report

**ISLAMABAD/LONDON (TIP):** Cash-strapped Pakistan reportedly earned USD 364 million in an arms deal with two private US companies last year to supply ammunition to Ukraine in its war with Russia, according to a media report.

A British military cargo plane flew from Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan in Rawalpindi to the British military base in Cyprus, Akrotiri, and then to Romania a total of five times to supply arms to the war-torn country, the BBC Urdu reported on November 15.

Islamabad has, however, consistently denied that it has provided any ammunition to Ukraine, a neighbouring country to Romania.

Citing details of the contract from the American Federal Procurement Data System, the BBC report claimed that Pakistan signed two contracts with American companies named 'Global Military' and 'Northrop Grumman' for the sale of 155mm shells.

These agreements to provide weapons to Ukraine were signed on August 17, 2022, and were specifically linked to the purchase of 155mm shells.

The Foreign Office in Islamabad has denied any sale of arms and ammunition to Ukraine, saying that Pakistan maintained a policy of "strict neutrality" in the dispute between the two countries and did not provide them with any arms or ammunition in that context.

These alleged agreements took place during the rule of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - a multi-party coalition that ousted Imran Khan-led government through a no-trust vote in April last year.



Then Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who had pledged to take Pakistan-UK relations to a "new height", retired in November 2022.

In August 2022, when these alleged contracts were signed, the Ukraine crisis was very much a part of the political discourse in Pakistan, particularly in the wake of the cricketer-turned-politician Khan's visit to Russia on February 24, when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an invasion of Ukraine.

Months after the visit, Gen Bajwa publicly distanced from Khan and called for the invasion to be stopped immediately.

During a visit to Pakistan this July, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba also rejected reports that Pakistan was supplying arms to Ukraine to support its military during the ongoing conflict with Russia.

The BBC Urdu report claimed that a USD 232 million contract was awarded to Global Military while another USD 131 million contract was signed with

Northrop Grumman.

"These agreements expired last month i.e. October 2023," it added.

The report alleged that the deliveries were made in a British military cargo plane from the Nur Khan Air Base, which landed in Rawalpindi five times.

The first such plane landed in Rawalpindi in August 2022.

"Each time, the plane flew from Nur Khan Airbase to the British military base in Cyprus and then to Romania, that too at a time when Russia was waging war in Romania's neighbouring country Ukraine," the report claimed.

BBC Urdu, while citing further evidence for its claims, said data by the State Bank of Pakistan also showed that the country's arms exports increased by 3,000 per cent during FY 2022-23.

"Pakistan exported arms worth USD 13 million in 2021-22, while these exports reached USD 415 million in 2022-23," it said.

Earlier reports said secret Pakistani arms sales to the US to be used by Ukraine helped cash-strapped Islamabad secure a crucial International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout earlier this year.

The arms sales were made for the purpose of supplying the Ukrainian military -- marking Pakistani involvement in a conflict it had faced US pressure to take sides on.

Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, however, rejected as "baseless and fabricated" the report which says the cash-strapped country provided arms to the US to get its support to clinch the USD 3 billion deal with the IMF towards the end of June to avoid default. (PTI)

## Bangladesh will go to polls on Jan 7 amid concerns over fair elections

**DHAKA (TIP):** Bangladesh is set to hold its 12th general elections on January 7, 2024, announced the Chief Election Commissioner, Kazi Habibur Awal, on Wednesday. The announcement of elections comes against a backdrop of nationwide protests that have resulted in the deaths of four people, including a policeman, and injury to hundreds. The opposition, rallying against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, has made several calls for her resignation and advocated the establishment of an interim government to ensure a fair electoral process.

Nomination papers must be submitted by November 30, with scrutiny scheduled between December 1 and 4. Candidates can withdraw until December 17, and on December 18, election symbols will be assigned, as revealed by Awal in a

televised address. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), leading the opposition, insists on a non-party interim government for unbiased elections. BNP's right-wing allies, Jamaat-e-Islami, have joined the protests, demanding Prime Minister Hasina's resignation amid corruption and money laundering allegations.

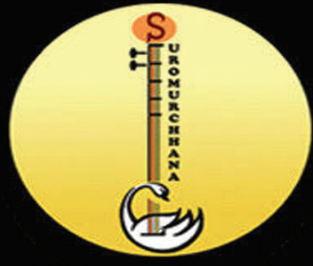
With some BNP leaders in jail and Khaleda Zia under house arrest, the US has called for free and fair elections while condemning human rights violations in Bangladesh. This stance aims, in part, to counter China's growing influence in the region. India, too, prefers a government less influenced by China, safeguarding its own regional interests.

Reports indicate the arrest of over 8,000 opposition members and protesters since the onset of protests on October 28.

The opposition is expected to persist in demanding Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the formation of an interim government. The ruling Awami League has dismissed these demands, affirming that elections will proceed under Prime Minister Hasina's leadership. Hasina has rejected the proposals for dialogue with the opposition, labelling the BNP a terrorist organisation.

Senior BNP leader Mahbubuddin Khokon has held the Election Commission accountable for potential conflicts arising from the poll schedule announcement. Security measures have been heightened across the country, with increased vigilance in anticipation of potential unrest. The election campaign, as per the announcement, is slated to run from December 18 to midnight of January 5, 2024. (ENS)





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# Use coconut, argan oil for smooth lips

Winter can be a brutal time of the year for your lips. During the cold winter season, there are various skin problems which emerge like dry cracked lips and skin. Besides drinking water it is important to use coconut and argan oil based products like lip balms, scrubs, lipsticks with the natural oils as its base to save your lips from chapping, suggest experts.

## Don't lick your lips

This common practice is quite harmful for your lips as when you put saliva on the lips, it dries out and make our lips even more dry.

## Use coconut oil

Coconut oil is very good for lips as it acts as a good nourishing moisturiser and will give you cracked free lips. For a deep hydrating result we recommend butterstick lip treatment which has coconut oil and lemon butter and comes with SPF.

## Use argan oil

The thin skin of your lips loses moisture rapidly, especially in the winter. So make sure lips are covered with lip balm as often as possible. Argan oil is your lips best friend. Make sure you use lipsticks with argan oil or shea butter so that your lips don't crack in the cold.

## Try lip scrub

Our lips are not protected by hair or sebaceous glands (oil glands), so they start to chap, therefore weekly exfoliation is a must. Lip scrub works great to gently exfoliate dry lips. For a homemade lip scrub, mix brown sugar and honey and gently



scrub lips until the sugar crystals melt. Wash and pat dry.

## Keep a gloss handy

If you're a matte enthusiast, and your lips begin to feel dry, always keep a gloss handy. Start your make-up routine by moisturising your lips for which you can use the good old Vaseline. Keep it on for a minute, blot the excess and go ahead with the lipstick application.

## Use a lip balm

This will lock in the moisture and help to heal cracks and splits in the skin. Look for a healing ointment that contains petrolatum, essential oils or glycerin. Another important ingredient is sunscreen — there still is sun in the winter.

Avoid lip balms containing camphor, eucalyptus and menthol. These substances actually dry out your lips and make the problem worse. In response, you apply more of

this kind of lip balm, and the cycle continues.

Avoid brushing or rubbing your lips when they are flaky or peeling. "It's better not to scrub your lips or pick the peeling skin off with your teeth or your fingers. That just creates cracks and sores on your lips and can make things worse," Dr. Piliang says. "Instead, apply a very heavy ointment-based balm that will be soothing and help to heal your lips."

## Treat cracks right away

If you let them go, they can become worse and possibly get infected or lead to a cold sore. At night, apply lip balm before you go to bed. Many people sleep with their mouths open. Eight hours of breathing in and out through your mouth can dry your lips, Dr. Piliang says. Also consider using a humidifier at night if the air in your house is dry because of being heated.



## Coffee for Skin Care

Coffee is usually associated with waking people up in the morning, but it can also perk up your skin. The caffeine in coffee has a number of benefits for your skin, from treating redness and inflammation, to reducing the appearance of under-eye circles, to getting rid of cellulite. By incorporating caffeine into your skin care routine, you can reveal evenly toned, smooth skin all over your body.

### Reduces Inflammation

Caffeine has potent anti-inflammatory properties that make it ideal for reducing inflammation and redness in your skin. In a 1981 study performed at the Seoul National University, researchers found that caffeine is able to reduce inflammation almost as well as aspirin in rats; in a 1978 performed at the University of Tennessee, researchers found that adding caffeine to anti-inflammatory creams significantly increased their effectiveness.

### Helps get rid of under-eye circles

Dark under-eye circles can be caused by a number of factors, including dehydration, allergies, lack of sleep or genetics. Although caffeine cannot completely erase hereditary dark circles, applying caffeine under your eyes will reduce the puffiness and inflammation associated with dark circles. Additionally, caffeine reduces the build-up of blood under your eyes which contributes to dark shadows. Several eye creams contain caffeine, or you can apply moist tea bags to your eyes for five minutes to reduce puffiness and give you a more alert appearance.

### Gets rid of cellulite

Caffeine can also reduce the appearance of cellulite. In a 2008 study performed at the University of São Paulo, researchers found that an application of skin cream containing caffeine to cellulite reduced the size of cellulite fat cells by 17 percent. In addition, a study has found that caffeine cream applied to cellulite decreased the hip's diameter in almost 70 percent of participants.

## FOOD CORNER

### Lemon Chicken

#### INGREDIENTS

6 chicken thighs without skin, 3-4 Tbsp refined oil, 2 tsp cumin seeds, 2 onions julienned, 6 cloves garlic chopped, 1/2 inch ginger chopped, 3-4 hot green chillies, 3/4 tsp turmeric powder, 1 tsp coriander powder, Salt to taste, 1 cup fresh lemon juice, 1/2 cup orange juice, 1/4 cup fresh sugarcane juice, Fresh coriander to garnish.

#### Method

- Heat a heavy cooking vessel on a high heat and once its hot, add the refined oil and swirl the pan to coat the base evenly. Once the oil is nice and hot, add the cumin seeds and saute them until crackling and fragrant.
- Now add the onions, garlic and ginger and sauté them gently until they take on a light golden brown color. Turn up the heat and then add the spice powders. Toast the spices on a high heat until they are intensely aromatic and well toasted. Then add a little water and bhuno the base ingredients repeatedly until the oil rises to the top and the masala is well cooked out.
- Add some salt and mix well, then add the chicken thighs to the pan. Turn up the heat and fry the chicken in the masala until it is evenly coated with the flavor of the base and is a very light yellowy golden brown in color.



- Now add the lemon and orange juice to the chicken and deglaze the pan well, scraping up the flavor packed pan deposits on the base of the pan. Stir everything together well to combine, then add a little sugarcane juice to balance the acidity of the lemon juice.
- Bring the chicken to a boil, then turn the heat to low, cover the pan and let the chicken simmer away until it is cooked to perfection and almost falling off the bone.
- Once the chicken is cooked, uncover the pan and simmer the light gravy until slightly reduced and concentrated in flavor. Turn off the heat, then garnish with fresh coriander and serve with hot rotis or rice.

### Coconut Chicken

#### INGREDIENTS

1 kg chicken, 200 ml cream, 100 ml coconut milk, 200 gm onion, cut into small pieces, 2 tsp garlic paste, 1 tsp ginger paste, 1 tsp turmeric powder, Salt to taste, 1 tsp garam masala, 100 gm butter/refined oil, 1 tsp red chilli powder.



