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HAPPY 554th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI, THE FIRST MASTER OF THE SIKHS



"Satguru Nanak pargateya miti dhund jag chanan hoya"

With the emergence of the true Guru Nanak, the mist cleared and the light scattered all around.

Indian Envoy Sanjay Verma urges Canada to release evidence to back up its allegations on Nijjar killing



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. File photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 25, 2023

OTTAWA (TIP): Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma has said that New Delhi was "convicted" even as the investigation into the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil had not fully concluded.

Urging Canada to release evidence to back up its allegations in connection with the killing, the Indian envoy maintained that New Delhi would look into anything "very specific and relevant" communicated to them to

CONTD ON PAGE 56

Tens of thousands march in London calling for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza

A GROUP OF JEWISH WOMEN ALSO JOINED THE MARCH TO DENOUNCE CRIMES COMMITTED BY HAMAS



Palestinians wave Hamas flags as they celebrate the Israeli release of Palestinian prisoners in the West Bank city of Nablus, Friday, Nov. 24, 2023. The release came on the first day of a four-day cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas during which the Gaza militants have pledged to release 50 hostages in exchange for 150 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. - Photo credit / PTI

NOVEMBER 25, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A protester was arrested Saturday, November 25, in London on suspicion of inciting racial hatred, as tens of thousands of people turned out on central London's streets for a pro-Palestinian march calling for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza, an AP report says.

The National March for Palestine, which aimed to finish in Whitehall, central London, was the latest in several huge protests staged in the British capital every weekend since the Israel-Hamas war began last month.

Saturday's protests came on the second day of a four-day cease-fire that has allowed critical humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and given civilians their first respite after seven weeks of war.

The Metropolitan Police said it arrested a man on suspicion of inciting racial hatred "near the start of the protest".

CONTD ON PAGE 56

Binaya Srikant Pradhan to succeed Consul General Jaiswal



The outgoing Consul General Randhir Jaiswal (left) and his successor Binaya Srikant Pradhan



Photos / Jay Mandal - on assignment

appointed as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations at Geneva.

Ambassador Jaiswal is being succeeded by Binaya Srikant Pradhan who is currently India's High Commissioner to Tanzania.

CONTD ON PAGE 56

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Consul General of India at New York Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, on completion of his tenure extending over 3 years, is moving to Delhi early next month where he will take over as Spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry. He is succeeding Arindam Bagchi who has been

CBI registers preliminary enquiry against TMC MP Mahua Moitra in cash for query case



TMC MP Mahua Moitra File photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 25, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI on Saturday registered a preliminary enquiry against All India Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on a reference made to it by the Lokpal.

CONTD ON PAGE 56

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COMMENT

Celebrating the 554th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, was not merely a religious figure but a beacon of humanity, compassion, and social justice. His teachings reverberate through the corridors of time, transcending centuries to inspire and guide humanity towards a path of righteousness, equality, and enlightenment. Guru Nanak's philosophy encompasses a profound humanism that remains remarkably pertinent in today's world.

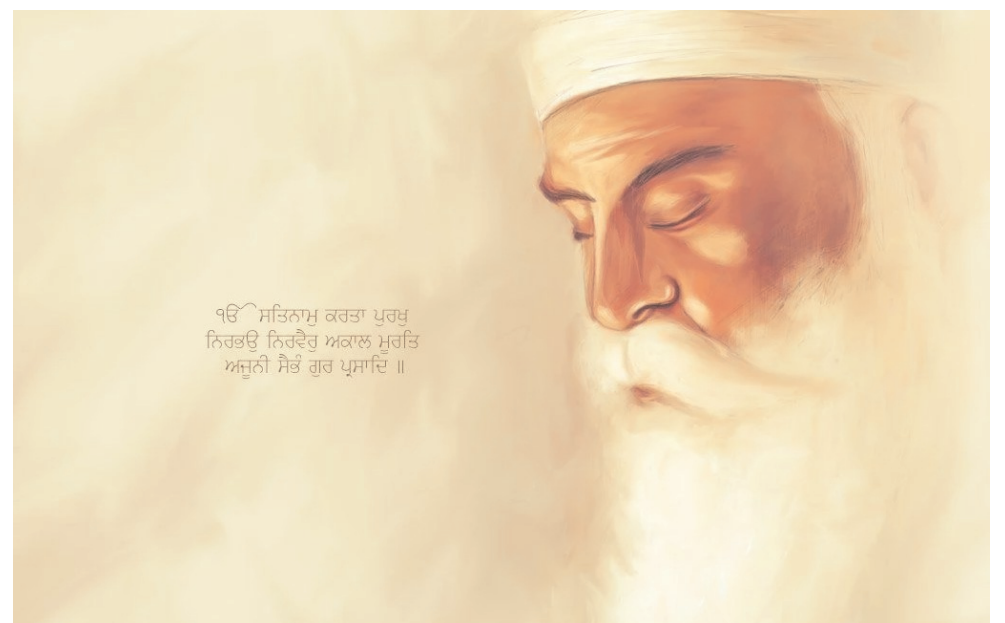
At the heart of Guru Nanak's teachings lies a resolute emphasis on the oneness of humanity. He propagated the concept of Ik Onkar, the belief in the unity of God, emphasizing that all human beings are equal regardless of their caste, creed, religion, or social status. In an era marred by deep-seated societal divisions and discriminatory practices, Guru Nanak's message of equality and unity was revolutionary. He challenged the prevailing societal norms that fostered discrimination, and propagated the dignity of every individual.

His teachings against blind faith and ritualism challenged the dogmas prevalent during his time. Guru Nanak emphasized the importance of spirituality over mere religious practices. He advocated for a direct connection with the divine through meditation, honest living, and serving humanity. His rejection of empty rituals and emphasis on genuine, heartfelt devotion resonates with the modern quest for spiritual authenticity.

Guru Nanak was a vehement critic of social exploitation and oppression in all its forms. He spoke out against the oppressive caste system, societal hierarchies, and economic injustices prevalent in society. His teachings denounced the exploitation of the poor and marginalized, advocating for compassion, empathy, and sharing with those in need. He established the concept of langar, a community kitchen where people from all walks of life could sit together and share a meal, breaking

The nearly 30 million Sikhs across the world are in jubilation to celebrate the 554th birth anniversary of their First Master Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji on November 27.

<https://youtu.be/100Y-FBm3A?si=svh9-ZdL98rdn4wf>



down barriers of caste and class.

The Guru's humanitarian efforts extended beyond religious boundaries. He traveled extensively, engaging in dialogues with people from different faiths and backgrounds, promoting mutual respect and understanding among diverse communities. His messages of peace, love, and harmony resonate with the principles of tolerance and coexistence that are vital in today's multicultural world.

Guru Nanak's teachings on women's rights were revolutionary for his time. He advocated for gender equality, condemning the subjugation and mistreatment of women. He believed in the inherent dignity and equality of women, empowering them with equal rights and respect in society. His teachings emphasized the importance of education for both men and women, recognizing the crucial role of women in shaping a progressive society.

The Guru's legacy as a humanitarian and social reformer remains incredibly relevant in addressing contemporary global challenges. In an era marked by religious extremism, intolerance, and social inequality, Guru Nanak's teachings offer a beacon of hope and guidance. His emphasis on compassion,

selflessness, and service to humanity serves as a guiding principle for fostering a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Furthermore, Guru Nanak's teachings resonate strongly with the ideals of modern humanism. His emphasis on the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, irrespective of their background or beliefs, aligns with the core values of humanism. He encouraged critical thinking, rationality, and a quest for truth, challenging individuals to seek enlightenment through knowledge and introspection.

Guru Nanak's profound teachings as a great humanitarian, advocate against blind belief, and proponent of social justice transcend time and continue to hold immense relevance in the modern world. His legacy serves as a guiding light, inspiring individuals to strive for a more equitable, compassionate, and harmonious society. As we navigate the complexities of the contemporary world, the universal message of Guru Nanak stands as a testament to the enduring power of humanism, social justice, and the pursuit of a more enlightened humanity.

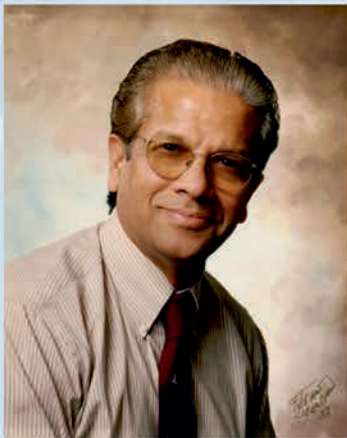
Happy Guru Nanak Prakash
Divas (birth anniversary) !

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**Seeing well as you age
Dr. V.K. Raju's recommendations**

It is important to have a complete eye examination with your ophthalmologist every year or two after the age of 65. Keeping up with regular eye examinations allows your ophthalmologist to catch problems early.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends adults aged 65 and older to see their ophthalmologist for complete eye exam every year or every other year

During regular eye exams your ophthalmologist will check for regular eye diseases including cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age related macular degeneration.

An interesting fact: ophthalmologist can identify other health problems such as diabetes or strokes through eye exams.

*Need help paying for an eye exam? Eye Care America: a program of the American Academy of Ophthalmology provides low cost or no out of pocket cost exams to eligible seniors. If you need more information email info@eyefoundationofamerica.org

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Indian American Georgia community welcomes incoming Consul General Ramesh Babu with grand reception

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): In a spectacular gathering on November 19th, 2023, the Indian American community in Georgia warmly welcomed the newly appointed Consul General of India in Atlanta, Ramesh Babu. The event, hosted by the Federation of Indian American Associations of Georgia (FIA of Georgia), took place at the elegant Crowne Plaza in Norcross. The occasion marked the official transition from the esteemed service of Dr. Swati Kulkarni, who served as Consul General from 2018 to 2023.

The banquet hall was a lively scene, filled with distinguished dignitaries, prominent community figures, and representatives from various organizations. The evening commenced with a welcoming address by Dr. Vasudev Patel, President of FIA, who expressed gratitude for the community's continued support and highlighted the significance of the occasion.

The ceremonial lighting of the lamp was conducted by the guest of honor,



The Indian American community in Georgia warmly welcomed the newly appointed Consul General of India in Atlanta, Ramesh Babu

Ramesh Babu, accompanied by vibrant dance performances by the students of Bharathakala Naatya Academy and Nataraja Natyanjali Kuchipudi Dance Academy, and vocal rendition in several Indian languages by Atlanta Indian Idol finalist Jyotsna Nanu, setting a joyous tone for the evening.

Mayor of Norcross, Craig Newton,

graced the occasion with his presence, emphasizing the strong ties between the Indian American community and the local government. Other notable speakers included Shiv Aggarwal, owner of Global Mail, Padma Bhushan Professor Jagdish Sheth, India America Cultural Association (IACA) chairman of the board, Ani Agnihotri, IACA

president Kaushal Tripathi, FIA's Rajeev Menon, Indian Friends of Atlanta (IFA) co-founder Sunil Savili, Dr. Sreeni Gangasani who represented GAPI and AAPI, Subhash Razdan, President of the Gandhi Foundation of USA & Raj Razdan, NFIA president and founder of Senior Citizens Program—each offering their perspectives on the importance of fostering cultural and diplomatic connections.

In his address to the audience, Hon. Ramesh Babu expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and shared his vision for his tenure as Consul General. He highlighted the significance of community engagement, cultural exchange, and fostering stronger ties between India and the United States. The community responded with enthusiastic applause, expressing their optimism for a fruitful collaboration under his leadership.

The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner, providing an opportunity for attendees to network, share ideas, and celebrate the rich cultural diversity within the Indian American community.

Indian-origin Nawanshahr girl becomes Australia's youngest author



11-year-old Ashleen Khela, having roots in Ounjab's Nawanshahr, has attained the title of Australia's youngest female author with her debut book '17 Stories'

NOVEMBER 23, 2023

CANBERRA (TIP): In a remarkable achievement, 11-year-old Ashleen Khela, having roots in Nawanshahr's Sajawalpur village, has attained the title of Australia's youngest female author with her debut book '17 Stories'. Beyond its literary success, the book is making waves for its

charitable contributions to the Cancer Council of Australia, the Starlight Children Foundation, and aiding underprivileged children in India through its sales.

What sets Ashleen apart is her determination and independence in bringing '17 Stories' to publication. Eschewing financial support from her parents, she embarked on a unique fundraising journey—collecting plastic and glass bottles, soft drink cans for recycling, breaking open her piggy bank, and utilizing the proceeds for the book's publication.