#### Method

- Add chicken, garlic and ginger paste, turmeric powder, salt, garam masala, salt and chilli powder and mix well. Keep the marinated chicken for two hours.
- Then place the pan on fire and put the oil/butter and fry the onion till golden brown.
- Add the marinated chicken to the pan and fry on a low flame adding coconut milk slowly till the chicken is cooked properly.
- Then mix the cream slowly
- Add 1/2 tsp of sugar (optional)
- Now the chicken is ready to eat
- Serve with roti/rice.

# Your coronary calcium scores too can predict risk for heart disease

While high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and smoking are well known heart disease risks, not everyone who has a heart attack has them.

A new study finds that these patients had one thing in common: they all tended to have high levels of coronary calcium.

Previous research showed that 14 per cent to 27 per cent of heart attack patients have none of the standard risk factors high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and smoking.

The new study by researchers at Intermountain Health in the US show that scans that detect this kind of plaque buildup should be considered as part of their standard care, even in the absence of the four standard modifiable risk factors, so that these patients can be diagnosed and treated before their first heart attack event occurs.

"Measuring coronary calcium could have a major impact on how we identify who is at risk for heart disease," said lead author Jeffrey L. Anderson, research physician at Intermountain Health.

"We need to go beyond just the four major modifiable risk factors because there are risk factors we don't yet recognise or understand about what's causing increased risk of heart attack in these patients," he added. The findings were presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2023 in Philadelphia, US.

In the study, researchers identified 429 heart attack patients who also had coronary artery calcium scans. Of those, 369 had standard modifiable risk factors (SMuRF), like a diagnosis or treatment of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, and or smoking; and 60 did not (SMuRF-less).

Researchers examined these patients' calcium artery scan scores, and then also major adverse cardiovascular events, like another heart attack, stroke,



or death, at 60-days and long term.

Researchers found that SMuRF-less patients had high rates of, and higher percentile of, coronary calcium scores. They also found that 77 per cent of these patients met their criteria for preventative therapy, like statins and/or aspirin. Patients with SMuRF, as expected, also had high CAC scores and percentiles.

Outcomes were more favourable overall for SMuRF-less patients and for those patients with lower coronary artery calcium scores. While coronary artery calcium scans are becoming more common and affordable, they're still not part of guideline-directed standard of care.

"We're missing about a quarter of people who are at risk for heart attack events because we're still relying on just the standard risk factors," said Dr Anderson.

"We haven't been doing scans in low-risk patients that don't have these common risk factors, but that may need to change given our findings, so that we can identify these seemingly low-risk patients who care not, and provide preventive therapy." *Source: IANS*



## Quitting smoking can lower diabetes risk by 30-40%: WHO

Quitting smoking can lower the risk of developing type-2 diabetes by 30-40 per cent, according to a new brief jointly developed by the WHO, the International Diabetes Federation and the University of Newcastle.

Evidence suggests that smoking influences the body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels, which can cause type-2 diabetes, the WHO said in a statement.

Type-2 diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases worldwide, accounting for over 95 per cent of all diabetes cases, the UN agency said.

However, it is often preventable, and factors that contribute to developing type-2 diabetes include being overweight, not getting enough exercise, and genetics, according to the WHO.

The IDF estimates that 537 million people have diabetes, a number that continues to rise making diabetes the ninth highest cause of death globally, the statement said. The IDF is a non-profit umbrella organisation of more than 240 national diabetes associations in 161 countries and territories.

Smoking also increases the risk of diabetes-related complications such as cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and blindness, in addition to delaying healing of wound and enhancing the risk of lower limb amputations, WHO's statement said.

"The International Diabetes Federation strongly encourages people to stop smoking to reduce their risk of diabetes and, if they have diabetes, help avoid complications.

"We call on governments to introduce policy measures that will discourage people from smoking and remove tobacco smoke from all public spaces," said Akhtar Hussain, president of the IDF.

Quitting smoking also reduces the risk of diabetes complications, the UN agency said in its statement.

"Health professionals play a vital role in motivating and guiding individuals with type-2 diabetes in their journey to quit tobacco.

"Simultaneously, governments must take the crucial step of ensuring all indoor public places, workplaces and public transport is completely smoke-free.

"These interventions are essential safeguards against the onset and progression of this and many other chronic diseases," said Ruediger Krech, WHO's Director of Health Promotion. *Source: PTI*

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### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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# Short sleep, shift work may raise risk of high BP: Study

Short sleep lengths, daytime napping, shift work and even long sleep lengths have been linked to an increased risk of elevated blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, according to a new study.

The study, published in Nature Communications, is the first study to demonstrate that independent of other factors including age, sex and Body Mass Index (BMI), circadian rhythm-disrupting behaviours, including shift work, have an adverse effect on blood pressure regulation.

"We found that compromised sleep health or night shift work are associated with elevated blood pressure in both males and females and across all age groups," said lead author Morag Young, Associate Professor from the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne.

"What we've found is that having circadian rhythms out of sync even slightly has an adverse impact on blood pressure," Young added.

The study found that permanent



night shift workers who slept less than five or six hours were most at risk, but those working mixed shifts also showed elevated blood pressure. Interestingly, sleeping for too long a period also had a disruptive effect on circadian rhythms, Young said.

"Seven hours of sleep was found to be the optimal length of sleep for maintaining healthy blood pressure," Young said. "We found that too little sleep (less than seven hours) and too much sleep (anything more than seven hours) for adults also had a negative impact. "Permanent night shift

workers showed the greatest elevation in blood pressure, but those people working rotating shifts also showed elevated levels, although not as significant as permanent night shift workers.

"Our data also show that short sleep plus shift work has an additive negative effect on blood pressure."

The body's circadian clock governs almost all processes in the human body, including metabolic function, cognition, heart rate and sleep-wake behaviour. Disruptions to the body's normal biological rhythms can leave the body out of sync, creating circadian strain, and thus negative consequences.

"Challenges that disrupt anticipation to daily light-dark cycles, food intake, and activity cues that are induced by non-traditional behavioural and lifestyle factors, like shift work, can adversely impact maintenance of normal biological rhythms at the systemic and cellular level, thereby compromising organ function," Young said. *Source: PTI*



## WhatsApp rolling out new voice chat feature with large groups

Meta-owned WhatsApp is introducing a new voice chat feature that will be a less disruptive method to connect with large groups on the platform.

Voice chats allow you to instantly talk live with members of a group chat while still being able to message in the group.

Now, once you start the voice chat, group members will receive a push notification to join instead of a call. There will also be an in-chat bubble they can tap to join.

You can see who has joined the voice chat in a banner on the bottom of the screen.

"Voice chats will end automatically once everyone has left the chat. They'll also end if no one joins the first or last person in the chat for 60 minutes," the messaging platform said in an update.

Voice chats are available for groups of 33 to 128 people and this feature is only available on primary devices, said the company.

"Group members not in the voice chat can see the profiles of those in the voice chat from the chat header and the Calls tab," said WhatsApp.

Currently, the voice call on WhatsApp is available with up to 32 participants.

Once a voice chat is underway, call controls will be accessible from the top of a chat without hindering your ability to send text messages at the same time.

Voice chats will be rolling out on iOS and Android in the coming weeks.

## NASA, ISRO gearing up to launch joint space mission to map globe every 12 days

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2024 after a few tests, particularly those related to vibration, NASA officials have said.

"ISRO is projecting the first quarter of next year. So, I mean, that's ready," NASA NISAR Project Manager Phil Barela said during a media interaction.

He is expecting the launch of NISAR (spelt as 'Naisar') "not earlier than January" from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota aboard the ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II.

The mission, which has three-year duration, aims to survey all of Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces every 12 days. This will start after a 90-day satellite commissioning period.

Regarding the key tests that are pending to be undertaken, Barela said, "The vibration testing that's underway, but there's a whole slew of performance tests that we need to do."

Battery and simulation tests have to be done to make sure that the system works fine, he said.

"We'll be doing performance testing on the radars and various spacecraft electronics. So, a lot of testing remains but the big environments test, the only one remaining now, is vibration," Barela said.

# Nothing will soon allow Android users to send iMessages

Nothing is becoming the first Android brand to offer Apple's iMessage-like features, exclusively available on iPhones, to Android users. The London-based smartphone maker has announced a new messaging platform called Nothing Chats, specifically designed for Nothing Phone (2) users. This marks a significant departure from other iMessage clients on Android, which traditionally have been developed by third parties rather than the brand itself.

Starting this Friday, November 17th, Nothing Phone 2 owners will be able to experience the coveted blue bubbles of iMessage, enabling seamless communication with iPhone users. Nothing states that the intention to bring iMessage to Android is due to its aim to break down barriers between phone users by providing messaging services powered by Sunbird. The company asserts that, in order to achieve this goal, users must trust Sunbird.

According to the company Sunbird's architecture is designed to deliver messages directly between users without storing them on any intermediary servers. However, to ensure seamless iMessage integration, Sunbird temporarily stores user iCloud credentials in an encrypted database on a Mac Mini located in either the US or Europe, depending on the user's region. These credentials serve as a relay for iMessages sent through the app. After two weeks of inactivity, Sunbird securely deletes this account information, explained Nothing's US head of PR, Jane Nho, in an email conversation with The Verge.

### How Nothing Chats work

"Nothing Chats" app enables users to exchange messages through blue bubbles. The app is currently in a Beta phase, with plans for additional features and improvements in the future. Users can stay informed about updates by signing up for notifications.

To use Nothing Chats, users will need to log in with



their respective Apple IDs to set up the app with iMessage. The company emphasizes that chats on this platform will maintain end-to-end encryption, aligning with Sunbird's privacy policy.

In a video on YouTube, Nothing CEO and co-founder Carl Pei provides further insights into the app's features. He reveals that once available the Nothing Chats will support both individual and group messaging, complemented by features like typing indicators, full-size media sharing, and voice notes.

While read receipts, message reactions, and message replies will be initially unavailable, they are slated for inclusion in future updates. The company encourages users to stay tuned for upcoming developments as the app undergoes continuous refinement during its Beta phase. The Nothing Chats app is scheduled to launch on November 17 and will initially be available to users in North America, the EU, and other European countries. The app's initial rollout will be limited to these regions; the company has not yet announced when it will be expanded to other countries or to older Nothing Phone (1) models.

Source: India Today

## With robotic AI chemist, scientist inch closer to make oxygen on Mars

A team of Chinese scientists have developed a robotic artificial intelligence (AI) chemist that would help produce oxygen from water on Mars using meteorites from the Red Planet.

The lack of oxygen, essential for long-term survival, was one of the greatest hurdles humans have to overcome to immigrate to Mars. However, the recent discovery of water activity on Mars has shown promise.

Scientists have explored the possibility of decomposing water to produce oxygen through electrochemical water oxidation driven by solar power with the help of Oxygen Evolution Reaction (OER) catalysts. The challenge was to find a way to synthesise these catalysts in situ using materials on Mars, instead of transporting them from the Earth, which was costly.

To address this, a team from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences developed robotic AI chemist that can synthesise and optimise OER catalysts automatically from Martian meteorites.

"The AI chemist innovatively synthesise OER catalyst using Martian material based on interdisciplinary cooperation," said Prof Luo Yi, leading scientist of the team from USTC.

Their research was published in the journal Nature Synthesis.

The AI chemist created an excellent catalyst using



five types of Martian meteorites under unmanned conditions.

The catalyst can operate steadily for over 5,50,000 seconds at a current density of 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> and an overpotential of 445.1 mV.

A further test at -37 degree Celsius, the temperature on Mars, confirmed that the catalyst can steadily produce oxygen without any apparent degradation.

Within two months, the AI chemist has completed the complex optimisation of catalysts that would take 2,000 years for a human chemist.

Source: IANS

## Reliance JioCinema signs up Pokemon in kids entertainment push: Report

The entertainment unit of India's Reliance has signed a deal with The Pokemon Company to show children's shows and movies on its platform, two people with knowledge of the deal said, its latest bid to boost content amid a domestic rivalry with the Walt Disney Co and other streaming services.

The deal, signed this month, will make JioCinema's streaming app the "exclusive" India platform partner for more than 1,000 episodes and around 20 movies of the Japanese anime series, one of the sources said, without disclosing any financial details.

The shows and movies will be dubbed into three Indian languages to broaden their appeal, the source added. Pokemon has spawned a global multi-billion dollar media franchise spanning trading cards, games, TV shows and movies.

Viacom18, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani's entertainment joint-venture that runs JioCinema, and The Pokemon Company, owned by video game company Nintendo and affiliates, did not respond to a request for comment.

Adding child-focused content is Ambani's latest push to expand in the Indian streaming market which research firm Media Partners Asia estimates will be worth \$7 billion by 2027.

Netflix and Amazon are among JioCinema's competitors, but Ambani has most recently taken on Disney's Hotstar app, with both offering free streaming of cricket matches.

In total, JioCinema will add around 3,000 hours of children's content, including movies and shows from Entertainment One, Animaccord, Cartoon Network Studios and DreamWorks, the sources said.

## 'Sahara matter will continue even after Subrata Roy's death': Sebi chief

Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch on Thursday, November 16, said the Sahara matter will continue for the capital markets regulator even after the death of the group's founder Subrata Roy.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Ficci event, Buch said for Sebi, the matter was about an entity's conduct and it will continue regardless of whether an individual is alive or not.

Roy, the controversial founder of the group, died on Tuesday, Nov 14, after a prolonged illness. It has been reported that refunds of only Rs 138 crore have been made to investors even though Sahara group was asked to deposit over Rs 24,000 crore with Sebi for further refund to investors.

# China's Alibaba scraps cloud unit spin-off citing US chip curbs

BEIJING (TIP)

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said Thursday, November 16, it was cancelling a planned cloud service spinoff announced this year over US chip restrictions, as it reported results for the third quarter of 2023 that were in line with market expectations.

The company saw a 9 percent year-on-year increase in Q3 revenue, it said Thursday, following several difficult years and despite a broader economic slowdown.

"Alibaba Group delivered a solid quarter, marked by renewed momentum and energy across multiple businesses as a result of our strategic reorganization," CEO Eddie Wu said in a press release on Thursday, referring to a major restructuring plan announced by the group this year.

Announced in late March, the plan involved splitting the group into six distinct entities that will be able to separately pursue funding through public listings.

But on Thursday the company said it would call off the spinoff of one part of its business, its Cloud Intelligence arm, in light of "the recent expansion of US restrictions on export of advanced computing chips".

"We believe that a full spin-off of Cloud Intelligence Group may not achieve the intended effect of shareholder value enhancement," the company said in its earnings release.

"Accordingly, we have decided to not proceed with a full spin-off, and instead we will focus on developing a sustainable growth model for Cloud Intelligence Group under the fluid circumstances," Alibaba said.

The company's sales for the quarter ending in September came in at 224.8 billion yuan (\$31 billion), in line with predictions by Bloomberg analysts and down from 234.1 billion yuan in the previous quarter.

Alibaba is a key player in China's expansive digital economy and the operator of a major online shopping platform.

The Hangzhou-based group's performance is considered a barometer of domestic consumption, which has flagged in recent months.

The firm has faced new headwinds in recent years, as Beijing has imposed tighter restrictions on the domestic tech sector, while weak consumer spending saw it record its third consecutive quarter of single-digit revenue growth earlier this year.



Thursday's figures follow results earlier this week from Alibaba's arch-rival JD.com, which posted better-than-expected revenues of 247.7 billion yuan.

Alibaba has said it aims to achieve a "more nimble" structure in order to maintain competitiveness in the face of new regulatory challenges and mounting pressures on the global economy.

The e-commerce company was founded in 1999 by Jack Ma, who has kept a low profile since late 2020, when a speech he made attacking Chinese regulators was followed by Beijing pulling the plug on a planned IPO by Alibaba affiliate Ant Group.

A record fine of \$2.75 billion was later imposed on the tech giant for alleged unfair business practices.

Source: Reuters

## India's exports rise 6.21 pc to \$33.57 billion in Oct; trade deficit widens to \$31.36 billion

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's merchandise exports rose 6.21 per cent to USD 33.57 billion in October this year, even as the trade deficit touched a record high of USD 31.46 billion during the month, government data showed on November 15.

Imports increased by 12.3 per cent to USD 65.03 billion in the month under consideration due to a jump in gold imports.

Inbound shipments of gold rose by 95.5 per cent to USD 7.23 billion. Oil imports also increased by 8 per cent to USD 17.66 billion during the month.

The country's trade deficit in goods in October last year stood at USD 26.31 billion. The deficit (difference between imports and exports) during October is the "highest" because of the largest import figures, Additional Secretary in



the Commerce Ministry L Satya Srinivas told reporters here. Cumulatively, exports during the April-October period this fiscal contracted by 7 per cent to USD 244.89 billion, while imports fell 8.95 per cent to USD 391.96 billion.

The trade deficit during the seven-month period was USD 147.07 billion against USD 167.14 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Gold imports during the period rose 23 per cent to USD 29.5 billion, while crude oil imports dipped by 18.72 per cent to about USD 100 billion during April-October this fiscal.

Briefing reporters on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the trade numbers in October reflect 'green shoots' of recovery in outbound shipments.

"I am hopeful that we will be crossing the last year's figures," he said, adding the positive growth is there despite a fall in commodity prices, "but we are waiting and watching" the global situation.

Exports are impacted due to the geopolitical situation and other risks like high inflation and economic slowdown in advanced economies; the Russia-Ukraine war; China-Taiwan and China-US issues; and the Israel-Palestine war.

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 20 TO 26, 2023



**ARIES** : Ganesha says this week you will be very busy with household work. Married people will now be able to get out of the problems of family life a little and heave a sigh of relief. People living a love life will experience some problems. There may be some distance between you and your family, and some ideological differences may arise. Try to remove these in time, so that the relationship can run well. There will be some household expenses now. Your responsibilities will attract your attention. Meanwhile, you will try to maintain coordination in your work. Both your home and office will need you. Things will get sorted out only if you manage well. Time will be good for employed people. Your hard work will continue. People belonging to the business class will get relief from some problems. You will move forward in business with new energy. Be careful of your opponents. Talking about students, you will have to work hard now. Now they will also work hard, which will also benefit them. From a health point of view, you will have to take care of your health now. It will be important to control your eating habits. The beginning of the week is good for travel.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says this week will be better for you. However, the domestic life of married people may be full of conflicts, so be careful. This time will be very good for your love life. Romance will increase in your relationship and understanding with each other will also improve. You will also meet some new people, which will increase your circle of friends. Religious thoughts will come to mind. You would like to do good to people. You will triumph over your opponents. He will not be able to harm you even if he wants to. You will be successful in court-related matters. Your hard work will be successful for you, and you will achieve success in expanding your business by connecting with people doing business in remote areas and states or contacting foreign countries. Talking about students, at this time their minds will be focused on studies. You can get success in competition. From a health point of view, you will have to take care of your health now. The beginning to the middle of the week will be a good time for travel.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says this week will be good for you. You will be busier with your family activities. In the family, you will have to take care of your mother's health, because she may fall ill now. This time will be better for my love life. You will enjoy your love life openly. You will gradually get success in removing the tension that has persisted till now. This time will be much better for married life. You may get a big benefit because of your spouse. At this time, you will get every kind of support in your business, and you will progress. Your income will also improve. You

will benefit from many sources. Luck will be on your side, which will get things done. You will have to pay some attention to your job. Instead of bringing here and there things in your mind, concentrate on your work. Talking about students, they will have to concentrate on their studies. If you do not pay attention to your studies, then you may have to face problems. From the health point of view, there will be some improvement in your health as compared to before, but you will have to pay attention to your eating habits. Except for the last two days of the week, the rest of the time is favourable for travel.



**CANCER** : Ganesha says this week will be good for you. Your relations with friends will remain good right now. There will be less stress in marital life and love life will also improve. You should think carefully about your relationship. Your self-confidence will also be strengthened, which will lead to success in work. You can get tremendous benefits by applying for any government tender. Working in stock market or real estate will also prove to be very beneficial for you. At this time, you will be successful in earning good money. This time will be favourable from a job point of view. Your boss will also seem happy with you. They will test your abilities by watching you tackle challenges. Talking about students, at this time they will need solitude for their studies. take care of it. From a health point of view, your health will be good at the moment. However, you have to take care of your diet. Some days in the middle of the week will be good for traveling.



**LEO** : Ganesha says this week will be moderately fruitful for you. Now your expenses will be higher. There may be some lack of coordination with family members. The health of an elder in the family may also deteriorate, so be careful at this time. There can also be a function at home, in which many people will come. However, there is a possibility of some discord with siblings. There will be definite chances of profit from the government. Your enemies will be defeated, and you will get a one-sided victory over them. If you are standing in any election, then you may get a good chance of winning. Time is favourable for the job, continue working hard and pay more attention to your work. People doing business will work hard in their work. You will become so engrossed in work that you may even lose your senses. But take some breaks in between and eat good food. Do not ignore your health, only then you will be able to stay fit. Talking about students, this is a good time for technical and management students. They will be able to perform better. The beginning of the week will be good from a health point of view.



**VIRGO** : Ganesha says this week will be good for you. Your confidence will also increase significantly, due to which you will be successful in your work. However, suddenly you will feel feelings of both love and separation from love. On the one hand, you will feel that you should separate from this material world, and on the other hand you will start desiring all the material pleasures. In such a situation, there will be conflict in your mind, which may affect your friends.

Whether you are married or enjoying a love life, this time will be full of ups and downs. You will have to make efforts yourself to improve it. Your income will be good. The bank balance will increase. There will be a reduction in expenses, which will make the time favourable from the financial point of view. Your position in the job will remain strong. You will seem satisfied with your work, and you may also get some new deals in business from your superiors, which will increase your confidence. Talking about students, they will now be able to concentrate completely on their studies. This will also give them proper results. From a health point of view, there is no major problem visible at present, but there are not even minor problems. The beginning of the week is good for travel.



**LIBRA** : Ganesha says this week will be good for you. You will be successful in maintaining a balance between your family life and personal life. Married people will also feel the increasing tension between love and intimacy in their domestic life. Your behaviour may irritate them a bit. Time will be better for your love life, but you will have to control your anger. Now there will be a sudden increase in expenses, which may surprise you, but you will have to spend. There will be some expenditure on luxuries too, so you have to understand that it should not be heavy on your pocket. Time is good for business. Some new tasks will come before you, in completing which you will use all your strength, yet ultimately victory will be yours. Talking about students, they will be very positive about their studies and will work hard. You will be successful in the job. From the health point of view, there may be ups and downs in your health at this time. You may have a high fever, so be careful. Be alert about the weather. The beginning of the week is good for travel.