Talking to this correspondent, Ashleen revealed that '17 Stories' spans four main genres: fantasy, magic, myth, and mystery. While rooted in fiction, some narratives draw inspiration from her own life experiences, concluding with uplifting morals for young readers.

From her Sydney backyard during the Covid lockdown to the enchanting realms of caves, mountains, and rural Punjab, Ashleen says she invites readers on an imaginative journey. She encourages reflection on social injustice and deprivation, especially highlighting the challenges faced by underprivileged children living in roadside slum hovels in India.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Author Salman Rushdie gets Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award



Vaclav Havel Center in New York has conferred on Salman Rushdie "Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award"

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Noted Indian American author Salman Rushdie has received the first-ever Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award, presented by the Vaclav Havel Center in New York.

Rushdie made a rare public appearance since he was stabbed and attacked at a literary event last year to receive the award on Nov 14. The prize was kept secret until minutes before he rose from his seat to accept it. A crowd of about 150 guests, consisting of journalists, diplomats, artists and more were in attendance. "I apologize for being a mystery guest," Rushdie said after being introduced by "Reading Lolita in Tehran" author Azar Nafisi. "I don't feel at all mysterious. But it made life a little simpler."

The Václav Havel Center said the author "exemplifies everything that the award stands for. His forthright defense of freedom of expression emerges not only through his fiction, but also in the principled stances he takes in his trenchant commentaries and memoirs."

Rushdie has written more than a dozen novels, including *Midnight's Children* about India's partition after British colonial rule in the style of preserving history with fictional accounts.

The Havel center, founded in 2012 as the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation, is named for the Czech playwright and dissident who became the last president of Czechoslovakia after the fall of the Communist regime in the late 1980s. Rushdie, 76, noted that last month he had received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, and now was getting a prize for disturbing the peace, leaving him wondering which side of "the fence" he was on.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Ajit Pai is the first to be elected to America's Public Television Stations board



Ajit Pai has been elected to a three-year term as an at-large member of the America's Public Television Stations (APTS) board of trustees

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai has been elected to a three-year term as an at-large member of the America's Public Television Stations (APTS) board of trustees, effective Feb 26, 2024.

The first Indian American official to chair the FCC from 2017 to 2021, is now a partner at Searchlight Capital Partners, a global investment firm. "America's Public Television Stations are honored and delighted to welcome Ajit Pai to the APTS board," said APTS president and CEO Patrick Butler announcing Pai's election on Nov 14. "Over the course of his four years leading the FCC, Chairman Pai saw clearly the value of public television stations' public service missions of education, public safety and civic leadership, and his support on matters ranging from the spectrum auctions to the adoption of the NEXTGEN TV broadcast standard reflected that vision. "As we plan to make the most of our spectrum assets in service to the American people, Chairman Pai will bring an immensely useful perspective and extraordinary experience to our work," Butler said. "We're most grateful that he has agreed to contribute his formidable talents to help advance public television's service to the public."

"I am honored to join the distinguished board of America's Public Television Stations," said Pai. "For many years, I have appreciated the thoughtful approach APTS President and CEO Pat Butler and the entire APTS team have brought to challenging communications issues, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to help shape that vision going forward as a member of the board of trustees. And I have long recognized the value of public television, from my childhood affinity for Sesame Street through my tenure at the FCC."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American business leader Balkrishan "BK" Kalra to replace Tiger Tyagarajan as Genpact CEO

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American business leader Balkrishan "BK" Kalra, is set to take over as CEO of Genpact, A global professional services firm, effective Feb 9, 2024

The company announced a leadership succession plan on Nov 8 after "Tiger" Tyagarajan, President and Chief Executive Officer, informed the Board of Directors of his intention to retire from the company.

Kalra, currently Genpact's Global Business Leader, Financial Services and Consumer & Healthcare, will join the company's Board on Feb 9, 2024, and Tyagarajan will continue as a member of the Board of Directors.

"Kalra is a transformative business leader, with more than 30 years of experience helping companies grow from early stage to large, globally competitive enterprises," according to the company announcement.

He joined Genpact in 1999 and has served in a variety of increasing leadership roles across the company. He leads Genpact's global transformation efforts across the banking, capital markets, consumer

goods, retail, life sciences and healthcare industries, helping companies better leverage technology and AI-enabled solutions.

"We are delighted to announce BK as Genpact's next CEO, a leader with a proven track record of delivering business results and fostering deep client relationships," said James Madden, Chairman of Genpact's Board of Directors.

"In planning for Tiger's retirement, the Board undertook a robust process, assessing a number of internal and external candidates. In the end, BK stood out as the natural successor. He understands the importance of investing in emerging trends and technologies with a particular focus on Genpact's efforts around advanced analytics and AI-enabled solutions. BK's strategic vision and deep understanding of our clients and business is exactly what Genpact needs as we enter this new chapter."

"I am honored to assume the CEO role and appreciate the confidence and trust that Tiger and the Board have placed in me," said Kalra. "With an immensely talented workforce and a deep history of

developing innovative solutions for our clients, Genpact has a unique opportunity to lead our industry.

"I look forward to working closely with the Board and our leadership team to accelerate a new chapter of growth for Genpact, one with technology at the forefront of everything we do to unlock tremendous potential for our clients, employees, and shareholders alike."

Tyagarajan assumed the CEO role in 2011 and led Genpact through a period of tremendous growth. During that time, he helped transform the company into a recognized industry leader with more than \$4.3 billion in annual 2022 revenue, leveraging data and technology to better serve its clients, according to a press release.

"On behalf of the Board and the entire organization, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for Tiger's leadership of Genpact over the last 12 years," said Madden.

"Tiger has built a strong, diverse, and global team, focused on a clear set of prioritized verticals, geographic markets, and services. We look forward to his continued contributions on the



Balkrishan "BK" Kalra is set to take over as CEO of Genpact, A global professional services firm, effective Feb 9, 2024

Board."

"Leading Genpact has been the highlight of my career, and I would like to thank the entire team for their support," Tyagarajan said. "The world is rapidly changing around us, and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved, staying ahead of the curve as a true partner to our clients around the world, empowering our employees, and transforming the communities in which we live and operate.

"BK has been an integral part of Genpact's success, and I am confident that, under his leadership, we are well positioned for the next phase of our journey and future growth," he added.

Indian American businessman Vimal Patel running for Congress from Alabama



Vimal Patel is vying for Democratic nomination for US Congress from Alabama's redrawn 2nd district

NOVEMBER 23, 2023

MOBILE, AL (TIP): Indian American businessman Vimal Patel is vying for Democratic nomination for US Congress from Alabama's redrawn 2nd district which spans south Alabama and includes Montgomery County and a portion of Mobile County.

Patel, 39, is one of 13 Democrats who joined the race after a federal court approved a

new map that changed the 2nd District from safely Republican to one where a Democrat can win. The primary is March 5. There are eight Republicans running.

Patel told AL.com the Great Recession of more than a decade ago taught him how to sustain his family businesses during lean times, skills that he believes would make him a problem-solver in Washington.

Patel said he believes the business skills would make him effective in Congress and help tackle issues like the federal deficit and the long-range outlook for Social Security. He said those in Washington have responded to those foundational problems with complacency.

"That's ridiculous, for us to know the Titanic's hitting the iceberg and to say that we're just going let two political parties take us right into it," Patel said.

"The real issue is, what kind of changes need to take place to keep it solvent," Patel said. "Right now, you're just having people throw up bullets in the air. You're going to want to elect people who have numbers in mind, who know how to do those things. You cannot spend money that you don't have."

Patel ran for the 2nd District seat in 2022, losing in the Democratic primary to Phyllis Harvey-Hall, who is also running again this time.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student found shot inside a car in Cincinnati



Aaditya Adlakha, 26, died Nov. 11 at UC Medical Center, two days after he was found shot on the Western Hills Viaduct

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

CINCINNATI (TIP): Aaditya Adlakha, 26, died Nov. 11 at UC Medical Center, two days after he was found shot on the Western Hills Viaduct, local media reported citing the Hamilton County Coroner's Office.

Crime is a concern for students coming here from India, Anirudh Chhabre, former president of the Indian Student Association, who lives in the same apartment building that the victim did, told WLWT, a local TV station. When something like this happens, it makes students question their decisions to come here, he said.

"It also is kind of demotivating, like, OK, do we really want to, like, put our life at risk, you know, to be able to get like quality education?" Chhabre was quoted as saying. "Because I don't think education should have like, you know, stressors like these come along with it."

Adlakha was a fourth-year doctoral student in the molecular and developmental biology program at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Adlakha received his bachelor's degree in zoology in 2018 from Ramjas College of the University of Delhi. He received his master's degree in physiology in 2020 from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, also in New Delhi. He started at UC's doctoral program in the fall of 2020.

He was much-loved, exceedingly kind and humorous, intelligent and sharp, whose research was described as novel and transformative," Dr. Andrew Filak Jr., senior vice president for health affairs, and Christian Holmes, professor and dean of the College of Medicine, stated.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Three Indian restaurants win at first Michelin Guide Ceremony

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Three Indian restaurants won one star rating at the first Michelin Guide Ceremony bringing



together New York, Chicago and Washington in New York. The winners were New York City's Semma, Washington, DC's Rania and Chicago's Indienne for high quality Indian cuisine.

"The famously anonymous Michelin Guide inspectors delivered huge news to punctuate a one-night-only celebration for these three culinary communities - buzzing with excitement and emotion, support and encouragement," said Gwendal Poullennec, the International Director of the Michelin Guides.

"These milestone announcements solidify these cities as some of the best places in the world to visit for culinary adventures," he said at the Nov 7 event, according to a press release.

According to Michelin Guide a one-star rating means, "high quality cooking, worth a stop," two stars signify "excellent cooking, worth a detour," and a three-star restaurant offers "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey."

New York's "Semma is helmed by chef Vijay Kumar, who switched coasts from San Francisco's Rasa to run the show at Semma, where regional south Indian cuisine is on full display," Michelin Guide says.

Noting that the restaurant's "authentic Indian cooking doesn't pander to American expectations," the guide advises those unfamiliar with the tastes and some dishes to "lean on the staff who know their stuff and are eager to share."

It warns that the "dishes are spicy," but adds that "the heat is used as elegantly as it is liberally."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

HPD Announces Pilot Program Helping Homeowners Add New Small Homes Across NYC

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Commissioner Adolfo Carrion Jr. announced, November 21, the launch of a new pilot program to help homeowners add an additional small home to their properties as part of the Adams administration's efforts to build a little more housing in every neighborhood. Now open to applicants, the "Plus One ADU" pilot program provides up to \$395,000 in funding through HPD and \$2.6 million in grant funding from New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) to qualified homeowners to build "accessory dwelling units," or ADUs, such as backyard cottages, garage studios, attached in-law suites, basement apartments, and attic space conversions. The pilot program aims to support working- and middle-class families, including seniors hoping to spend their retirement years in their chosen neighborhood, young parents in need of space for their in-laws, families with children returning from college, and homeowners looking for an extra source of income.

"Every day, our administration finds new ways to make life a little easier for working-class New Yorkers and give them the tools they need to thrive in this city," said Mayor Adams. "By paving the way for easier, more affordable accessory dwelling unit conversion, we are delivering a tangible win for families.



Whether it's for seniors who need space for a caregiver, a multigenerational household who want separate living spaces, or young parents with a little one on the way, an ADU can offer the flexibility families need to make New York City work for them. As a critical piece of our 'City of Yes' proposal to build a little more housing in every

neighborhood, we are thrilled to welcome the launch of this pilot and see how ADUs can add the housing we need for families across the five boroughs."

"New York families need more space: for aging parents, for young adults, for caregivers and loved ones. That's why we're getting rid of outdated rules that stop homeowners from updating their

homes to meet their needs," said Maria Torres-Springer, Deputy Mayor for Housing, Economic Development & Workforce. "Our City of Yes plan will deliver relief to middleclass homeowners across the City, and the ADU Plus One program is just a downpayment."

"Through Plus One ADU we're sending a clear message that New York City is in favor of building new housing - quite literally - in our backyards," said Adolfo Carrion Jr., Commissioner for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. "This exciting new program provides a lifeline to New Yorkers - from the multi-generational family hoping to keep their loved ones close, to the older New Yorker looking to stay in a neighborhood they love. If we're going to meet the moment and provide the housing New Yorkers need, we must say 'yes' to a little more housing everywhere - and that literally means everywhere."

"The 'Plus One' ADU pilot is a win-win for New York City, giving homeowners more flexibility and a financial boost while allowing seniors to age in place or helping younger generations live in their own space," said Department of City Planning Director Dan Garodnick. "As we advance City of Yes for Housing Opportunity to tackle the city's affordability crisis, it's great programs like this that give us a head start and put us on the path to a fairer, more affordable city."