**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says this week will be good for you. Married people can organize a party to forget the stress of family life. We will try to make the relationship lighter and stronger through mutual dialogue. At present, luck will favor you, which will give you a chance to move forward. This will get your work done. Situations at the workplace will gradually move towards favourability, but you will have to maintain a good rapport with the people you work with, otherwise, you may get into trouble. Take special care of this. The week will be beneficial for those doing business. You should expect to get good profits from your hard work. You will also try to invest. Talking about students, time will be favourable for them also. From a health point of view, you will have to take care of your health now. Control your diet and follow your daily routine. The beginning and middle of the week is a good time for travel.



**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says this week will prove to be mixed for you. There will be some lack of happiness and peace in family life. There will be discord in the family over some issues and there will be a lack of mutual coordination. Your family's happiness will decrease. Right now, you will be away from home for a long

CONTD ON PAGE 31

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE NOVEMBER 20 TO NOVEMBER 26 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### NOVEMBER 20

Ganesha says today might be a good day for you to create new contacts that will benefit your career. Additionally, you would experience unexpected career advancements. If you go out and participate in clubs and other social activities, you would be quite successful socially. Compared to the previous several years, your income would be significantly higher. Even if they can be possessive at times, your loved one would be supportive and helpful. Minor health issues like backaches, stiff necks, or body aches will cause a lot of trouble.

### NOVEMBER 21

Ganesha says although you are very talented, you need to learn to control your occasionally domineering and haughty behavior. This time, businessmen would diversify their operations into new, lucrative directions. Dealing in real estate might be quite profitable for you, but you should anticipate some partner resistance. Make the most of it since for some people, this is a new romance. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both physical and spiritual benefits. Your children will likely have some exciting news to share.

### NOVEMBER 22

Ganesha says you are a person who is ambitious, competent, organized, sober, and straightforward. Slow projects would pick up steam. If there are any disagreements, they will be resolved and you will feel relieved. Coworker romances could blossom, but they would be very fleeting. You would keep ahead of others thanks to your competitive spirit, which would also make you well-liked by your fellow students. Friends will be supportive yet obstinate.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

### NOVEMBER 23

Ganesha says many people's financial situations get better, and some people even inherit property. Your confidence will increase as business prospers and you make money. The legal issues that have been weighing on your mind will be resolved to your satisfaction. For some, promotions and pay raises are likely. However, romance won't be enjoyable because you'll constantly be thinking about your regular conflicts and disagreements. Both academically and athletically, students will do incredibly well.

### NOVEMBER 24

Ganesha says the highlight today will be starting new employment and assignments. Transfers and promotions for select staff. Long-term returns on property investments will be favorable. You will travel frequently and successfully, earning money along the way, and you will develop enduring relationships. Your relationships with people of the opposite gender will get stronger, giving your life a new and exciting

direction. Your mood will improve after hearing some thrilling news from kids. Anxiety and tension may be brought on by an increase in your medical costs due to your parents' health.

### NOVEMBER 25

Ganesha says the upcoming season is favorable for launching new businesses. Projects that have been lagging up until now would pick up steam. If there are any disputes, they will be resolved and you will feel relieved. Coworker romances might start to grow, but they would be quite fleeting. You would keep ahead of others thanks to your competitive spirit, which would also make you well-liked by your peers. Friends will be supportive but also demanding.

### NOVEMBER 26

Ganesha says your ability to sway a sizable population is very strong. You are in the spotlight because of your modern, revolutionary beliefs, but you need to curb your occasionally stubborn and envious behavior. You would have a lot of energy this year, and if you used it well, you would achieve great success. Financially, it appears to be a good time to purchase property and equities, but all purchases should be made with the long term in mind. Later in the year, a far-off trip looks likely, probably to attend a fortunate event.

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwala.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com) and on phone +91-9638770377 [www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com)**

### CONTD FROM PAGE 30

time due to work, due to which you will feel a lack of happiness, yet you will remain very emotional. You will suddenly do something that will surprise your family. You will get support from friends. Will feel less interested in work. You will be successful in business. Married people will live their family life to the fullest, but they may also have arguments with their spouses. Time is not very good for love life so try to remain calm and take time. Talking about students, time is good for them. You will get results for the hard work you have done. This week will be full of ups and downs for you from a health point of view. Take care of yourself. The time after the first two days of the week will be good for travel.



Capricorn

### CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will bring favourability for you. Relationship with spouse will be good. There will be intensity in the relationship. You can plan to travel somewhere with your loved ones. Family life will be full of satisfaction. Father's health may decline. Your confidence will increase as your position becomes stronger. People will come to you for advice. Your hard work in business will increase and it will take some time to get the final results. However, you keep trying. Will surely succeed. Luck will favor you. Religious sentiments will

increase. Health will improve. Talking about students, they will get good results in the field of fine arts. From the health point of view, there will be some improvement in your health. The first day of the week will be good for traveling and the last two days of the week will also be good for traveling.



Aquarius

**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says this week will be moderately fruitful for you. There may be mild tension in the domestic life of married people.

Time is good for a love life. You will be more vocal about your relationship and will accept the relationship openly. This week there will be a lot of expenses and the income will be moderate, so you will have to pay a little attention so that the situation does not get worse. Time will be good for employed people. You will consider your work as worship and will work hard, which will give you positive results. Your colleagues will also support you but stay away from laziness. This is a good time for business. Most of your time will be spent on travel and during this time you will get a chance to meet some new people. You can also get benefits from the government sector or avail the benefits of any government scheme. Talking about students, time will be good for them. From the health point of view, there may be ups and downs in your health at this time, so take care of your health.



Pisces

**PISCES** : Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for you. The domestic life of married people will be very happy.

Your spouse will openly express his/her feelings to you, which will make your relationship sweet and move forward in the right way. Those who are in love life should enjoy this time. Now you will get relief from the problems going on in your relationship. You may be on a trip at the beginning of the week. In this journey, you will also

take your close people along with you, due to which the journey will be completed in a very beautiful manner. Now your income will increase, which will strengthen your financial position. What could be better than getting support from friends? Talking about students, at this time their minds will be focused on studies. This will give you success in your studies. From a health point of view, your health will also be better now. You will be successful in your work.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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# Chhath Puja or Surya Shashthi

Chhath is an ancient Hindu Vedic festival which is historically celebrated in Bihar-Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and India's eastern Uttar Pradesh and Nepal in the most elaborate form. This festival is celebrated mainly in Bihar- Jharkhand. But it is also prevalent in areas where the presence of people of Bihar-Jharkhand is present. This festival is celebrated not only in India but also in foreign countries. This festival has now become prominent in the India capital, Delhi. The Chhath Puja is dedicated to the Sun and his wife Usha in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes.

It is called Chhath due to Sun Shastri's fasting. This festival is celebrated twice a year. For the first time in Chaitra and the second time in Kartik. The festival celebrated on the Chaitra Shukla Paksha Sashti is called Chaitra Chhath and the festival celebrated on the Kartik Shukla Paksha Sashti is called Kartik Chhath.

Chhath Puja is a four-day festival. It starts with Kartik Shukla Chaturthi and ends with Kartik Shukla Saptami. During this fasting, the fast will continue for next 36 hours. During this time they do not even accept water.

## Nahay Khay

The first day of Chhath festival or it can be said that Chhath festival starts from this day, this day is known as 'Nahay-Khay'. This day falls on the Chaturthi of Kartik month, Kartik Shukla Chaturthi. On this day, first of all the house is cleaned and sanctified. On this day, the fasting person can eat food only once in a day. On this day, the devotees take a bath after thoroughly cutting off the nails, etc., washing their hair thoroughly with clean water. Vratists take bath in the nearby river Ganges, a tributary of the Ganges or a pond. While returning, he brings with him Gangajal which he uses for cooking. The fasting eats food only once on this day. In the food, Vratists use pumpkin vegetable, moong gram dal, rice. This food is cooked in a bronze or earthen pot. Mango wood and earthen stove are used for cooking. When the food is prepared, first the fast eats the food, only then other members of the family eat the food.

## Kharna and Lohanda

The second day of Chhath festival is known as Kharna or Lohanda. It is celebrated on Panchami of Kartik month. On this day, the fasting fasts for the whole day. Do not take even a drop of water before sunset. In the evening, kheer is made using rice jaggery and sugarcane juice. Salt and sugar are not used in cooking. After giving these two things to the Sun God, they do 'solitude' in the same house, that is, they accept it by staying alone. All the family members go out of the house at that time so that there is no noise. It is against the rules of the festival to hear any kind of sound for the fasting person while eating alone.

After eating the fast again, he feeds the same 'Kheer-Roti' to all his family members and friends and relatives. This whole process is called 'Kharna'. Rice pitha and ghee-laden roti are also distributed as prasad. After this, for the next 36 hours, the fasting fast is kept Nirjala. At midnight, the fasting prepares special prasad Thekua for Chhath Puja.

## Sandhya Arghya

The third day of Chhath festival which is known as Sandhya Arghya. It is celebrated on Kartik Shukla Shashthi. This day is a special day of Chhat Puja. Special prasad like thekua, also known as rice laddus or kachvaniya, is prepared for Chhath puja. For Chhath Puja, a basket made of bamboo called Daura is put in the offerings of worship, fruits and kept in Devkari. After offering worship, in the evening a coconut, five types of fruits, and other items of worship are placed in a basket, which the man picks up with his hands and takes it to the Chhath Ghat. It is not impure so that it is kept on the top of the head. On the way towards Chhath Ghat, women usually go singing the song of Chhath.

## Usha Arghya

Arghya is offered to the rising sun on the morning of Kartik Shukla Saptami on the fourth day. Even before



## Chhath Puja or Surya Shashthi 2023

**17 November 2023 - Nahay-Khay First Day of Chhath Festival.**

**18 November 2023 - Kharna and Lohanda Second Day of Chhath Festival.**

**19 November 2023 - Sandhya Arghya Third Day of Chhath Festival.**

**20 November 2023 - Usha Arghya Fourth Day of Chhath Festival.**

**Sunrise on Chhath Puja Day : 19 November 2023 at 06:46 AM**

**Sunset on Chhath Puja Day : 19 November 2023 at 05:26 PM**

**Shashthi Tithi Begins - 18 November 2023 at 09:18 AM**

**Shashthi Tithi Ends - 19 November 2023 at 07:23 AM**

**Chhath festival is also known by this name: Chhathi, Chhath Parv, Chhath Puja, Dala Chhath, Dala Puja, Surya Shashthi**

**Did you know : Ritual rules of the festival are very strict and are celebrated in a period of four days. They stay away from holy baths, fasting and drinking water; stand in water for long periods, and offering and praying for the sun and rising sun.**

sunrise, the fasting people worship the rising sun god at the ghat. The dishes offered in Sandhya Arghya are replaced by new ones, but the tubers, roots, fruits and vegetables remain the same. All the rules and regulations are the same as in the evening prayer. At this time only the fasting people stand in the water facing east and do Suryapasana. After the worship is over, the ghat is worshipped. After distributing prasad among the people present there, the fasting comes home and also distributes prasad to his family at home. Vratists come back home and worship the Peepal tree in the village, which is called Brahma Baba. After the puja, the fasting is completed by drinking sherbet of raw milk and eating some prasad, which is called Paran or Parana. The fasting people eat salty food this morning after fasting from Kharna till date.

## Popular Katha

Many stories are prevalent in relation to Chhath fast. According to one of them, when Pandavas lost their entire palace in gambling, then Lord Krishna suggest to Draupadi for Chhath fast. When Draupati completed the fast, her wishes were fulfilled and the Pandavas got the Raajpat's back.

According to one belief, Lord Rama and Mata Sita fasted Kartik Shukla Shishtha on the establishment of Ramrajya after the Lanka victory and worshiped the sun god. Saptami had received a blessing from Sun God after re-rituals during sunrise.

## Scientific point of view

If the Chhath festival is seen from a scientific point of view, then a special astronomical transformation on the date, at this time, the ultraviolet rays of the Sun are gathered in greater quantity than the normal on the surface of the earth, hence due to its possible maladies, the power to protect is achieved. Following the festival of Chhath Puja, the animals are protected from harmful effects of sun light. In Hindu religion, Lord Sun is worshiped for the treatment of various types of skin diseases including leprosy diseases.

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

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

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

# Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 17 TO NOVEMBER 23

## 17th November



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

## 18th November



1920 Gurudwara Punja Sahib came under control of Tat Khalsa on the death of the existing Mahant.

1949 Government of India took over administration of PEPSU.

1966 SGPC established Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabho (Bathinda), as Guru Khalsa's fifth Takhat.

1983 Four Hindu passengers were murdered near Naushara Puniya.

## 19th November

1924 Babar Amar Singh Pindori Nijara accepted shahadat in jail.

## 20th November

1693 Aurangzeb issued orders that read: "News from Sirhind, Gobind declares himself to be Guru Nanak. Faujdars ordered to prevent him from assembling his forces." When these orders did not produce much effect, "a general order was issued for their massacre."

1840 Co-regency of Chand Kaur and Sher Singh formed.



1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces conquered Peshwar.

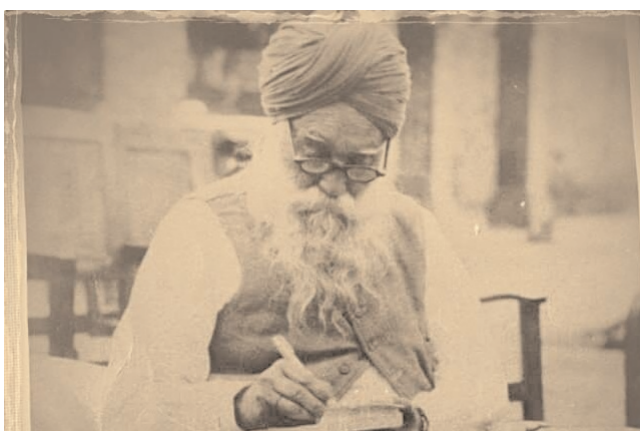
## 21st November

1921 The "Chabia da morcha" was started. Due to some misunderstandings, the keys to Sri Harimandir Sahib's "ToshaKhana" (Panthic treasury) were seized the Deputy Commissioner on Nov. 7, 1921. The agitation to recover the keys is known as "Chabia da morcha". This agitation resulted in the eventual return of the keys on Jan. 19, 1922. The keys were returned to Baba Kharak Singh, President of SGPC, during active diwan in front of the Akal Takhat, by District Authorities, Amritsar. Mahatma Gandhi hailed this event as the "first decisive battle for India's freedom won". Baba KHARAK SINGH, popularly known as "the Betaj Badshah" was one of the greatest Sikh leaders, a religious reformer and freedom fighter. For more than three decades, he struggled boldly against mismanagement of Gurdwaras and the British rule in India. He was tried by court in every important agitation for independence, went to prison fifteen times and suffered incarceration for an aggregate of twenty years. In the liberation of Sikh shrines from the British agents his role was decisive. Giani Partap Singh calls him the most honored Sikh leader of Indian people and founder of Gurdwara Reform Movement who had firm determination, a sense of selfless service detachment and simplicity ("Akali Lehar de Mahan Neta", p. 5, tr. mine).

Baba Kharak Singh was born on June 10, 1868 in Sialkot (now in Pakistan). He came of a wealthy family. His father, Rai Bahadur Hari Singh Rais was a big contractor. So good education was achieved easily. He matriculated from Scotch Mission High School in his home town. After passing Intermediate from Murray College, Sialkot, he joined Government College, Lahore. He was fortunate to be one of the first batch to pass B.A. from Punjab University. Then he joined the law course in Allahabad University. But he had to discontinue the studies on account of his father's death. He was married in a rich family and had one son.

1953 Sampuran Singh Raman starts fast unto death for Punjabi Suba.

1967 Master Tara Singh passed away.



1997 Singh Sahib Bhai Ranjit Singh, Jathedar, Sri Akal Takhat, formally released the Constitution of the World Sikh Council.

## 22nd November



1664 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visited Sri Amrisar. About a month after his installation as the Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur decided to visit Amritsar and pay homage at Sri Harmandir Sahib. Since Guru Hargobind's departure from Amritsar to Kiratpur in 1635 no other Guru had visited Harmandir Sahib. The custody of the shrine had fallen in the hands of Minas, Prithi Chand's descendants, who were staunch enemies of the Sikh Gurus and their families. On hearing of the arrival of Guru Tegh Bahadur in Amritsar, the occupants closed the doors of the shrine and refused to admit the Guru and his party into the Gurudwara. Guru Tegh bahadur with his followers camped under a tree only a few meters to the north of Akal Takhat. This place was later known as Thara Sahib and a gurudwara was built at the site. A few days later, on the full moon light, Makhan Shah and his men, who had accompanied the Guru to Amritsar, managed to get admittance into Harmandir Sahib. Guru Tegh Bahadur went in and offered his prayers.

1693 Aurangzeb issued orders that read: "News from Sirhind, Gobind declares himself to be Guru Nanak. Faujdars ordered to prevent him from assembling his forces." When these orders did not produce much effect, "a general order was issued for their massacre."

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces conquered Peshwar.

1840 Co-regency of Chand Kaur and Sher Singh formed.

1848 Anglo-Sikh war was fought at Ram Nagar, Gujranwala.

## 23rd November

1845 Sikh troops marched to the Sutlej ferries.

1938 Kahan Singh Nabha, a great Sikh Scholar passed away.



ੴ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਿਹ॥

**ਦੀਨ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਦੇ ਪਾਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਜ਼ਾਹਰ ਪੀਰ ਧੰਨ-ਧੰਨ**  
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**ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ**  
**ਅਸਥਾਨ ਧੰਨ-ਧੰਨ ਬਾਬਾ ਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ**  
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**25**  
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27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਰਾਤ ਫੁੱਲਾਂ ਦੀ  
ਵਰਖਾ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਸਾਬਕਾ ਹੈੱਡ ਗੁੱਚੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ)



**ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਸਮਾਗਮ**  
ਭਾਈ ਅਨੰਤਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਐਲ.ਏ. ਵਾਲੇ) ਮਿਤੀ 21 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਤੋਂ  
27 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023 ਤੱਕ ਰੋਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਸ਼ਾਮ 7.30 ਤੋਂ 9.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ  
ਸ਼ਾਮ ਦੇ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੇ।

ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਹਰਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਹੈੱਡ ਗੁੱਚੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਵਤਹਿਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

**ਪਹੁੰਚ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਪੰਥਕ ਸਖਸ਼ੀਅਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕੀਰਤਨੀ ਜਥੇ**








**ਬਾਬਾ ਬੀਤਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ**  
(ਮੰਡਾ ਪਿੰਡ ਵਾਲੇ)

ਭਾਈ ਸਰਬਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ 'ਰੰਗੀਲਾ'  
(ਦੁਰਗ ਵਾਲੇ)

ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਕਪੂਰਥਲਾ ਵਾਲੇ)

ਭਾਈ ਸਤਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਹਜੂਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

ਭਾਈ ਜਸਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਯੂ.ਕੇ. ਵਾਲੇ)

**ਭਾਈ ਅਨੰਤਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ**  
(ਐਲ.ਏ. ਵਾਲੇ)

ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ 'ਬੱਲੜਵਾਲ'  
(ਜਲੰਧਰ ਵਾਲੇ)

ਭਾਈ ਜਗਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
'ਲੁਧਿਆਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ'

ਭਾਈ ਮੋਹਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਬਡਾਣਾ  
(ਚਾਡੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਬਾਵਾ  
(ਹਜੂਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

ਗਿਆਨੀ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
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ਭਾਈ ਕਮਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ  
(ਹਜੂਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬੰਗਲਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

ਗੁਰੂ ਕੇ ਲੰਗਰ  
ਦੇ ਸਟਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਬੰਚਿਆਂ  
ਦੇ ਝੂਟਣ ਲਈ ਪੰਥੂਰੇ  
ਵੀ ਲਗਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।

ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਸਹਿਤ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਆਂ ਭਰ ਕੇ ਧੰਨ-ਧੰਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਮਹਾਰਾਜ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

**Super Sunday:  
Determined India,  
formidable Aussies**

Silences have been few and far between, however, during India's campaign - they have compiled a perfect record of 10/10. India's dominance has been intimidating. When they've bowled first, they've won by an average of six wickets, with almost 11 overs to spare; when they've batted first, they've won by an average margin of 175 runs. The closest shave they've had was in the semifinal - when the Wankhede Stadium crowd did become silent for 25 overs during New Zealand's chase - though they still won by 70 runs.

The team is working like a perfect machine, with every player in form. The injury to Hardik Pandya in the fourth match in Pune upset the balance, but it was a blessing in disguise - it brought in fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who has tormented batsmen with his unerring line and length. He's picked up 23 wickets at an incredible average of 9.13. On top of the batters' list is, of course, Virat Kohli, the man of the moment, with 711 runs. It's easy to believe that this is his tournament, after two failures - as captain in 2019, vice-captain in 2015. As a 22-year-old, he had won the winners' medal in his first World Cup in 2011; at 35, there's a sense of inevitability about him winning a second medal in probably his final World Cup.

Rohit Sharma, who regrets to this day his absence from the 2011 team, was his usual laidback self on Saturday. He said he's shaped the team in his philosophy of playing fearlessly, damn the consequences. He didn't say it would be just "just another game", as sportspersons often say; he said the team would have to remain calm. The focus would be "on their work for the team, rather than thinking this is the biggest moment of my life", he said, adding: "Of course it is, there is no doubt. You can't hide from that. But it's important to remain calm because if you are calm, you can play your role well." At the world's biggest stadium, named after the Prime Minister himself, and in his political fortress, the game can't be considered just a game - it acquires deep political salience.