CONTD ON PAGE 56

Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey Ignites Spirit with Mega Event

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

FORDS, NJ (TIP): The Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey recently orchestrated a monumental event, drawing over 500 individuals from the vibrant New Jersey and Tri-state area. This gathering marked the triumphant relaunch of the Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey, encapsulating three pivotal focal points: the ongoing elections in five states, the kickoff campaign for the 2024 elections, and a poignant Diwali celebration, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness.

Under the distinguished leadership of Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey President Pradip (Peter) Kothari and Chairman Harkesh Thakur, the event hosted esteemed guests, including the chief guest Sam Pitroda, Global Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress. Notable leaders of Indian Overseas Congress such as Vice Chairman George Abraham, Secretary General Harbachan Singh, and Working President Pradeep Samla also graced the occasion along with other IOC office bearers.

Mr. Sam Pitroda captivated the audience as he took the stage, recounting his inspiring journey from India to the



Capturing a moment on stage with newly formed Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey office bearers, committee members, joined by distinguished figures Sam Pitroda (Global Chairman IOC), George Abraham (Vice Chairman, IOC), Pradeep Kothari (President IOC New Jersey) and Harbachan Singh (Secretary General IOC, USA)

USA and back. With a spotlight on his significant contributions to shaping India's IT and telecom industry, Pitroda addressed pressing challenges, including communal disharmony and threats to constitutional values. Drawing poignant parallels with global crises in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, he underscored the divisive nature of contemporary society. In his concluding remarks, Pitroda emphasized the paramount importance of upholding Gandhian principles, advocating for their role in fostering a

more harmonious world.

In a passionate address, Peter Kothari inspired the audience to embrace their rights and freedoms, firmly denouncing hate and divisive politics. Advocating for active participation in the Indian National Congress, he stressed its role in championing the rights of the deprived and oppressed. Kothari highlighted the profound impact of adhering to Gandhian ideology for positive societal change. Acknowledging the pivotal contributions of leaders like Jawaharlal

Nehru and Sardar Patel, he underscored their role in laying the foundation of modern India, creating institutions that provided free education to many abroad. Kothari also lauded Ms. Indira Gandhi's support during Bangladesh's Liberation War and Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to propel India into the digital revolution through advancements in science and technology. Urging those aligned with Congress ideology to join the movement, he emphasized the principles of secularism, humanity, and democracy, welcoming everyone who shares these values.

Chairman IOC NJ Harkesh Thakur conveyed his wishes and support, encouraging widespread participation to ensure the success of Congress events. The gathering concluded with a shared commitment to uphold democracy and the principles outlined in the Indian constitution.

The proceedings were overseen by Qayam Mausmi, Secretary of Indian Overseas Congress New Jersey, focusing on the Congress themes of fostering unity across India. The Bharat Jodo Movement, aimed at bringing together people from all states and walks of life in India, served as the cornerstone of the event.

CONTD ON PAGE 56

The Indo American Lions Club honored the festival of Thanksgiving with a Food Drive



The Indo American Lions Club organized a food drive to celebrate Thanksgiving

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The Indo American Lions Club honored the festival of Thanksgiving in the way it is intended to - By Giving. The Club organized Food Drives to give away non-perishable food under the Leadership of President Shyam Gajwani.

The Club's motto, "WE SERVE" is best represented through charities like these that involve giving and serving the community. The Lions are committed to fight Hunger. Every year funds are raised to serve this purpose by distribution of

food items to the community centers, Food Pantries and directly to the families in need.

The First Food distribution was done on Saturday, November 11th 2023 at the Food Distribution Center on Nassau Road in Roosevelt. This included Non-Perishable boxed and canned Food for underprivileged. It was a humbling and heartwarming experience to see the people line up to collect Food items for holidays.

The second as well as the third

distribution was done on November 14th 2023 at The Bethany House in Baldwin which supports women and children and The Glory House Recovery Center in Hempstead which helps and supports women who are struggling to recover from addiction and domestic abuse.

PRESIDENT- Shyam Gajwani, **Founder President-** Indu Gajwani, **Vice President-** Anju Sharma, **Secretary-** Sanju Sharma, **BOD-Nimesh Shah**, **Food Drive Project Chair Poojaa Makhijani** along with committee members Shyam

Agarwal, Madhu Agarwal, Sandeep Khatri, Lata Khatri were also present. Club Service Chair-Pradeep Gosalia, Volunteer Chairs Hargovind Gupta and Yogini Oza also joined to help in food distribution.

Where there is need there is a LION. The members find it an extremely humbling experience, while spreading the light during this Holiday Season.

(Press Release by Indu Gajwani)

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton Celebrates Completion of Upgrades to Glen Cove Veterans Memorial



Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton presented a citation to Scout Genalie Prezali

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

GLEN COVE, NY (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) joined her partners in government and the community on Veterans Day to celebrate the completion of upgrades to the City's veterans memorial outside First Presbyterian Church.

The upgrade, which was the vision of local Scout Genalie Prezali and funded with a \$75,000 Nassau County Community Revitalization Project (CRP) grant secured by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's office, added a large

bold star as the focal point of the monument, a decorative concrete walkway to help visitors traverse the site safely, benches, and refreshed shrubbery.

"I have always been so impressed with Genalie - he is a smart, caring and patient young man who cares deeply for our community and especially our veterans," Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton said. "It was a privilege to congratulate him upon the completion of his Eagle Scout project, one which created a safe and sacred space for all of us to honor our veterans throughout the year."

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Can Nikki Haley Beat Trump?



BY ROSS DOUTHAT

BUT CREDIT WHERE IT'S DUE: HALEY HAS KNOCKED OUT SCOTT, PASSED CHRISTIE AND CHALLENGED DESANTIS BY SUCCEEDING AT A CORE ASPECT OF PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS - PRESENTING YOURSELF AS AN APPEALING AND CHARISMATIC LEADER WHO CAN PICK PUBLIC FIGHTS AND COME OUT THE WINNER (AT LEAST WHEN VIVEK RAMASWAMY IS YOUR FOIL).

It's time to admit that I underestimated Nikki Haley. When she began her presidential campaign, she seemed caught betwixt and between: too much of a throwback to pre-Trump conservatism to challenge Ron DeSantis for the leadership of a Tropified party, but also too entangled with Trump after her service in his administration to offer the fresh start that anti-Trump Republicans would be seeking.

If you wanted someone to attack Trump head-on with relish, Chris Christie was probably your guy. If you wanted someone with pre-Trump Republican politics but without much Trump-era baggage, Tim Scott seemed like the fresher face.

But now Scott is gone, Christie has a modest New Hampshire constituency and not much else, and Haley is having her moment. She's in second place in New Hampshire, tied with DeSantis in the most recent Des Moines Register-led poll in Iowa, and leading Joe Biden by more than either DeSantis or Trump in national polls. Big donors are fluttering her way, and there's an emerging media narrative about how she's proving the DeSantis campaign theory wrong and showing that you can thrive as a Republican without surrendering to Trumpism.

To be clear, I do not think Haley has proved the DeSantis theory wrong. She is not polling anywhere close to the highs DeSantis hit during his stint as the Trump-slayer, and if you use the Register-led poll to game out a future winnowing, you see that her own voters would mostly go to DeSantis if she were to drop out - but if DeSantis drops out, a lot of his voters would go to Trump.

As long as that's the case, Haley might be able to consolidate 30 or 35 percent of the party, but the path to actually winning would be closed. Which could make her ascent at DeSantis's expense another study in the political futility of anti-Trump conservatism, its inability to wrestle successfully with the populism that might make Trump the nominee and the president again.

But credit where it's due: Haley has knocked out Scott, passed Christie and challenged DeSantis by succeeding at a core aspect of presidential politics - presenting yourself as an appealing and charismatic leader who can pick public fights and come out the winner (at least when Vivek Ramaswamy is your foil).

So, in the spirit of not underestimating her, let's try to imagine a scenario where Haley actually wins the nomination.

First, assume that ideological analysis of party politics is overrated, and that a candidate's contingent success can yield irresistible momentum, stampeding voters in a



Five Republican presidential candidates who debated on November 8 in Miami. From the Left: Chris Christie, Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis, Vivek Ramaswamy and Tim Scott -File photo

way that polls alone cannot anticipate.

For Haley, the stampede scenario requires winning outright in New Hampshire. The difficulty is that even on the upswing, she still trails Trump 46-19 in the current RealClearPolitics Average. But assume that Christie drops out and his support swings her way, assume that the current polling underestimates how many independents vote in the G.O.P. primary, assume a slight sag for Trump and a little last-moment Nikkimentum, and you can imagine your way to a screaming upset - Haley 42, Trump 40.

Then assume that defeat forces Trump to actually debate in the long February lull (broken only by the Nevada caucus) between New Hampshire and the primary in Haley's own South Carolina. Assume that the front-runner comes across as some combination of rusty and insane,

Haley handles him coolly and then wins her home state primary. Assume that polls still show her beating Biden, Fox News has rallied to her fully, endorsements flood in - and finally, finally, enough voters who like Trump because he's a winner swing her way to clear a path to the nomination.

You'll notice, though, that this story skips over Iowa. That's because I'm not sure what Haley needs there. Victory seems implausible, but does she want to surge so impressively that it knocks DeSantis out of the race? Or, as the Dispatch's Nick Catoggio has suggested, does the fact that DeSantis's voters mostly have Trump as a second choice mean that Haley actually needs DeSantis to stay in the race through the early states, so that Trump can't consolidate his own potential support? In which case maybe Haley needs an Iowa result where both she and DeSantis overperform their current

polling, setting her up for New Hampshire but also giving the Florida governor a reason to hang around.

This dilemma connects to my earlier argument that beating Trump requires a joining of the Haley and DeSantis factions, an alliance of the kind contemplated by Trump's opponents in 2016 but never operationalized. But I doubt Haley is interested in such an alliance at the moment; after all, people are talking about her path to victory - and here I am, doing it myself!

Fundamentally, though, I still believe that Haley's destiny is anticipated by the biting, "congrats, Nikki," quote from a DeSantis ally in New York Magazine: "You won the Never Trump primary. Your prize is nothing."

(The author is an Opinion Columnist)

Thanksgiving: A time of gratitude and shared concerns!

A few days ago, I was hitching a bus ride from Floral Park to Jamaica in New York as it had stopped near Creedmoor Hospital. As soon as the door opened, a group of youngsters stepped in and, without hesitation, walked past the driver and took their seats. The driver was unfazed whether they paid the fare or not. That is not the first time I have seen this emerging trend here in the city. Of course, there were always fare beaters, but now it appears to be an acceptable norm.

Another time, I was standing at the turnstile in a subway station to catch a train, and a bunch of teenagers, like a flash, jumped over the turnstiles and disappeared onto the platform. I asked two nearby police officers if it was still a misdemeanor to jump turnstiles, and their look of stoic resignation said it all. The police who were supposed to enforce the laws looked powerless or laid back. The 'defunding the police' movement and New York's bail legislation appear to have taken a toll on their morale and readiness!

I also recollect walking into a Walgreens store looking for a bottle of after-shave lotion. The shelves were all empty. Soon, I walked back to the Cashier and inquired whether they were closing the store for good, as had been happening all around. The lady replied that there was no plan yet to shut that store down; however, she added that folks are simply walking out with goods, and nobody stops them.

This is the new America before our eyes in this season of Thanksgiving. Many folks don't have to thank God for jobs or other opportunities but are thankful for all the free stuff they can grab simply by walking in and exercising their privilege not to pay. This blatant behavior is not borne out of some residual frustration due to high unemployment or lack of access but simply a transformation to a new valueless culture, which doesn't bode well for the future of America.

Early America is said to have practiced the 'Protestant work ethic.' As per Max Weber, the Protestant ethic, in sociological theory, is the value attached to hard work, thrift, and efficiency in one's worldly calling. A person had to be "self-made." It further held that man was a sturdy and responsible individual, responsible to himself, society, and God. In short, anybody who could not measure up to that standard could not qualify for public office or widespread respect.

Of course, we have come a long way from those Calvinist days, and there is ample justification to have a safety net for those poor and disadvantaged. And a country that boasts itself to be the richest could never turn its back on its hungry and people in need. The United States has a tradition of welcoming the 'tired, poor and huddled masses yearning to be free.' However, what we see today around the country is not a

LET THIS THANKSGIVING BE A TIME OF GRATITUDE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH UNTIL NOW. LET US ALSO TAKE A VOW TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC AND FORTIFY OUR BONDS. THE UNITED STATES HAS FACED DAUNTING CHALLENGES IN THE PAST, LIKE THE CIVIL WAR, WORLD WAR, AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION, AND HAS NOT ONLY MANAGED TO SURVIVE BUT THRIVED AS A NATION. HOWEVER, THE GREAT CHALLENGE FOR THE NATION TODAY IS TO STOP THE ERODING SOCIAL TRUST AND RESTORE FAITH IN THIS FALTERING DEMOCRACY.