On form, it's difficult to see India losing; but after two losses, Australia have strung together a sequence of eight wins. Cummins's team is the second-best in the tournament, and he's desperate to be the best and add to Australia's five World Cup titles "There's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent, and that's the aim for us tomorrow," the captain said, but it's difficult to imagine 1.3 lakh people going silent on Sunday night. (Source: PTI)

# Mom to daughter rules



## RULES TO TEACH YOUR DAUGHTER

1. Make your bed every day, even if it's right before you get in it.
2. Don't wear holey underwear...in case you're in an accident and they cut your clothes off.
3. Travel light through life. Keep only what you need.
4. It's okay to cry when you're hurt. It's also okay to smash (some) things; but, wash your face, clean your mess, and get up off the floor when you're done. You don't belong down there.
5. If you're going to curse, be clever. If you're going to curse in public, know your audience.
6. Seek out the people and places that resonate with your soul.
7. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
8. 5-second rule. Only if it's just dirt. There are worse things in a fast-food cheeseburger.
9. Happiness is not a permanent state. Wholeness is. Don't confuse these.
10. If you're staying more than one night, unpack your bag.
11. Never walk through an alley alone.
12. Be less sugar, more spice, and only as nice as you're able to without compromising yourself.
13. Can't is a cop-out.
14. Hold your heroes to a high standard. Be your own hero.
15. If you can't smile with your eyes, don't smile. Insincerity is nothing to aspire to.
16. Never lie to yourself.
17. Your body, your rules.
18. If you have an opinion, you better know why.
19. Practice your passions.
20. Ask for what you want. The worst thing they can say is 'no' badly.
21. Wish on stars and dandelions, then get to work to make them happen.
22. Stay as sweet as you are.
23. Fall in love often. Particularly with



BY RISHI SINGH

24. ideas, art, music, literature, food and far-off places.
24. Fall hard and forever in love with nothing but yourself.
25. Say Please, Thank You, and Pardon Me, whenever the situation warrants it.
26. Reserve "I'm sorry" for when you truly are.
27. Naps are for grown-ups, too.
28. Question everything, except your own intuition.
29. You have enough. You are enough.
30. You are amazing! Don't let anyone ever make you feel you are not. If someone does....walk away. You deserve better.
31. No matter where you are, you can always come home.
32. Be happy and remember your roots, family is EVERYTHING.
33. Say what you mean and mean what you say.
34. No one will ever love you more than I do. That's what good moms do.
35. Be kind; treat others how you would like them to treat you.
36. If in doubt, remember whose daughter you are and straighten your crown??

(Rishi Singh is a retired Air India official)

CONTD FROM PAGE 12

## IRS highlights International Fraud Awareness Week; taxpayers urged to protect against scams, schemes

These promoters often sell their scams by promising that assets are out of the government's reach. They may also suggest that digital assets are untraceable and undiscoverable by the IRS and that the transactions are anonymous. In fact, the IRS has a vast array of tools to combat offshore tax evasion, including working with its international treaty partners to identify and track assets, transactions and evidence.

### IMPROPER EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT CLAIMS

The IRS has seen a high volume of incorrect and improper Employee Retention Credit claims and continues warning taxpayers about them. The ERC, sometimes also called the Employee Retention Tax Credit or ERTC, is a pandemic-related credit for which only certain employers qualify. Credit is not available to individual employees.

Scam promoters are luring people to incorrectly claim the ERC with "offers" online, in social media, on the radio or through unsolicited phone calls, emails and even mailings that look like official government letters but have fake agency names and usually urge immediate action.

These unscrupulous promoters make false claims about their company's legitimacy and often don't discuss some

key eligibility factors, limitations and income tax implications that affect an employer's tax return.

It's important to watch for warning signs such as promoters who say they can quickly determine someone's eligibility without details, and those who charge up-front fees or a fee based on a percentage of the ERC claimed.

Anyone who incorrectly claims the ERC must pay it back, possibly with penalties and interest.

The only way to claim the ERC is on a federal employment tax return. The IRS continues to warn employers to not fall for aggressive marketing or scams related to the ERC. Employers should first check with their trusted tax professional before submitting an ERC claim, and the IRS has developed a special Employee Retention Credit Eligibility Checklist and Frequently Asked Questions to help people quickly determine if they might be eligible.

As part of a larger effort to protect small businesses and organizations from scams, the Internal Revenue Service created a special withdrawal process to help those who filed an ERC claim and now want to withdraw it. This new withdrawal option allows certain employers that filed an ERC claim but have not yet received, cashed or deposited a refund to withdraw their submission to avoid future repayment, interest and penalties.

The new withdrawal process follows an immediate moratorium, announced by the IRS on Sept. 14, 2023, on processing new ERC claims. The moratorium, which will last until at least the end of this year, follows concerns

about ineligible ERC claims.

### KNOW THE RED FLAGS

IRS impersonation scams involve fake text messages, social media accounts, e-mail and phone calls. Knowing what to watch out for can help keep taxpayers safe.

### REMEMBER, THE IRS DOES NOT:

Initiate unexpected contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

Scammers attempt to use these methods of contact to con individuals, businesses, payroll and tax professionals into providing personal information, PINs, passwords and other data.

If a taxpayer receives an unsolicited SMS/text that appears to be from either the IRS or a program closely linked to the IRS, the taxpayer should copy the entire message and send it as an attachment to phishing@irs.gov.

Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS does not use these methods for tax payments.

Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.

Demand that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.

Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone. Leave pre-recorded, urgent or threatening phone messages.

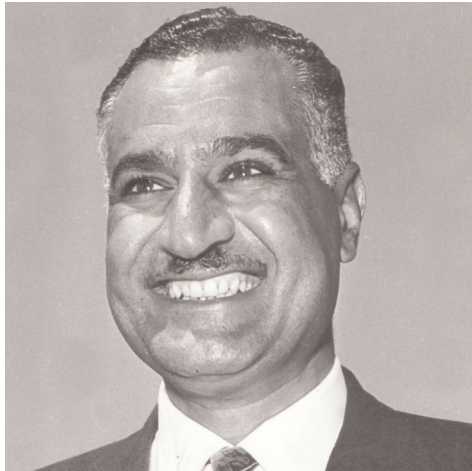
(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



# History This Week

NOV 17 - NOV 23

## NOVEMBER 17



November 17, 1954 - General Gamal Abdel Nasser became Egyptian head of state after forcing out General Mohammed Naguib.

November 17, 1989 - Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Prague demanding an end to Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. Riot police and army paratroopers then moved in to crush the revolt.

November 17, 1993 - The United Nations opened its first war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II. Judges from 11 nations were sworn in to examine recent mass murders in Yugoslavia characterized as ethnic cleansing.

November 17, 1993 - NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 234 to 200.

Birthdays - German mathematician August Mobius (1790-1868) was born in Schulpforte, Germany. He worked in the area of analytic geometry and was a pioneer in topology, the study of geometric figures that remain constant even when twisted or distorted.

Birthdays - British General Bernard L. Montgomery (1887-1976) was born in St. Mark's Vicarage, Kennington Oval, London. He led the British Eighth Army to a major victory over the Germans at El Alamein in North Africa in 1943. He then led the Eighth Army in the Sicilian and Italian campaigns and commanded all ground forces during D-Day.

## NOVEMBER 18

November 18, 1916 - During World War I, Allied General Douglas Haig called off the First Battle of the Somme after five months. The Allies had advanced 125 square miles at a cost of 420,000 British and 195,000 French soldiers. German losses were over 650,000 men.

November 18, 1993 - South Africa adopted a new constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule. The constitution provided basic civil rights to blacks and was approved by representatives of the ruling party, as well as members of 20 other political parties.

Birthdays - Photography inventor Louis Daguerre (1789-1851) was born in Corneilles, near Paris. In 1839, at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, he announced his

daguerreotype process, the first practical photographic process that produced lasting pictures.



Birthdays - British author Sir William Gilbert (1836-1911) was born in London. He wrote the verses for the famed Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas which poked fun at the British establishment. Among their operas; H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Iolanthe, The Mikado and The Yeoman of the Guard. He died in May 1911, suffering a heart attack while attempting to save a woman from drowning.

Birthdays - Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka in southwestern Russia. He achieved world fame for his interpretations of Schubert and Chopin. After World War I, he served briefly as the first premier of the Republic of Poland.

## NOVEMBER 19

November 19, 1939 - Construction of the first presidential library began as President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone next to his home in Hyde Park, New York. Roosevelt donated the land, but public donations funded the library building which was dedicated on June 30, 1941.

November 19, 1942 - The Russian Army began a massive counter-offensive against the Germans at Stalingrad during World War II.

November 19, 1969 - The first news reports emerged that American troops in Vietnam had massacred civilians in My Lai Village back in March of 1968.



November 19, 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

November 19, 1978 - The biggest mass suicide in history occurred as Reverend

Jim Jones led over 900 followers to their deaths at Jonestown, Guyana. Members of his "Peoples Temple" religious cult were ordered to drink a cyanide-laced fruit drink. Those who refused were forcibly injected. Precipitating the tragedy a day earlier, California Congressman Leo J. Ryan, along with four associates and several reporters, had been shot to death during an ambush at a nearby airstrip. They were attempting to return home after investigating the cult's remote jungle location. Jones and his mistress killed themselves after watching his entire membership die. Only a few cult members managed to escape.

November 19-20, 1990 - The Cold War came to an end during a summit in Paris as leaders of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed a Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, vastly reducing their military arsenals.

November 19, 1996 - Pope John Paul II and Cuban leader Fidel Castro held their historic first meeting in the Vatican.

November 19, 1998 - The U.S. House of Representatives began an impeachment inquiry of President Bill Clinton, only the third presidential impeachment inquiry in U.S. History - the other two being of President Andrew Johnson in 1868 and President Richard Nixon in 1974.

Birthdays - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (1917-1984) was born in Allahabad, India. She served from 1966-75 and later from 1980 to 1984, when she was assassinated by her own bodyguards as she walked to her office. Her only surviving son, Rajiv, became the next prime minister. In 1991, he was assassinated while campaigning for re-election.

Birthdays - Baseball player Roy Campanella (1921-1993) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was one of the first African American major league players and was one of the Brooklyn Dodgers' "Boys of Summer." His career ended when an automobile accident left him paralyzed in 1958. He then became an inspirational spokesman for the paralyzed.

## NOVEMBER 20



November 20, 1917 - The first use of tanks in battle occurred at Cambrai, France, during World War I. Over 300 tanks commanded by British General Sir Douglas Haig went into battle against the Germans.

November 20, 1943 - The Battle of Tarawa began in the Pacific War as American troops attacked the Japanese on the heavily fortified Gilbert Islands. It

took eight days for the 5th Amphibious Corps, 2nd Marine Division and the 27th Infantry Division to take Tarawa and the Makin Islands. Over 1,000 Americans were killed with 2,311 wounded. The Japanese lost 4,700 men.

November 20, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crime Trials began in which 24 former leaders of Nazi Germany were charged with conspiracy to wage wars of aggression, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

November 20, 1947 - England's Princess Elizabeth married Philip Mountbatten. Elizabeth was the first child of King George VI and became Queen Elizabeth II upon the death of her father in 1952.

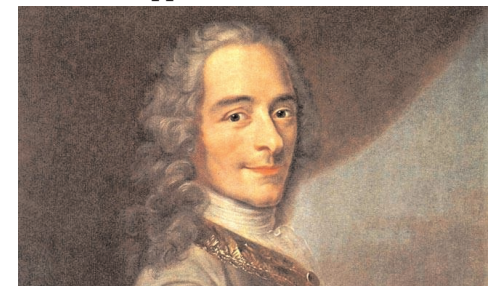
November 20, 1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis concluded as President John F. Kennedy announced he had lifted the U.S. Naval blockade of Cuba stating, "the evidence to date indicates that all known offensive missile sites in Cuba have been dismantled."

November 20, 1980 - In China, Jiang Qing, the widow of Mao Zedong, went on trial with nine others on charges of treason.

November 20, 1992 - Fire erupted inside Queen Elizabeth's residence at Windsor Castle causing extensive damage.

## NOVEMBER 21

November 21, 1992 - The Anglican Church of Australia voted to allow women to become priests. The largest of the dioceses voted against the bill, however, it still received the required two-thirds approval.



Birthdays - French author and philosopher Voltaire (1694-1778) was born in Paris (as Francois-Marie Arouet). He was an advocate of human rights who published the landmark Philosophical Letters in 1734. Other writings include; Zadig, The Century of Louis XIV, The Russian Empire under Peter the Great, The Philosophical Dictionary, and Essay on Morals.