Daylight robbery in a store in New York City.

Photo / courtesy HP Singh

revolt due to open discrimination or denial of services. It can never be attributed to poverty as these miscreants mainly target luxury goods. The crux of the issue here is not necessarily the actions limited to some retail thefts by rowdy young men but a growing menace to the law-and-order situation of the neighborhoods we all live in.

If one goes for a walk in mid-Manhattan today, the odor of cannabis is everywhere. One might not even venture out to buy it to feel the effect of it, as the recent legislation permitting recreational use of marijuana in certain States, including New York, is at the forefront of challenging the youth of today. Whatever the reasoning for legalizing marijuana, I am afraid that it sends a wrong message to Children that it is an acceptable part of life. It would be tough to counter the argument that it is a gateway drug that could easily ruin a life addicted to it. According to a recent study by the Yale School of Medicine, adolescents who use pot or alcohol are three times more likely to abuse hard

drugs than children who do not use intoxicants. All around us, standards are collapsing fast; we are witnessing a definite degradation in morals and values as society faces an ethical dilemma.

For any society, a strong nuclear family is its foundational strength. However, there are forces at work to weaken that institutional framework and to impose their agenda to its detriment. Take, for example, the confusion being raked up in adolescent minds whether they are truly a boy or a girl. In less than a decade, transgenderism has gone from an issue affecting a tiny group of the population to a powerful ideology driven by mainstream media, corporations, and academia. Children have come to be at the center of much debate around transgender issues. Brunsell-Evans argues that 'belief in the existential "transgender child" has become so universally accepted that it is now counter-intuitive to suggest otherwise.'

These days, gender identity has come to be how people feel and present



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

themselves. A growing number of young people consider themselves non-binary. The use of bathrooms, particularly in schools, has become a thorny issue. A federal appeals court recently ruled that a group of parents could not challenge a Maryland School District's policy against telling parents if their children identify as transgender or gender non-conforming. New York transgender guidance now says schools should hide gender transition from parents. More than 3.2 million US public school students are covered by guidance that blocks parents from knowing whether their child identifies as a different gender in the classroom. If a kid catches a fever at school, a parent is notified, but the same kid undergoes a gender transition; they say a parent has no right to learn about it! This whole saga unraveling before our eyes is gravely confusing to our growing young minds and bewildering to the parents!

While Indian Americans are so busy spending their political capital in creating holidays and defending an increasingly autocratic theocracy back home, America is on a downward spiral, affecting their own future as well as their future generations. Rampant inflation, runaway spending, rising debt endangering the status of the dollar as its reserved currency, increasing lawlessness, deep polarization of the American body politic along racial and party lines, and open border with Mexican cartel smuggling fentanyl mostly imported from China endangering our children, our penchant for wasting trillions of dollars in unwinnable foreign wars and greater income inequality etc. are all matters of grave concern to the people of this great nation. American Politicians, by and large, who are being routinely re-elected to those important legislative bodies are either beholden to vested interests or impervious to the aspirations and concerns of its citizens. The gap between the governing and governed has never been so huge. Therefore, it is time to examine whether the social fabric of this great nation is at risk and whether our role in shaping its destiny is being jeopardized.

Let this Thanksgiving be a time of gratitude for peace and security and the great opportunities we have been blessed with until now. Let us also take a vow to strengthen the social fabric and fortify our bonds. The United States has faced daunting challenges in the past, like the Civil War, World War, and the great depression, and has not only managed to survive but thrived as a nation. However, the great challenge for the nation today is to stop the eroding social trust and restore faith in this faltering democracy. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer with the United Nations and Vice Chairman of IOCUSA)

Challenging the Electoral Bond Scheme



BY KAMAL KANT
JASWAL

WITH THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ELECTORAL BONDS BEING CONTESTED MORE STRONGLY, THE CITIZEN MUST PUSH FOR A MORE LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD IN THE NEXT ROUND OF ELECTIONS

Political parties in India have traditionally been averse to any sort of public scrutiny of the sources and applications of their funds. The astronomical sums needed to finance their processes and operations cannot be raised from party cadres and altruistic donors. These can only come from Big Business, and as a quid pro quo.

Civil society has been campaigning for long to empower the voter by improving her access to background information on the candidates in the electoral fray, and to bring about greater transparency in the obscure domain of political funding. In this, the instrument of public interest litigation (PIL) has been deployed to good effect. The campaign is premised on the citizen's democratic right to information, which is integral to the fundamental right to speech and expression under the Constitution.

A VEIL OVER THE CORPORATE DONOR

The political establishment, on its part, has sought to undermine these hard-fought victories by legislative legerdemain and ingenious schemes fashioned to obfuscate the identity of corporate donors. The United Progressive Alliance government had devised the Electoral Trusts Scheme (2013) to create a smokescreen between political parties and their corporate donors. The National Democratic Alliance, the succeeding government, came up with a far more ambitious and ingenious Electoral Bond Scheme (EBS).

The guardrails designed to limit the influence of foreign money and big business in India's democratic polity were systematically demolished to prepare the ground for the introduction of the EBS in January 2018, which was touted as a sincere effort to clean up electoral democracy by incentivizing political donations through banking channels.

To begin with, the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) was retrospectively amended through the Finance Act of 2016 to permit Indian subsidiaries of foreign companies to donate to political parties and save the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC) from imminent disqualification for having violated the ban on acceptance of foreign contributions. This was followed by an overhaul of the regulatory framework comprising the Representation of the People Act (RPA), the Companies Act, the Income Tax Act and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act through the Finance Act of 2017, despite strident protests from the RBI, the Election Commission of India (ECI) and Opposition parties. The device of incorporating the amending Bills in the Finance Bill effectively short-circuited the consideration of the legislative proposals by the Rajya Sabha and ensured their

Consequently, the nexus between politics and big business was rendered more opaque. The instrument would enable special interest groups, corporate lobbyists and foreign entities to secure a stranglehold on the electoral process and influence the country's governance to public detriment. By relieving the political parties of the duty to disclose the particulars of their donors, the amendments eroded the ECI's constitutional role and deprived citizens of vital information concerning electoral funding. Further, the recourse to a money bill to amend the relevant laws subverted the legislative scheme envisaged in the Constitution.



Congress MPs Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and others stage a protest over alleged electoral bond scam in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Friday, November 22, 2019.
File photo / Credit: PTI

smooth passage.

Months before the EBS was promulgated, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Common Cause filed a PIL to challenge the constitutionality of the amendments made in the legal framework of corporate donations by the Finance Act of 2017. The petition contended that these amendments infringed the citizen's fundamental 'Right to know' under Article 19(1)(a) and were not saved by any of the permissible restrictions under Article 19(2). The vires of the amendment to FCRA effected through the Finance Act of 2016 were also impugned.

The gravamen of the petition was that the impugned amendments jeopardized the country's autonomy, militated against transparency, incentivized corrupt practices by lifting the caps on corporate donations and allowing contributions by loss-making and shell companies.

Consequently, the nexus between politics and big business was rendered more opaque. The instrument would enable special interest groups, corporate lobbyists and foreign entities to secure a stranglehold on the electoral process and influence the country's governance to public detriment. By relieving the political parties of the duty to disclose the particulars of their donors, the amendments eroded the ECI's constitutional role and deprived citizens of vital information concerning electoral

funding. Further, the recourse to a money bill to amend the relevant laws subverted the legislative scheme envisaged in the Constitution.

BONDS, THE FAVORED MODE

Over time, electoral bonds have become the favored mode of political donation. Bonds worth ₹13,791 crore have been sold in 27 tranches until July 2023. The ADR's research has shown that electoral bonds accounted for 55.9% of the donations totaling ₹9,188 crore received by 31 political parties. Unsurprisingly, the BJP got the lion's share of 74.5% of electoral bonds redeemed until 2020-2021. The INC was a distant second, at 11%, followed by the Biju Janata Dal, the YSR Congress Party and the Trinamool Congress.

It will be naive to believe that political parties depend on these inflows to meet their insatiable requirement of funds. The expenditure on the last general election to the Lok Sabha has been estimated at between ₹55,000 to ₹60,000 crore. Most dealings of political parties continue to be in cash, but the receipts from electoral bonds enable them to meet their transactions with the formal economy, such as the costs of infrastructure expansion, equipment and publicity in the print, electronic and digital media. This gives them an enormous advantage over their rivals in influencing voter behavior and electoral outcomes.

After an agonizing six-year wait, the

challenge to the constitutionality of electoral bonds is now approaching denouement. Meanwhile, a general election to the Lok Sabha and 30 elections to State Assemblies have been held. In most of these contests, the political formations in power have enjoyed the advantage of augmented inflow of corporate contributions, thanks to the EBS that inherently favors the incumbent.

The Supreme Court of India did not take kindly to the petitioners' repeated pleas to stay the impugned scheme, pending determination of the weighty issues raised in their petition. Rejecting the plea for interim stay, the top court in its order of June 23, 2021 posited that it was possible for a voter to pierce the scheme's veil of secrecy by tallying the expenditure on electoral bonds disclosed in corporate filings with the corresponding receipts in the audited accounts of political parties. One wonders how. Even if a determined voter had the capacity to scrutinize the returns of the suspect corporates and political parties, it would be pointless since the scheme does not require the donors and recipients to furnish disaggregated information regarding their electoral bond transactions.

DATA | PARTIES' UNKNOWN INCOME RISE DESPITE ELECTORAL BONDS

Significantly, the government has also stressed the imperative of protecting donor anonymity, ostensibly to shield them from retribution by political rivals. The Solicitor General has argued that anonymity is central to their right to privacy, even though this fundamental right is not available to artificial legal persons. Over 94% of the electoral bond sales are in the denomination of one crore rupees - a sum beyond the capacity of individual donors. Moreover, particulars of individuals contributing ₹20,000 and above are duly disclosed in party accounts. Why must corporate donors receive greater protection?

THE HOPE

The pendency of the PIL has been marked by rare interludes of activity and long stretches of somnolence. It is gratifying that the Constitution Bench, to which the crux of the PIL was referred, has expeditiously concluded the hearing. Having regard to the strength of the case against the Scheme and the Supreme Court's stellar record in expanding the scope of the right to freedom of speech and expression and empowering the voter to make an informed choice, one may hope that the next round of elections will be contested on a reasonably level-playing field.

(The author is President of Common Cause and former Secretary to the Government of India)



There is but One God. His name is Truth; He is the Creator. He fears none; he is without hate. He never dies; He is beyond the cycle of births and death. He is self-illuminated. He is realized by the kindness of the True Guru. He was True in the beginning; He was True when the ages commenced and has ever been True. He is also True now.

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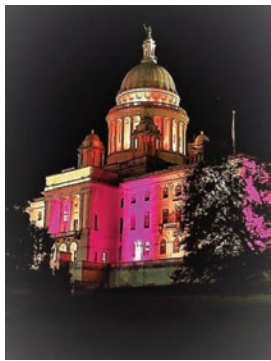


Glittering FIA-NE Diwali Celebrations Illuminate Massachusetts and Rhode Island State Houses

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

BOSTON (TIP): In a dazzling display of cultural vibrancy and communal harmony, the Foundation of Indian-Americans (FIA) New England orchestrated consecutive Diwali celebrations at the State Houses of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Held on November 15th and 17th, these events brought together eminent dignitaries, philanthropists, and community leaders to revel in the festive splendor of the Festival of Lights.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE CELEBRATION: NOVEMBER 15, 2023



RI State House-
Diwali Lighting

The Rhode Island State House Deepawali ceremony on November 15th welcomed distinguished guests, including Lt. Governor Sabina Matos, Philanthropist and Jamson Group Hotel Chairman Mr. Dilip Patel, and Rhode Island businessman Mahesh Patel. Spiritual Guru Keshav Sharan, Prof. Dr. Balram Singh, Team Aid Founder Mohan Nannapaneni, and IARI former president Amruth Patel added to the luminosity of the occasion.