## NOVEMBER 22



November 22, 1975 - Juan Carlos was sworn in as King of Spain, following the death of General Francisco Franco who had ruled as dictator since 1939.

## NOVEMBER 23

November 23, 1890 - Ten-year-old Princess Wilhelmina became Queen of the Netherlands upon the death of her father William III. Her mother Queen Emma acted as Regent until 1898.

# Mussoorie: The queen of hill stations

Mussoorie is one of the most popular hill stations located at a distance of 290 km from Delhi in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. With a backdrop of the Shivalik range of Himalayas and doon valley, Mussoorie, also known as Queen of The Hills, stands at an altitude of 7000 feet above sea level. With a cool and pleasant climate throughout the year, Mussoorie was once the British summer capital.

The British remnants can be seen in the city in the archaic architecture of the hotels and churches. One of the most popular tourist attractions in Mussoorie is The Mall (also known as the Mall Road), which is a slightly steep boulevard with eateries and other shops lining its entire stretch. From the little houses spread around the area to the architecture of even the lamp posts, The Mall gives off a distinct colonial vibe.

## PLACES TO VISIT

Amongst the places to visit in Mussoorie, Kempton Falls easily tops the list. Perched at an altitude of 1880 in the Garhwal Himalayas, 'Queen of the Hills', Mussoorie is an ideal holiday destination. Established by the British in 1823, the vibe of that era continues to linger in its churches, libraries, hotels, and summer palaces. Take in panoramic views of the city atop Lal Tibba, relive the days of the British Raj at Gun Hill or walk around the pleasant four-kilometre long promenade of Camel's Back Road. Birdwatchers and photographers can head to the Benog Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Mall Road of course, is great for an evening stroll.

## CAMEL'S BACK ROAD

Camel's Back Road is a four-kilometre-long stretch, named after a natural cluster of rocks that are shaped like a camel's hump. This road connects two prominent locations, starting at Library Point and leading up to Kulri Bazaar. The slope adjacent to the road contains a colonial cemetery that dates back to the mid-19th century. With its beautiful views of the surrounding hills at sunset and sunrise, it is ideal for early morning and late evening walks. Horse rides and rickshaw rides are also available. Surrounded by rocky mountains and green woods, it's perfect for a tranquil break from the hustle-bustle of Mussoorie's Mall Road.

## BENOG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Benog Wildlife Sanctuary is surrounded by pine trees and snow-capped mountain peaks. It serves as the natural habitat for rare species of birds including mountain quails and red-billed blue magpie, as well as wildlife like the Himalayan goat, the Himalayan bear, panthers, deer, and leopards. Thickly forested with pine and fir trees, the area is also rich in medicinal plants. Take in stunning views of the surrounding peaks, and sit beside the Aglar River which flows down from Mussoorie into the sanctuary. This is an ideal jaunt for nature lovers

and bird watchers.

## SHEDUP CHOPELLING TEMPLE

Also known as the Tibetan Buddhist temple, this was set up by the Tibetan population in Mussoorie and is located on the Happy Valley road close to the IAS Academy. The Dalai Lama took refuge in Mussoorie after he escaped from Tibet, before the Tibetan community was granted refuge in Dharamshala. The temple has a serene vibe and is especially suitable for those seeking a bit of tranquillity amidst the madness. Housing many Tibetan literature and books, the temple is adorned with clay lamps and colourful prayer flags.

## THE MALL

Take a leisurely stroll along the Mall Road, which is the heart of Mussoorie. Although it's jam packed with throngs of tourists on foot and in vehicles, this is an exhilarating experience which will give you a chance to get in a spot of shopping too. The two-kilometre-long stretch begins from Library Point and goes all the way up to Picture Palace, although you won't find it as long owing to the variety of stalls selling bric-a-brac, snacks and other knick-knacks along the way. We suggest munching on a hot fire-roasted 'bhutta' (corn on the cob), which is absolutely essential to make the experience complete. Look out for stores selling woollens and shawls.

## GUN HILL

This is the second highest point in Mussoorie, and is located about 400 feet above the Mall. You can access it by ropeway or take the half-hour-long trek from the court complex on the Mall road. Once you're up, use one of the telescopes on the edge to get sweeping views of the mountain peaks from a close range. Back in 1857, the British had placed a large firing gun here during the Sepoy Mutiny, and it is said that subsequently, a canon was fired from Gun Hill every afternoon so that people would know that it was noon and adjust their watches. Although the gun was removed in the 70s, the name has stuck. Today Gun Hill accommodates the water reservoir for Mussoorie.

## LAL TIBBA

Lal Tibba literally translates to mean the Red Hill, and refers to the highest point in Mussoorie. All the broadcasting stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan are situated here, and access is restricted since the Indian Military is stationed here as well. You can take in the panoramic views through the lens of an old telescope mounted atop a 20-metre-tall tower at the edge of the cliff. We also suggest you take a horseback ride around the area to really take in the experience in its entirety.

## MUSOORIE LAKE

The Mussoorie Lake is a relatively recent tourist attraction that has been developed by the Dehradun Development



Authority. Located about 6 kilometres before Mussoorie on the drive up from Dehradun, it's a good place to make a pit stop on your way to the hill station. Enjoy boating in one of the paddle boats, grab a quick bite at one of the small restaurants around it, and take in beautiful views of the valley below.

## KEMPTON FALLS

These vertical waterfalls are one of the most popular spots for tourists visiting Mussoorie. The water cascades down from a height of 40 feet and crashes against the boulders below before splitting into five streams. Plunging from a mountain placed at about 1,364 metres above sea level, the Kempton Falls are usually crowded with tourists, so the best way to take them by is by picking a picnic

spot at a vantage point and observing them from a distance. The more adventurous can also take a dip in its cool water.

## MUNICIPAL GARDEN

Initially known as Company Bagh, the Municipal Gardens are an ideal family outing. With sprawling colonial gardens, green lawns, a fountain in the centre, a lake, a nursery with 800 different species of flowers and a wide range of saplings for sale, it is a beautiful attraction for tourists visiting the hill station. Don't miss the mammoth China tree in the garden, and take a short boat ride on the lake. Located just a couple of kilometres from the Library Point, it's easy to access and makes for a superb early evening pit-stop.




ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥  
ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਧ ਜਗ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ ॥  
ਜਿਉਂ ਕਰ ਸੂਰਜ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਤਾਰੇ ਫਪੇ 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।**










ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਭਾਵ (ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਰਾਏ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਫੁਲਦਾਸਪੁਰੀ)

ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਖੰਡਾ ਵਾਲਾ UK)

ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)

ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ (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 ਜੈਕਾਰਿਆ ਦੀ ਗੂੰਜ ਨਾਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ**

**ਲੰਗਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ 25, 26, 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ**

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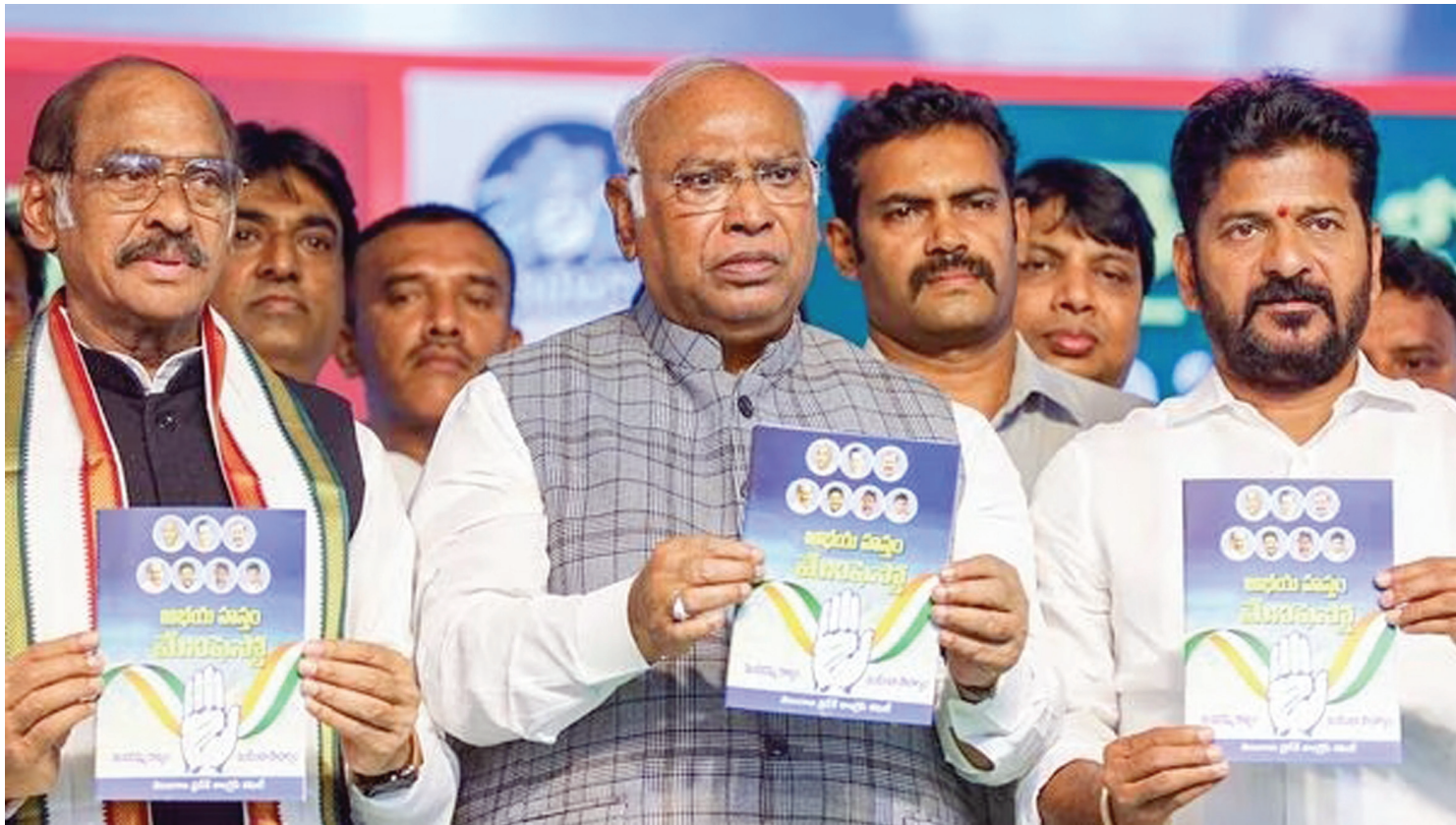
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# Congress will usher in a Golden Telangana and fulfil the aspiration of the people



BY RAJENDAR  
DICHPALLY

**THE 2023 TELANGANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2023 TO ELECT ALL 119 MEMBERS OF THE STATE'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE RESULTS WILL BE DECLARED ON 3 DECEMBER 2023.**



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with Telangana Congress president A Revanth Reddy and AICC Telangana in-charge Manikrao Thakare releases the party's manifesto ahead of Telangana Assembly elections, in Hyderabad, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023. Photo credit / PTI

**Congress is committed to the cause of women, the marginalized and the minorities. It has always ensured that the dalits, SC and ST along with minorities get plum posts in administration. Even in the neighboring state of Karnataka, it gave the Chief Minister's post to a backward class leader. The party's commitment to providing a level field to different sections of society is consistent and continuous.**

The election in Telangana is seminal in more ways than one.