Community gathered at the RI State House with Lt. Governor Sabina Matos, Philanthropist and Jamson Group Hotel Chairman Mr. Dilip Patel, and Rhode Island businessman Mahesh Patel. Spiritual Guru Keshav Sharan, Prof. Dr. Balram Singh, Team Aid Founder Mohan Nannapaneni, and IARI former president Amruth Patel

Lt. Governor Matos inaugurated the celebration by illuminating the ceremonial lamp, emphasizing the United States' core value of cultural diversity, with the Festival of Lights playing a pivotal role. The program featured renditions of the national anthems of the USA and India, accompanied by mesmerizing performances from professional dancers Nivedita and Rituja, and a soul-stirring rendition by singer Vaishnavi, and honored FIA-New England's nominees for their exemplary work.

FIA-New England President Abhishek Singh expressed gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate Diwali for the second consecutive year at the Rhode Island State House. The event not only embraced cultural significance but also included impactful community initiatives such as food and blood donation drives, showcasing FIA's commitment to regional welfare.

On the stage, Sanjay Gokhale, FIA-NE Executive VP, presented an overview of FIA's impactful work in the New England region, emphasizing their dedication to fostering cultural understanding and community well-being. The proceedings were skillfully managed by EMCE Rakesh Kavari, with FIA executives Dipak Rathore, Archana Soni, Waheed Khan honored distinguished guests and thankful to media and community organizations for covering and supporting the celebration.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE CELEBRATION: NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Continuing the festive momentum, the Massachusetts State House hosted Diwali celebrations on November 17th, led by State Auditor Diana Diz. Joining her were notable figures, including Leader Bank's founder and chairman Sushil Tuli, Pharmasasis Bhuren Patel, Turf University Professor Anil Saigal, and businessman Sandeep Asija.

State Auditor Dizoglio, in her address, lauded the traditional Indian festivals and classical dance performed by young children, advocating for its inclusion in the Massachusetts state education system.

She extended honors to Team Aid founder Mohan Nannapaneni, Johanny Pineyro, Vaishnavi, and Kalaimangai for their exemplary community services.

Community Leader Shri Kaushik Patel, along with FIA executives Shri Anand Sharma and Nikhil Wadhwa, welcomed the dignitaries. Amudha Shri and Pooja Tiwari's dance academy, along with versatile singer Vaishnavi, showcased captivating cultural programs during the celebration. EMCEE duties were expertly handled by Meenakshi Arora.

Expressing gratitude, Amol Peshwar and Ankit Loonia, FIA Executives, extended heartfelt thanks to all dignitaries and attendees for their presence and support, making the Diwali celebrations a resounding success.

These Diwali celebrations stand as a testament to the unity, diversity, and cultural richness in the New England region, reinforcing the spirit of togetherness and community service championed by FIA-New England.

NOVEMBER 11TH: DIWALI EXTRAVAGANZA IN TAUNTON, MA FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

On November 11th, another Diwali extravaganza unfolded in Taunton, MA, dedicated to the noble cause of building a community center. The virtual event was graced by the presence of Kennedy scion Joe Kennedy III, who congratulated the Indian-American diaspora on the occasion of Diwali.

Organized by Vrindavan Preservation Society (VPS) and supported by FIA-New England, the event showcased a cricket tournament trophy distribution, with Subu Kota (Chairman of the Boston Group) presenting the honors to Waltham11 Captain Ashok Patel and his team, and Team Khiladi's Captain Nikhil Wadhwa and his team. Neelam Sahani and Priyanka Wadhwa added their blessings as emcees.

The celebration highlighted the commitment to community service and cultural festivities, bringing together diverse communities in the spirit of Diwali.

(Press Release by Abhishek Singh / FIA-NE)

Senior Friendship Group Chicago Hosts a Dazzling Diwali Celebration

EXPERIENCE OF CULTURE, SPIRITUALITY, AND COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP) : The Senior Friendship Group Chicago marked the joyous occasion of Diwali with a vibrant celebration on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at Golf Maine Park District, 8800 W Kathy Ln, Niles, IL . The festivities, which spanned from 9 am to 4 pm, brought together members and guests for a day filled with cultural delights.

The event commenced with a delightful breakfast featuring an array of Diwali delicacies, including Ghoghra, Cholafli Mathiya Farsi, Puri Chawanani, tea, and coffee. The beautifully adorned venue, embellished with exquisite depictions of Ganapatidada and Lakshmi Mata, was a testament to the meticulous efforts of Meghna D Vora, who orchestrated the enchanting decor.

President Harshadbhai Parekh extended heartfelt Diwali and New Year wishes to all attendees, outlining the day's program. A collective Aarti of Ganapati Dada and Lakshmi Mata, performed by both members and guests, set a spiritual tone. Smita Parekh presented prayers of Sarva Dharma and Mayurashtakam, adding a divine touch to the celebration.

In a special segment, November birthdays were celebrated, including the festivities for Sunilbhai



The Senior Friendship Group Chicago - President Harshadbhai Parekh, Pinkyben Thakkar, Dineshbhai Thakkar, Meghna D Vora, Sunil Shah, Rita Shah, Vinita Gulbani with members and guests

Shah. The entertainment quotient soared as Jeetendraji, Amitbhai, Pratibhaji, and Ritaben Shah showcased their musical talents, creating a jubilant atmosphere that had everyone dancing.

The highlight of the event was the felicitation of President Harshadbhai Parekh and other dedicated members by Pinkiben Dineshbhai Thakkar and Mukeshbhai Mehta. Bouquets and shals were presented as tokens of appreciation for their

significant contributions.

"On this Diwali and New Year celebration, I want to express my love and affection for my caring family and friends. I want to tell my husband Dinesh Thakkar how fortunate I am to have him in my life as my best friend and a wonderful life partner. I want to thank him for the love and support, and I look forward to celebrating our bond together for years and years to come. Happy Diwali and New Year!" Said by Pinky Thakkar

Asian Media USA captured the magical moments of the day, diligently documenting individual and group pictures along with videos. The generosity of guests who contributed to the event was acknowledged, aligning with the spirit of giving during Diwali.

As a sweet conclusion to the celebration, the President, committee members and Guest distributed sweets to all attendees, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared joy.

The Senior Friendship Group Chicago's Diwali celebration was a resounding success, weaving together tradition, community, and festivity in a tapestry of unforgettable moments.

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)



Heartiest Congratulation on the 554th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

There are worlds and more worlds below them, and there are a hundred thousand skies over them. No one has been able to find the limits and boundaries of God. If there be any account of God, then alone the mortal can write the same; but God's account does not finish, and the mortal himself dies while still writing.

GURU NANAK



Balbeer Singh Pahwa
516-849-9596



Dyal Singh Vohra
516-232-1419



Harcharan Singh Gulati
516-643-2266



Kulraj Singh Longhani
516-469-5060



Santokh Singh Bajaj
516-225-3420





"The only thing is we would defund the U.N. as much as possible. The only reason you don't get out of the U.N. is we're one country of five that has a veto," Haley said.

Haley vows to defund the UN 'as much as possible' if elected

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley, a former United Nations ambassador, vowed Wednesday to defund the U.N. "as much as possible" if elected to the Oval Office, but she stopped short of saying the U.S. should withdraw from the international organization.

Fox News host Sean Hannity in an interview pressed Haley on whether she agreed with the statement that the U.N. has been "historically anti-American and antisemitic."

"That's a true statement," Haley responded.

Hannity pressed her on whether the U.S. would "get out" of the U.N. if she assumed

the presidency.

"The only thing is we would defund the U.N. as much as possible. The only reason, Sean, you don't get out of the U.N. is we're one country of five that has a veto," Haley said.

"And the number of things we were able to stop China, Russia and Iran from doing with that veto matters, and so you keep bad things from happening. But we don't have to pay at the level that we're paying, and we don't have to be in any of those other organizations."

Haley, who has previously called the U.N. Human Rights Council "a farce," said she would pull out of that council and said the U.S. "would certainly not get back into the Paris Climate Agreement" if she were

president.

The Trump administration withdrew from the Human Rights Council in 2018, but the Biden administration rejoined it in 2021. The administrations also diverged over the Paris accords.

Haley further told Hannity the World Health Organization, a U.N. body, is "bought and paid for by the Chinese."

Haley served as U.N. ambassador during the Trump administration. She is now challenging former President Trump for the GOP's 2024 presidential nomination.

Trump stands as the Republican front-runner with a significant double-digit lead over his competitors, but Haley has notably risen to second place in some recent polling.

Indian American state assembly member Suhas Subramanyam running for Congress from Virginia



Suhas Subramanyam has announced his candidacy for US Congress in Virginia's 10th District

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

VIRGINIA (TIP): Days after winning a seat in Virginia Senate, Indian American state assembly member Suhas Subramanyam has announced his candidacy for US Congress in Virginia's 10th District.

"The Republican leadership in the House has been unapologetic about their MAGA agenda, undermining our democracy, trying to ban all abortion - no exceptions - nationwide, and slashing Social Security and Medicare," the son of Indian immigrants said announcing his campaign Nov 16.

"Their extremism and political games have done nothing to bring down costs or make things better for Northern Virginia families. The threat is real, and it's urgent," he stated.

"This community is where my family immigrated, my kids were born, and my wife and I got married, and it is vital that we elect someone in Virginia's 10th District who puts that community, not the MAGA agenda, first. I know I am the proven leader for the job," Subramanyam stated.

Subramanyam's campaign is off to a strong start and building momentum, with over \$100,000 raised in his first 24 hours in the race.

"I am humbled by the outpouring of community support behind my campaign for Congress," said Subramanyam.

"I am excited that my record of service and commitment to taking on tough fights that protect our communities is resonating, and I look forward to building on this momentum. I am proud to see such overwhelming support from members of our community who know I will deliver real results for them in Congress."

In an interview with the Washington Post, Subramanyam "said he chose to run for Congress because the problems there, such as perpetual threats of government shutdowns and an inability to find common ground on gun violence, are too urgent.

Subramanyam also spoke about his plans to "fight for federal legislation securing abortion rights, to lower the cost of prescription drugs and to pass an assault weapons ban," if elected to Congress.

"I look at what's happening in Congress and see tough challenges that some say can't be overcome," Subramanyam told the Loudoun Times-Mirror. "I'm not afraid to take on the big fights, because it's our community's future on the line."

Subramanyam who served as a White House technology policy advisor to President Barack Obama said his family's story in America began in Virginia's 10th District when his mother immigrated to the United States through Dulles Airport in 1979.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Diaspora panel in US seeks to include extremist Pannun and SFJ on no-fly list

NOVEMBER 21, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A diaspora panel in the US has sought to include designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and his banned organization Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) on the no-fly list for issuing video messages threatening people flying Air India.

Participants of a panel discussion "Indians in Canada under Threat of Terror and Hate Crimes", organized by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), a group of Indian-Americans and Indo-Canadians, asserted that it's time for the governments to take strong action against the separatist Sikh leader from the SFJ.

The SFJ is a US-based organization banned by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for its anti-India activities.

In July 2020, Pannun was also declared an "individual terrorist" under the UAPA for promoting secessionism and allegedly encouraging Punjabi Sikh youth to take up arms.

"Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has misrepresented freedom of expression for freedom of terror and his allegations against India for the killing of extremist Niggar stirred anti-Indian and anti-Hindu crimes in Canada," said FIIDS Khanderao Kand.

"His policies seem to be ignoring the threats of extremism which will ultimately adversely impact Canada," he said.

"The panelists questioned why Gurpatwant Pannu and members of SFJ are not on the no-fly list for his threats to travel by Air India, alluding to the 1985 Air India 'Kanishka' bombing," Kand said in a statement.

Observing that historical seeds of hatred were sown by both the British and the Congress Party among Hindus and Sikhs, California-based Sukhi Chahal said



SFJ Legal Advisor Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

the Sikh for Justice did not represent Sikhs as a whole and propagated a distorted and hateful narrative against Hindus and Sikhs.

Chahal urged collective responsibility to dismantle this narrative, engage with the silent Sikh community, and recognize that many Sikhs have fallen victim to the influence of fake Khalistanis who are well-funded and supported by Western states.

Ruchi Walia from Canada mentioned the importance of the unity of Hindus and Sikhs, which personifies her own personal story and mission.

Walia expressed concern about the radicalization of young Sikh individuals through the dissemination of incorrect historical information which needs to be corrected.

Vijay Jain, spokesperson of Canadian Hindus for Harmony, emphasized the radicals are smaller but loud, suppressing moderate voices, and threatening peace and harmony. He stressed the importance of community and political-level engagement.

Mohan Sonti, a FIIDS analyst, said the current threats to Indians in Canada, particularly from Khalistani terrorists, originated approximately 45 years ago with Pierre Trudeau, the former Prime Minister of Canada and the father of the current premier.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Chicago Shines Bright with Diwali Celebration hosted by Mayor Brandon Johnson and Indian American Business Council



Alderwoman Shweta Baid, Ajeet Singh, President IABC, Mayor Brandon Johnson, visionary leader of IABC team Keerthi Kumar Ravoori, Sunil Shah FIA Chairman and Nag Jaiswal Chairman Salome Foundation



Consul General Somnath Ghosh talked about how the festival of Diwali, similar to Yoga Day, has become a global celebration all over the world.

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): Chicago Mayor Hon. Brandon Johnson in collaboration with Indian American Business Council hosted a Grand Diwali Celebration at City Hall Chicago on November 6, 2023. The celebrations were marked by the attendance of Consul General of India Mr. Somnath Ghosh, elected officials and many prominent community leaders.

The distinguished guests who graced the event were Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Irvin, Alderwoman Shweta Baid, Alderman Deborah Silverstein, Alderman Walter Burnett, Alderman David Moore, Alderman Lamont Robinson, Alderman Pat Dowell, Aldermen Jason Irvin, Judge Sanjay Tailor, Judge Rena Vantine, Dr. Bharat Barai and Dr. Sreenivas Reddy (Chair II Medical Board).

The beautiful ceremony started with singing of national anthems, devotional

song along with invocational lamp alighting.

Ajeet Singh, President IABC welcomed everyone for joining the celebration and thanked Mayor Brandon for celebrating Diwali with one Indian American Community. Mayor Johnson extended his heartfelt gratitude to the entire Indian American community for their contribution towards the development and progress of the city of Chicago. Keeping the beautiful Diwali tradition alive, Mayor Johnson distributed sweets amongst the attendees.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh talked about how the festival of Diwali, similar to Yoga Day, has become a global celebration all over the world. In his remarks Ghosh added that India is an example of tolerance, coexistence and diversity of language, religions and ethnicities living peacefully and pursuing individual and national

dreams, respecting democracy, respecting human rights, and universal brotherhood. He added that Indians and people of Indian origin strongly stand with the City of Chicago, and all other elected authorities in the greater Chicagoland for peace, for development and for the prosperity of the city and its beautiful suburban regions.

Dr. Barai wished Mayor Johnson, and everyone present a happy and prosperous Diwali and talked about how the festival brings back the same joy and memories that everyone experienced when Lord Ram came back to Ayodhya from exile.

Dr. Sreenivas Reddy mentioned that beautiful celebrations like these are a reminder of how important it is to work together to fight the challenges the world is facing today whether it is mental health or violence. The dignitaries congratulated the entire IABC for

putting a beautiful event together signifying the victory of light over darkness and good over evil through this grand spectacle of Indian cultural heritage at the City Hall.

The ceremony closed with a heartwarming vote of thanks by the visionary leader of IABC team Keerthi Kumar Ravoori who expressed his gratitude for each and every one who made the event a huge success and explained how IABC envisions to keep working in building a better and stronger community by hosting such impactful events.

Keeping the beautiful Diwali tradition alive, Mayor Johnson distributed sweets amongst the attendees. IABC envisions to keep working in building a better and stronger community by hosting such impactful events.

(Press release and photo by Indian American Business Council)

Joyous Diwali Celebration at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF CULTURE, SPIRITUALITY, AND COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): The celebrations of culture, spirituality, and community that began with the opening of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Jersey continue to resonate in all BAPS Mandirs throughout North America this Diwali. The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chicago, IL hosted a grand Diwali celebration on November 13, 2023, allowing the local community to immerse themselves in the deep-rooted traditions of this beloved Festival of Lights.

Diwali, the revered Hindu 'festival of lights', celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, and good over evils a time for reflection, rejuvenation, and celebration for millions across the world. This year, the local BAPS Mandir presented an experience that seamlessly wove age-old traditions with contemporary expressions of faith, culture, and community.

"I just love the fact that this is such a family and community-oriented space. I think that often times when you are out in the world, you can feel disconnected or that you do not belong anywhere. Spaces like this bring people together and remind them that they are connected, and that there are people out there that share the same traditions and values. That is really important especially for the youth," shared Karina Villa, IL State Senator representing the 25th District.

Devotees and visitors were welcomed with a vibrant and traditional reception at the Mandir's entrance, where colorful decorations, including a beautifully intricate rangoli, an ornate floor design crafted from colored powder.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



Diwali Celebration at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago

Embassy of India celebrates Ayurveda Day in Guatemala City



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his inaugural speech highlighted the growing interest and importance of Ayurveda in Guatemala

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with India Business Forum celebrated 8th Ayurveda Day on 20 November 2023 to promote the ancient Indian system of medicine. The event saw participation from 50 prominent dignitaries, companies, journalists, and friends of India who gathered in person. Dr. Preeti Apte Upasani, MD in Radiodiagnosis and a master in Yogashastra, conducted a comprehensive virtual talk from India. Her presentation delved into the myriad benefits of Ayurveda and its practical applications in daily life. Dr. Upasani is also a certified Therapeutic Yoga Consultant by AYUSH YCB, showcasing her interest in integrative medicines, with a special focus on Indian traditional medicines, particularly Ayurveda. The celebration witnessed engaging presentations from

representatives of eminent Indian and Guatemalan companies, including Dabur, Organica Guatemala, Dunar, and Yoga Point. These companies showcased their diverse range of Ayurvedic products, reflecting the rich heritage and efficacy of Ayurveda. The presentations aimed to promote awareness and encourage the adoption of Ayurvedic practices in Guatemala.

Ayurveda Day holds profound importance as it commemorates the birth anniversary of Dhanvantari, the deity associated with Ayurveda. It serves as a platform to highlight Ayurveda's holistic approach to health, emphasizing the balance of mind, body, and spirit. India's contribution to the global promotion of Ayurveda is significant, and the country is committed to sharing the benefits of this traditional knowledge system with the world.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his inaugural speech showcased the growing interest and importance of Ayurveda in Guatemala. In his speech he



Dr. Preeti Apte Upasani, MD in Radiodiagnosis and a master in Yogashastra, conducted a comprehensive virtual talk from India



The event received overwhelming support from the audience with Interactive Q&A Session

explained the principles and significance of Ayurveda, emphasizing its potential in promoting holistic health and well-being. He expressed India's keen interest in exporting Ayurvedic products to Guatemala, recognizing the untapped market and the enthusiastic response from the local population.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering Ayurvedic practices in Guatemala, promoting health and wellness, and exploring avenues for collaboration between Indian and Guatemalan companies in the field of Ayurveda. At the end, the guests were provided Ayurveda products by the companies. The 8th Ayurveda Day celebration in Guatemala City was a testament to the growing global recognition of Ayurveda and its timeless relevance in promoting a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

Barefoot College International Guatemala, Aldea Batzul, Chajul organized 2nd Graduation Ceremony of Solar Engineers



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra reiterated India's commitment to supporting Guatemala in harnessing its solar energy resources

NOVEMBER 23, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): Barefoot College International Guatemala, Aldea Batzul, Chajul organized its 2nd Graduation Ceremony of Solar Engineers on November 23, 2023. The event marked a significant achievement as 12 women from the Ixil area successfully graduated as Solar Engineers at the Barefoot College International Center. The 10-week program, equipped these women, aged between 20 and 50, with the necessary skills to become proficient Solar Engineers. Barefoot College, with rural development projects spanning 93 countries globally, has been a torchbearer in empowering communities through sustainable practices.

These newly trained Solar Engineers are now prepared to install 350 solar systems in six communities in Quiché, Guatemala. Scheduled to commence in February 2024, these installations will bring light for the first time to approximately 2,000 people in rural Quiché, showcasing India's commitment to the solar energy sector and its ongoing support to Guatemala's sustainable development initiatives.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in his speech reiterated India's commitment to supporting Guatemala in harnessing its solar energy resources. Strengthening bilateral collaboration in the solar sector will contribute to sustainable development and cleaner, greener energy for both nations. He also shared India's visionary views on meeting 50% of India's energy



Attendees gained a firsthand experience of the intricacies of solar energy



12 women from the Ixil area successfully graduated as Solar Engineers at the Barefoot College International Center

requirement from renewables by 2030, reducing projected carbon emissions by 1 Bn Tonnes. He highlighted India's global achievements, championing awareness and adoption of solar energy.

The event was also attended by Mr. Arcadio Galindo, Director Chajulense Association, Mr. Rodrigo Paris, Director of Barefoot College International and Ms. Marta Brito Raymundo, Field Technician for Gender and Nutrition, World Food Programme who appreciated India's commitment in solar energy. All the dignitaries expressed their appreciation for India's unwavering commitment to solar energy initiatives. Mr. Arcadio Galindo, recognizing the significance of sustainable practices, commended India's dedication to empowering communities through renewable energy sources. He highlighted the positive impact this endeavor will have on the lives of those in rural Guatemala.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Embassy of India in Guatemala celebrated Diwali

INDIAN FASHION SHOW AND DANDIYA DANCE PERFORMANCE WON ADMIRATION OF THE GATHERING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):

Embassy of India celebrated a magnificent Diwali, the Festival of Lights, with local Guatemalans, members of Indian community, friends of India and dignitaries from Government, international organizations and business community in Guatemala City on 18th November 2023 at Erick Barrondo Park. The event was attended by approximately 1500 guests captivating the spirit of unity and festivity. Eminent personalities from both India and Guatemala graced the occasion, including Congressman Manuel Conde, Mayor of San Juan Sacatepéquez H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Pellecer, Mayor of Chiquimula H.E. Mr. Rolando Aquino Guerra, and Ms. Renu Sharma, President of the Beti & Shiksha Foundation.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his inaugural address, conveyed warm Diwali wishes and underscored the significance of Diwali in Indian culture. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the Diya (traditional lamp), symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

The event was expertly anchored by Ms. Simaran Ahuja, the winner of the Miss India (World) pageant in 2013. With her poised and engaging presence, Ms. Ahuja added a touch of elegance to the festivities. A vibrant display of Bollywood's cultural richness unfolded as the talented dance troupe from the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, in collaboration with the skilled performers led by Ms. Satva Anand, graced the event with an enchanting Bollywood Dance performance. Seizing the moment, the winners of World Hindi Day were honored with their well-deserved awards amid the festivities.

In a collaborative effort, the Municipality of San Juan San Juan



The event commenced with Lighting of lamp by dignitaries



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his inaugural address, conveyed warm Diwali wishes and underscored the significance of Diwali in Indian culture.



Bollywood Extravaganza-Mesmerizing Dance Delight by Ms. Satva Anand's Dance Troupe



Performers from the Municipality of San Juan Engaging in Festive Diwali Celebrations

Sacatepéquez, led by H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Pellecer, teamed up with the Municipality to celebrate the Diwali Festival this year. The Municipality added a touch of local flair to the festivities by presenting a Guatemalan Fashion Show, featuring traditional attire. The event was further enriched with the musical talents of a Mariamba and guitar performers' group, bringing a blend of Guatemalan culture to the Diwali celebrations.

The central theme of this year's event was the Indian Fashion Show titled 'Vibrant Threads of Unity,' sponsored by the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and presented in Guatemala by Ms. Renu Sharma, President of the Beti & Shiksha Foundation. This spectacular show served as a captivating kaleidoscope, offering a window into the rich tapestry of India's textile heritage.



Embassy of India in Guatemala celebrated Diwali

CONTD FROM PAGE 17



Glimpses of Fashion Show



Dandiya Delight - Audience Immersed in the Mesmerizing Dance Performance by Ms. Simran Ahuja

Supported by a blend of traditional and contemporary designs, it played a pivotal role in strengthening the bonds of trade and cultural understanding between our two nations. Following the resounding success of last year's show, this marked the second consecutive Indian Fashion Show in Guatemala. The presentation kicked off by showcasing the elegance of Indian silk, featuring a diverse array of varieties such as Tussar, Muga, Brocades, Mulberry, and Kosa silk, each possessing its own distinctive allure. The exhibition underscored India's standing as a global leader in textile exports, encompassing a wide range of products from school and fashion garments to formal and bridal wear. Additionally, the show highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's vision, emphasizing the promotion of Khadi and other natural fabrics, contributing to the preservation of our planet. The show also featured an exquisite collection of formal and bridal wear, celebrating Diwali on the runway.

The audience reveled in the enchanting Dandiya dance performance by Ms. Simran Ahuja, actively joining the celebration.



Distinguished Guests honored with Exquisite 'Made In India' Shawls



Dandiya is a traditional Indian dance form that originates from the state of Gujarat. It is often performed during the festival of Navratri, a celebration that spans nine nights and honors the goddess Durga. Dancers, usually in pairs, wield colorful, decorated sticks called dandiya, and the dance involves energetic and rhythmic maneuvers.