It is the battle between Congress and BRS. Congress is the party which has pledged to empower the people of the state, while BRS is committed to empower one family.

Congress is dedicated to work for the marginalized, BRS is determined to uplift the rich, the powerful and the venal.

Congress has a legacy of performance, BRS has a history of huge corruption, colossal failure and broken promises.

Congress is a party of reforms, BRS is a party of scams.

The congress party bought some landmark reforms during its last tenure at the state as well as the center. These include 'Right to Employment', 'Food Security Act', 'Right to Information Act', 'US-India Civil Nuclear Deal', '108 ambulance and health scheme for the poor', fee reimbursement, farm loan waiver, landmark irrigation projects - the list is long.

Congress party initiated major irrigation projects in the state during its last tenure. These projects will change the fate of millions of farmers in the state, in a few decades, for the better. The party's commitment to farmers has always ensured that farmers will not have to take recourse to suicides due to failing monsoon or poor crop.

Congress has also battled tooth and

nail, the ogre of corruption. When it was in power from 2004-2014, it allowed its own leaders and allies like DMK to be examined for corruption charges. Moreover, it did not shield the corrupt and let the law take its course and put the accused in jail. Kanimozhi, Raja, Y.S.Jagan are some glaring examples.

**BRS USHERED IN SCAMS BY THE DOZEN. SOME NOTABLE ONES INCLUDE :**

Kaleshwaram Project Scam, Mission Bhagirath Scam, Miyapur Land Scam, Passport Scam, Car Dealership Scam, Palamara Lift Irrigation Scam, Sand Mafia Scam, EAMCET Paper Leakage, My Home Land Scam and Bathukamma Funds Scam.

As a result of BRS' inefficient and corrupt government the state is suffering from a humongous debt of 4 lakh crore rupees. In fact, corruption begins from the home and hearth of KRS - his daughter Kavitha has been summoned by the ED in the liquor scam.

Congress is committed to the cause of women, the marginalized and the minorities. It has always ensured that the dalits, SC and ST along with minorities get plum posts in administration. Even in the neighboring state of Karnataka, it gave the Chief Minister's post to a backward class leader. The party's commitment to providing a level field to different sections of society is consistent and

continuous.

BRS on the other hand has failed miserably in all the promises it made - whether making a dalit the Chief Minister, ensuring 12 percent reservation to Muslims, building 2-bedroom houses for the poor, free education or waiver of Crop Loans up to 1 lakh for poor farmers or in reaching out to women. KCR's first term did not have a single woman as a minister in his cabinet!

While the Congress and its leadership believe in internalizing and spreading a 'scientific temper', the present Chief Minister has let superstition take over rationality and logic. He runs the state from his farmhouse instead of the state secretariat. He also demolished the old secretariat and built a new one spending crores despite the acute financial crisis the state is reeling under. The money, which could be used for a far more worthy and vital cause, has instead been wasted in pampering egos and serving superstition.

**THE CONGRESS PARTY HAS GIVEN 6 MAJOR PROMISES TO THE PEOPLE OF TELANGANA:**

- Ø Under 'Mahalakshmi' scheme, women will get 2,500 every month, gas cylinder for Rs 500 and free bus travel.
- Ø Under Rythu Barosa' scheme, farmers & lease holders will get Rs 1500 while farm laborers will get Rs 12,000 per year. Bonus of Rs.500 per quintal will

- be given on paddy.
- Ø Under 'Grih Jyothi' scheme, 200-unit electricity will be provided free.
- Ø Under 'Indira Amma Indloo' scheme, free land and aid of Rs 5 lakh will be given for construction of houses.
- Ø Under 'Yuva Vikasam' scheme, students will be given assistance of Rs5 lakh and also international schools will be opened in every district of Telangana.
- Ø Senior Citizens will be given pension of Rs 4,000 and provided health insurance up to Rs 10 lakh.

If we just take a look at its track record, the Party is sure to fulfil each and every commitment with sincerity of purpose and an unerring focus.

Now let us take a look at history. Telangana was granted by Congress Party under the visionary stewardship of Smt. Sonia Gandhi against the toughest of odds. The dreams of crores of people of Telangana came true because of the resolve of the leader and its party to fulfil the promises made in the manifestoes in 2004 and 2009. Yet another golden example of a party which walks its talk every time. Contrast this with the response of KCR and his party which has legacy of failed promises and pathetic performance.

The choice in the elections is clear. We are confident the people of Telangana will rise to the occasion and using their pragmatism, conviction and wisdom will elect and select the party which stands tall in every word and every deed.

I appeal to the lovely people of this great state to vote for Congress - the party which epitomizes equality, transparency and trust. Let us usher in a new era for our state and our country - an era of progress, prosperity, peace and fulfilment.

(The author is General Secretary of IOC)



## Virat Kohli slams historic 50th ODI ton in IND vs NZ World Cup semis, shatters Sachin's twin world records

Ending his semi-final curse at the grandest stage on Wednesday, Nov 15, run machine Virat Kohli played a masterful knock against Kane Williamson's New Zealand to surpass his idol Sachin Tendulkar at the famous Wankhede Stadium. Continuing his sublime run in the 2023 World Cup, Kohli shattered Tendulkar's triple records in a single innings during the first semi-final of the ICC tournament. Batting first in the rematch of the 2019 World Cup semi-final at Mumbai, India made an impressive start with captain Rohit Sharma dominating the Kiwi pacers in the powerplay.

However, Rohit was stopped in his tracks in the 8th over as the Indian skipper perished for an entertaining 47 off 29 balls. Continuing the tradition of cashing in on the starts given by openers Shubman Gill and Rohit, premier batter Kohli took up the role of an anchor as the former India skipper notched up a brilliant half-century in 59 balls against the Black Caps.

Kohli surpassed Tendulkar by smashing his eighth fifty-plus score in the 2023 World Cup. Master Blaster Tendulkar had registered 7 half-centuries in the 2003 edition of the World Cup. Kohli, who has eight 50-plus scores in the 2023 World Cup, achieved the iconic feat in 10 innings. Tendulkar had unlocked the same milestone in 11 innings at the 2003 World Cup.

After scoring his 72nd One Day International half-century, Kohli then set his sights on smashing Tendulkar's massive milestone at the World Cup 2023. Enjoying a 93-run stand with Gill, who was later retired hurt in the 23rd over, Kohli then teamed up with an on-song Shreyas Iyer to put India on the verge of registering a challenging total at the Wankhede Stadium. Kohli moved into the 80s in the 33rd over to break Tendulkar's long-standing World Cup record.

Kohli received the loudest cheer when he took a comfortable single off Glenn Phillips on the third ball of the 33rd over. The former India skipper zoomed past Tendulkar by scoring 674-plus runs in the 2023 World Cup. The Little Master amassed 673 runs in the 2003 edition of the World Cup in which Sourav Ganguly's India made it to the final of the ICC tournament. Fresh from shattering Tendulkar's twin records, Kohli entered the nervous nineties in the 36th over.

Kohli, who gifted himself a record-equalling century on his 35th birthday against South Africa, slammed his century No.50 to eclipse Tendulkar for the third time in the first semi-final of the World Cup. No player in the history of ODI cricket has slammed more centuries than Kohli. Carried on his shoulders by a young Kohli after the 2011 World Cup final, batting legend Tendulkar hit century No.49 in his 451st ODI innings. Twelve years after Sachin's World Cup swansong, former India skipper Kohli became the first player to slam 50 ODI centuries in the 41st over of the Indian innings.

### ICC WORLD CUP

# It's India Vs Australia in the final

KOLKATA (TIP)

Australia overcame a spirited challenge from South Africa by three wickets in the second semifinal of the World Cup here on Thursday, November 16, to set up a title clash with hosts India.

The final will be played in Ahmedabad on Sunday, Nov 19. David Miller struck a 116-ball 101 and lifted South Africa to 212 all out after his team had lost four early wickets.

In reply, Australia stuttered before completing the chase of 213 with 16 balls to spare as South Africa choked yet again on the big stage.

Travis Head blazed away to 62 off 48 balls while David Warner smashed 29 off 18 in an opening stand of 60 to lay the foundation for Australia's chase.

Earlier, Miller hit eight fours and five sixes during his rescue act, and brought up his century with a maximum over deep midwicket off Australian captain Pat Cummins.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, South Africa were off to a disastrous start losing both their openers Quinton de Kock and Temba Bavuma with just eight runs on the board in the sixth over.

Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram too didn't last long, leaving South Africa precariously placed at 24/4 in the 12th over.

Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood were the wreckers in chief early into South Africa's innings.

A partnership of 95 runs between Miller and Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 48 balls) steadied the ship before Australia struck again to remove the latter through Travis Head.

### 10/10 Men in Blue Stay Unbeaten

**MUMBAI:** Making the big stage his own, Virat Kohli added more lustre to his larger than life persona with a historic 50th ODI century that extended India's bullish World Cup run to the title clash even as New Zealand threatened to spoil the home team's party with a lion-hearted fight, here Wednesday, Nov 15.

The semifinal tilted heavily in India's favour after Rohit Sharma's team put on board a massive 397 for four, bulldozing the Kiwi attack but before the hosts romped home by 70 runs for an unprecedented 10th win in a row, New Zealand did cause considerable anxiety in home team's camp.

It was Daryl Mitchell's valiant 134 off 119 balls that had the Indian hearts racing as the equation became a gettable 112 from 54-balls with six wickets in hand but Kuldeep Yadav delivered under pressure a price-less two-run 42nd over that released the pressure.

Pacer Mohammed Shami, who had scalped top four Kiwi batters earlier, then sealed the fate of the Kiwis by ending Mitchell's belligerent knock



India's Mohammed Shami celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Devon Conway during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 first semi-final match between India and New Zealand, at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai.



Australia's Josh Inglis and Steve Smith take a run as South Africa's Kagiso Rabada reacts during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 semi-final match at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India, on November 16, 2023. Reuters

and ended up with a gold-standard seven-wicket haul.

Shami is serving reminders of his class in each and every game since making the playing XI after being left out initially and he only made it bigger at the big stage.

When it was alleged that India tried to take advantage by opting for spin-friendly track, it was a fast bowler that made the ball talk.

New Zealand folded for 327 in 48.5 overs and India rejoiced a hard-earned memorable victory with yet another team effort, that earned them a shot at their third ODI world title. A fearless Rohit Sharma (47 off 29) dented the confidence of New Zealand bowlers with his ultra-risk, power-packed knock that blew away the pressure of the big semifinal, leaving the stage for Kohli (117) to conjure up the knock that perched him atop a mountain from where displacing him does not seem possible for a long time to come.

Shreyas Iyer not only watched Kohli take the crown from his idol, Sachin Tendulkar (49 ODI centuries),

from the best seat in the house but he himself made a huge contribution in India raising a mammoth total, albeit his knock of 105 was overshadowed due to the sheer significance of Kohli's milestone mark.

New Zealand has always been a big-match team and it fought through Mitchell and inspiring leader Kane Williamson (69) but in the end their efforts only saved them from the ignominy of losing by a bigger margin.

Rachin Ravindra (13) and Devon Conway imploded under pressure and the Kiwis did not get the kind start which is required for such targets.

### Fourth ODI World Cup final for India

India have now reached the ODI World Cup final for the fourth time, having won the trophy in 1983 and 2011. India had ended runners-up in 2003 and will know their title clash rival on Thursday when five-time champions Australia clash with South Africa at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.



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