The festivities reached a grand crescendo as the event concluded with a spectacular fireworks display orchestrated by the Embassy. The colorful bursts of light and vibrant patterns painted the night sky, capturing the essence and spirit of the Diwali Festival in a dazzling spectacle that left a lasting impression on all those in attendance.

The Diwali festival received overwhelming response from the audience



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Wife punches husband to death for not taking her to Dubai for birthday celebration

A 38-year-old man died in Pune city of Maharashtra after his wife allegedly punched him in the face as she was apparently upset with him for not taking her to Dubai to celebrate her birthday, police said. The incident occurred on Friday, Nov 24, afternoon in Wanwadi area, they said.

The deceased, Nikhil Khanna, was a real estate developer, according to the police. "During the investigation, it came to light that the man's 36-year-old wife, Renuka, had her birthday on September 18. She wanted to celebrate it in Dubai, but her husband did not fulfil her demand," an official of Wanwadi police station said.

"Besides, the couple also had their wedding anniversary on November 5 and she was expecting some good gift from her husband. The woman was also upset as she wanted to go to Delhi for her relative's birthday, but there was no favourable response from her husband," he said.

The couple had a heated argument on Friday over these issues. In a fit of rage, the woman hit her husband on his nose that led to profuse bleeding and resulted in him falling unconscious, the official said. After being informed by their neighbours, a police team reached the spot and took the victim to the Sassoon General Hospital, where he was declared dead, he added.

It is being probed whether the woman hit her husband using only her fist or some object, the police official said, adding that the exact cause of death will be known only after the autopsy.

Persistent challenges: Afghan Embassy announces permanent closure in Delhi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Afghanistan Embassy on Friday, November 24, announced its permanent closure, citing "persistent challenges from the Indian government", even as heads of its Mumbai and Hyderabad missions claimed to have assumed the leadership of the embassy here.

The developments come after the Afghanistan Embassy had announced on September 30 that it is ceasing its operations from October 1. The mission had then cited a lack of support from the host government, failure to meet expectations in serving Afghanistan's interests and reduction in personnel and resources.

In a statement, the embassy said it regrets announcing the permanent closure of its diplomatic mission in New Delhi, effective from November 23, "owing to persistent challenges from the Indian government".

"This decision follows the embassy's earlier cessation of operations on 30th September 2023, a move made in the hope that the Indian government's stance would evolve favourably for the normal continuation of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi," the statement said.

Unfortunately, despite an eight-week wait, the objectives of visa extension for diplomats and a shift in the Indian government's conduct were not realised, the Afghan embassy said. "Given the



constant pressure from both the Taliban and the Indian government to relinquish control, the embassy faced a difficult choice," it said.

However, Consul General of Afghanistan in Mumbai Zakia Wardak and Acting Consul General in Hyderabad Sayed Mohammad Ibrahimkhil declared in a statement that in view of the friendly relations between India and Afghanistan, they again reiterate that they have decided to ensure continued functioning of the embassy in New Delhi.

The two diplomats said they have assumed the leadership of the Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi.

Wardak and Ibrahimkhil urged everyone to kindly ignore and disregard the "unprofessional and irresponsible communications issued by the former Afghan diplomats who are based abroad

and have no locus standi in the internal affairs of Afghan Embassy in New Delhi".

"Such random, fraudulent, baseless and factually incorrect communications are creating panic, distrust and negativity in the overall functioning of the Embassy, as well as amongst the Afghan nationals. Such communications do not represent the wish of all Afghans," they said in the statement which was also issued on the letter head of the Afghan Embassy.

Wardak and Ibrahimkhil, in their statement, requested former Afghan ambassador and former diplomats to "not use the social media platforms of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, New Delhi for issuing any unwarranted, irresponsible and unprofessional statements/press releases from abroad".

"We are in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and trying to address the current difficult situation wherein most of our former Embassy colleagues have received asylum and left India, therefore, we are facing shortage of diplomatic and official staff," they said.

Earlier, the statement put out on the Afghan Embassy handle, said that as of now, there are no diplomats from the Afghan Republic remaining in India.

Source: PTI

Prof Gandam's new book 'Ugade Suraj Di Akh' released by Smt Apneet Riyait, IAS at a 'Pustak Lok Arpan Samagam'

PHAGWARA (TIP)

A new book 'Ugade Suraj Di Akh', authored by noted Punjabi writer Prof Jaswant Singh Gandam, was released recently here by Smt. Apneet Riyait, I.A.S., Chief Admin, PUDA, at an impressive "Pustak Lok Arpan Samagam" where she was the Chief Guest.

Punjabi Virsa Trust (Regd.) Phagwara, led by eminent Punjabi writer and columnist Gurmit Palahi, had organized it.

Arjuna awardee legendary footballer Inder Singh, Vice Chancellor Sant Baba Bhag Singh University Dr Dharamjit Singh, former national wrestling coach PR Sondhi, Ex-Head of History Department, Kamla Nehru College For Women, Phagwara Prof Manjit Kaur Riyait, General Secretary Punjab Football Association (PFA) Harjinder Singh, noted footballer Varinderjit Parmar, Sports official Deepa also graced the 'Pardhangi mandal' and spoke.

Addressing the function, Prof Jaswant Singh Gandam said, "This is my third book, having 176 pages, containing 33 articles on different issues, including 14 satirical pieces. These articles were written after the Corona (AC) period (2022-23) and published in leading Punjabi dailies and weeklies. My first book 'Kuchh Terian Kuchh Merian' and the second book 'Suttee Shehar Da Safar' each contained 28 articles written and published respectively before Corona (BC) ie before 2020 and during Corona (DC) ie 2020-21 respectively. The present book is dedicated to my soulmate Prof Sital Singh Riyait, a sports



Smt Apneet Riyait, I.A.S., Chief Admin, PUDA, releasing a new book 'Ugade Suraj Di Akh', authored by noted Punjabi writer Prof Jaswant Singh Gandam.

commentator, football promoter and trainer who left us this 12 May."

Maintaining that experiences of life and literature go cheek by jowl and that one keeps experiencing throughout one's life, Prof Gandam quoted lines from Alfred Tennyson's poem "Ulysses" in this regard, "I am a part of all that I have met; Yet all experience is an arch where thro' Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades/For ever and for ever when I move".

He said that a writer sifts and sieves the coarser elements of his experiences, purges and prunes the baser parts of events/incidents to finally pen down a refined piece of literary work.

Prof Gandam said, "A writer gives back what he gets from his surroundings".

He quoted Sahir Ludhianvi to hammer home his point-

"Duniyan ne tajarbaat-o-havadis ki shakal mei/Jo kuchh mujhey diya hai louta raha hun mei" (Whatever the world has given me in the form of experiences and events, I am returning these (to the world)).

He referred to Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle who had said that all art was mimetic by nature as it imitated life. "Actually, literature, which was a form of art, mirrored life as well as showed mirror to life", he quipped.

Maintaining that history kept people alive, PR Sondhi lauded inclusion of a chapter on Prof Sital Singh in the book.

Apneet Riyait thanked Prof Gandam for dedicating the book to her father Prof Sital Singh Riyait.

She also spoke about her interest in literature.

VC Dharamjit Singh went down memory lane while sharing his association with Prof Riyait.

Gurmit Palahi, the organizer of the function, spoke about the book and its author.

Noted Punjabi writers SL Viridi, TD Chawla, Ravinder Chot, Baldev Komal, Didar Shetra, Lashkar Dhandarwi, Parvinderjit Singh were among those present on the occasion.

Poetesses Jaswinder Kaur, Balbir Saini, Kamlesh Sandhu, Monika Bedi, Simrat Kaur and poets Baldev Raj Komal and Manoj Phagwarvi regaled audience with their poems.

Singer Manveet Mevi mesmerized listeners with his song on Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

Smt Apneet Riyait and her mother Prof Manjit Kaur Riyait were feted with shawls and a set of books.

IT firms ready to act in 7 days: Govt on tackling deepfakes

A day after the Centre said it was coming up with stricter regulations and penalties to tackle deepfakes, it on November 24, asserted all platforms and intermediaries have agreed to align their community guidelines specifically targeting 11 types of content that cause user harm, including deepfakes.

A statement of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said a 'Digital India' dialogue session was held with 'Digital Intermediaries' on deepfakes' compliance of Information Technology rules today.

Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar said: "All platforms and intermediaries agreed that current rules and laws, even as we discuss new laws and regulations, provide for adequate compliance requirements on their part to deal with deepfakes conclusively." They have agreed in the next seven days to ensure users are expressly forbidden from accessing 11 types of content specified under IT rules.

Indian Army says retired Pakistan soldiers among terrorists in J&K

In a recent terror attack in the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army said that retired Pakistani soldiers were among the group of militants.

"Some of the terrorists have been found to be retired soldiers...Pakistan wants to bring foreign terrorists here as there are no local recruits here. We are trying to eliminate the foreign terrorists," Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi said.

Further asked if Pakistan intends to push more terrorists in the coming months to disrupt upcoming elections, including the Lok Sabha polls, he answered in the affirmative without going into details.

Dwivedi made this statement yesterday after he visited the Kalakote area of the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir and reviewed the operational situation in the region. On Thursday, Nov 23, two foreign terrorists of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were eliminated in a 36-hours-long gunfight with security forces in the Bajimaal area of Rajouri's Darmsal.

Commander of 14 Sector Rashtriya Rifles Brigadier Soumeet Patnaik informed that security forces safely evacuated trapped civilians, including women and children. During the gunfight, five army personnel - Capt M V Pranjal, Capt Shubham Gupta, Hav Abdul Majid, Lance Naik Sanjay Bisht, and Paratrooper Sachin Laur - laid down their lives.

Uttarakhand tunnel rescue: Option of manual drilling being considered

UTTARKASHI (TIP)

With the auger machine encountering hurdles in the rubble time and again, rescuers are considering switching over to manual drilling at the Silkyara tunnel where 41 labourers have been trapped for the past 13 days, officials said on Saturday, November 25.

Drilling at the collapsed portion of the tunnel to rescue the trapped men was halted again on Friday night, in yet another setback to the multi-agency effort.

An official said the auger drilling machine faced a hurdle, apparently a metal object, a little after drilling resumed on Friday, a day after officials had put the operation on hold following technical problems.

With one hurdle or the other not letting the auger machine drill further and lay steel pipes through the rubble to prepare an escape route for the trapped workers, the option of manual drilling is being considered, an official said.

However, he said manual drilling takes longer.

The rescue effort began on November 12 when a portion of the under-construction tunnel on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed following a landslide, trapping workers inside.

The team of experts who came to conduct a survey at the rescue site of the Silkyara tunnel, informed that there were no heavy objects up to 5 metres in the rescue tunnel.

The team, which came from Parsan Overseas Pvt Ltd Delhi, used the ground-penetrating radar (GPR) technique to examine the rescue tunnel.



Teams at the entrance of Silkyara Tunnel during the rescue operation of 41 workers trapped inside the under-construction tunnel, in Uttarkashi district on Friday. (PTI)

"We were called because something got stuck in the auger machine. GPR helps us know how far away the metallic object is. GPR basically scans; therefore, two people are needed, one to run the GPR and the other to acquire the data. Two members of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were sent with me inside the tunnel for safety reasons. After acquiring the data with GPR technology, we came to the conclusion that there were no heavy objects up to 5 metres in the rescue tunnel," geophysicist Chendoor told ANI.

The drilling by the American-made auger machine to rescue the trapped workers was halted after the rescue team faced a technical glitch.

"We hope that all of them are rescued

safely. They have been stuck there since November 12. Every expert says that there is no escape tunnel. No rules and regulations were followed...The central or state government should take accountability from the contractors," Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Friday said.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami directed the officials that the last phase of the rescue operation should be conducted at a fast pace and with complete caution.

The rescue teams also are inserting pipes into the dug-out channel and welding them together to serve as a passageway. About 46 meters (151 feet) of pipe has been put in so far, according to Panwar.

IITM Pune launches with spectacular grand opening ceremony

PUNE (TIP)

The highly anticipated 'India International Travel Mart' (IITM) is poised to be the focal point in Pune from November 24 to 26, 2023.

The 'India International Travel Mart' transcends being merely an exhibition; it stands as a collective tribute to the spirit of adventure inherent in each individual. Beyond showcasing the latest trends and innovations in the travel industry, this exhibition serves as a platform for forging connections between cultures and cultivating a deeper understanding of our shared world, according to a press release.

The three-day B2B expo was inaugurated by Noriah Jaafar, Director, Tourism Malaysia-Mumbai, along with several dignitaries, including Deepak Pujari, President, Travel Agents Association Pune; Amit Sharma, President, Poona Hoteliers Association; Mehboob Shaikh, Chairman, Travel Agent Association Of India - Pune Chapter; Sameer Kuklarni, Chairman, The Travel Agents Federation of India - Pune Chapter; Priyaank Ranka, President, Tourism Forum of Maharashtra; Sagar Waghchoure, President, Travel Agent Association Of Nashik; Jeevan Hendre, Chairman, Enterprising Travel Agents Association - Western India; Saket Pimple, Chairman, Ethical Travel Professionals Association Of India; and Pravin Ghorpade, Chairman, Bharatiya Paryatan Vikas Society.



The event aspires to create a dynamic platform for aspiring travel agents, tour operators, corporate buyers, and members of various travel-trade organizations. It's a unique annual opportunity for networking, engagement, and meaningful connections in the vibrant realm of travel and hospitality, offering budding influencers the chance to create content and connect with their peers.

Guru Nanak: The First Master of Sikhs

The founder of the Sikh faith, Guru Nanak, was born on April 15, 1469, in the Western Punjab village of Talwandi. He was born to a simple Hindu family. His father Mehta Kalian Das was an accountant in the employment of the local Muslim authorities. From an early age Guru Nanak made friends with both Hindu and Muslim children and was very inquisitive about the meaning of life. At the age of six he was sent to the village school teacher for schooling in reading and writing in Hindi and mathematics. He was then schooled in the study of Muslim literature and learned Persian and Arabic. He was an unusually gifted child who learned quickly and often question his teachers. At age 13 it was time for Guru Nanak to be invested with the sacred thread according to the traditional Hindu custom. At the ceremony which was attended by family and friends and to the disappointment of his family Guru Nanak refused to accept the sacred cotton thread from the Hindu priest. He sang the following poem;

"Let mercy be the cotton, contentment the thread, Contenance the knot and truth the twist. O priest! If you have such a thread, Do give it to me. It'll not wear out, nor get soiled, nor burnt, nor lost. Says Nanak, blessed are those who go about wearing such a thread" (Rag Asa)

As a young man herding the family cattle, Guru Nanak would spend long hours absorbed in meditation and in religious discussions with Muslim and Hindu holy men who lived in the forests surrounding the village. Thinking that if bound in marriage Guru Nanak might start taking interest in household affairs a suitable match was found for him. At age 16 he was married to Sulakhani daughter of a pious merchant. Guru Nanak did not object as he felt that married life did not conflict with spiritual pursuits. Guru Nanak was happily married, he loved his wife and eventually had two sons Sri Chand in 1494 and Lakshmi Chand three years later. Now that he had a family of his own Guru Nanak was persuaded by his parents to take a job as an accountant in charge of the stores of the Muslim governor of Sultanpur Daulat Khan Lodi. Guru Nanak agreed and was joined by his family and an old Muslim childhood friend Mardana, a musician by profession. Guru Nanak would work during the days, but early in the mornings and late at nights, he would meditate and sing hymns accompanied by Mardana on the rabab (a string instrument). These sessions attracted a lot of attention and many people started joining the two.

Early one morning accompanied by Mardana, Guru Nanak went to the river Bain for his bath. After plunging into the river, Guru Nanak did not surface and it was reported that he must have drowned. The villagers searched everywhere, but their was no trace of him. Guru Nanak was in holy communion with God. The Lord God revealed himself to Guru Nanak and enlightened him. In praise of the Lord, Guru Nanak uttered;

"There is but One God, His name is Truth, He is the Creator; He fears none, he is without hate, He never dies, He is beyond the cycle of births and death, He is self illuminated, He is realized by the kindness of the True Guru. He was True in the beginning, He was True when the ages commenced and has ever been True, He is also True now." (Japji)

These words are enshrined at the



beginning of the Sikh Holy Scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib. Guru Nanak did not believe in a Trinity of Gods, or the belief that God can be born into human form.

After three days Guru Nanak appeared at the same spot from where he had disappeared. He was no longer the same person he had been, there was a divine light in his eyes and his face was resplendent. He remained in a trance and said nothing. He gave up his job and distributed all of his belongings to the poor. When he finally broke his silence he uttered "There is no Hindu, no Muslim". Daulat Khan asked what he meant when he said to Guru Nanak, "Perhaps the Hindus were no longer Hindus but the Muslims remain devout to their faith." Guru Nanak replied,

"Let God's grace be the mosque, and devotion the prayer mat. Let the Quran be the good conduct. Let modesty be compassion, good manners fasting, you should be a Muslim the like of this. Let good deeds be your Kaaba and truth be your mentor. Your Kalma be your creed and prayer; God would then vindicate your honour." (Majh)

Guru Nanak was thirty years old at this time in 1499. The next stage of his life began with extensive travels to spread the message of God. Accompanied by his Muslim rabab player Mardana for company, Guru Nanak undertook long journeys to convey his message to the people in the form of musical hymns. Guru Nanak choose this medium to propagate his message because it was easily understood by the population of the

time. Wherever he traveled he used the local language to convey his message to the people. He traveled throughout the Indian Subcontinent and further east, west, and north to spread his mission. Wherever he went he set up local cells called manjis, where his followers could gather to recite hymns and meditate.

Once when Guru Nanak came to the small town of Saidpur in West Punjab he choose to stay there with Lalo, a low caste carpenter. At the same time the local chief of the town Malik Bhago, who was quite wealthy and a very proud man was holding a feast to which all holy men were invited. When Malik Bhago found out that Guru Nanak would not attend his feast but instead partook of the simple fare of his host Lalo, he was quite angry and had the Guru brought to him for questioning. When asked why he didn't join in the feast, the Guru sent for the meal served by Malik Bhago and also some of the simple meal served by Lalo. Holding these in separate hands he squeezed them, blood appeared out of the rich food of Malik Bhago, while milk oozed out of Lalos simple fare. Malik Bhago was put to shame and realized that his riches had been amassed by exploiting the poor, while what Lalo offered was the milk of hard earned honest work.

Another time while camped out at a town during the rainy season, several devotees would come to the Guru on a regular basis. One of them while on the way to see the Guru, came across a prostitute and was allured by her. Thereafter he would leave home on the pretext of going to see the Guru, but

instead visited the prostitute. A few days later his friend who daily came to pay homage to the Guru was pricked by a thorn, while his neighbor, who visited the prostitute, found a gold coin in the street. The incident bewildered the Guru's devotee who came every day religiously. He mentioned it in the morning prayer meeting where Guru Nanak heard it and was amused. He told the Sikh;

"Your friend was destined to come across a treasure but due to his evil ways, it has been reduced to a single coin. While on the account of your past karma you were to have been impaled with a stake, but having reformed yourself, you have been let off with the mere prick of a thorn." (Janamsakhi)

When the Guru visited Kurukshetra in Haryana, a big fair was being held at the holy tank to celebrate the solar eclipse. There were a large number of pilgrims all over the country. On his arrival at the fair, Guru Nanak had Mardana cook them a meat dish of a deer presented to them by one of his followers. Upon finding that meat was being cooked on the holy premises, a large angry crowd gathered in anger to attack the Guru for what they thought amounted to sacrilege (Bhai Mani Singh, Gyan Ratnavali, pg. 123). Upon hearing the angry crowd Guru Nanak responded;

"Only fools argue whether to eat meat or not. They don't understand truth nor do they meditate on it. Who can define what is meat and what is plant? Who knows where the sin lies, being a vegetarian or a non-vegetarian?" (Malhar)

When Guru Nanak stopped at Hardwar

a pilgrimage center on the Ganges river he found a large gathering of devotees. They were taking ritual baths in the holy river and offering water to the sun. When the Guru asked "Why do you throw water like that?" The pilgrims replied that they were offering it to their ancestors. Guru Nanak upon hearing this started throwing water in the opposite direction towards the west. When the pilgrims asked him what he was doing? Guru Nanak replied "I am sending water to my farm which is dry". They asked, "How will water reach you crops so far away?". Guru Nanak replied, "If your water can reach your ancestors in the region of the sun, why can't mine reach my fields a short distance away?" The pilgrims realized their folly and fell at the Gurus feet.

On an eastern journey Guru Nanak visited Gorakhmata where he discussed the true meaning of asceticism with some yogis;

"Asceticism doesn't lie in ascetic robes, or in walking staff, nor in the ashes. Asceticism doesn't lie in the earring, nor in the shaven head, nor blowing a conch. Asceticism lies in remaining pure amidst impurities. Asceticism doesn't lie in mere words; He is an ascetic who treats everyone alike. Asceticism doesn't lie in visiting burial places, It lies not in wandering about, nor in bathing at places of pilgrimage. Asceticism is to remain pure amidst impurities. (Suh)

After his first long journey, Guru Nanak returned home after twelve years of propagating his message. He then set out on a second journey traveling as far south as Sri Lanka. On his return north he founded a settlement known as Kartarpur (the Abode of God) on the western banks of the Ravi river. Guru Nanak would one day settle down here in his old age. It was also here that he met a young devotee who would later go on to serve five of the following Gurus, Baba Buddha (the revered old one). On his third great journey Guru Nanak traveled as far north as Tibet. Wherever Guru Nanak traveled he always wore a combination of styles worn by Hindu and Muslim holy men and was always asked whether he was a Hindu or Muslim. Guru Nanak visited Sheikh Ibrahim the muslim successor of Baba Farid the great Sufi dervish of the twelfth century at Ajodhan. When asked by Ibrahim which of the two religions was the true way to attain God, Guru Nanak replied; "If there is one God, then there is only His way to attain Him, not another. One must follow that way and reject the other. Worship not him who is born only to die, but Him who is eternal and is contained in the whole universe."

On his fourth great journey in life Guru Nanak dressed in the blue garb of a Muslim pilgrim traveled to the west and visited Mecca, Medina and Baghdad. Arriving at Mecca, Guru Nanak fell asleep with his feet pointing towards the holy Kabba. When the watchman on his night rounds noticed this he kicked the Guru, saying, "How dare you turn your feet towards the house of God". At this Guru Nanak woke up and said, "Good man, I am weary after a long journey. Kindly turn my feet in the direction where God is not." When pilgrims and the holy men of the shrine gathered to hear Guru Nanak and question him, he sang in Persian;

"I beseech you, O Lord! pray grant me a hearing. You are the truthful, the great, the merciful, and the faultless Creator. I know for certain, this world must perish, And death must come, I know this and



nothing else. Neither wife, nor son, nor father, nor brothers shall be able to help. I must go in the end, none can undo what is my fate. I have spend days and nights in vanity, contemplating evil. Never have I thought of good; this is what I am. I am ill-starred, miserly, careless, short-sighted, and rude. But says Nanak, I am yours, the dust of the feet of your servants." (Tilang)

While in Baghdad contradicting the Muslim priests views that their were only seven upper and as many lower regions Guru Nanak shouted out his own prayer saying,

"There are worlds and more worlds below them and there are a hundred thousand skies over them. No one has been able to find the limits and boundaries of God. If there be any account of God, than alone the mortal can write the same; but Gods account does not finish and the mortal himself dies while still writing. Nanak says that one should call Him great, and God Himself knows His ownself." (Japji)

In 1916 a tablet with the following inscription was uncovered in Baghdad, "In memory of the Guru, the holy Baba Nanak, King of holy men, this monument has been raised anew with the help of the seven saints." The date on the tablet 927 Hijri corresponds to A.D. 1520-1521.

On his return journey home he stopped at Saidpur in western Punjab

during the invasion of the first Mughal Emperor Babar. On seeing the extent of the massacre by the invaders, Mardana asked Guru Nanak why so many innocent people were put to death along with those few who were guilty. Guru Nanak told Mardana to wait under a banyan tree and after a while he would return to answer his question. While sitting under the tree Mardana was suddenly bitten by an ant. In anger Mardana killed as many ants as he could with his feet. Guru Nanak said to him, "You know now Mardana, why do the innocents suffer along with the guilty?"

Guru Nanak and Mardana were both taken prisoner by the Mughal's. While in jail Guru Nanak sang a divine hymn about the senseless slaughter of the innocents by the Mughal invaders. Upon hearing it the jailer reported it to his king. Babar sent for the Guru and upon hearing him realized that Guru Nanak was a great religious figure. He asked for the Gurus forgiveness and set him free offering him a pouch of hashish. Guru Nanak refused saying the he was already intoxicated with the love and name of God.

After having spent a lifetime of traveling abroad and setting up missions, an aged Guru Nanak returned home to Punjab. He settled down at Kartarpur with his wife and sons. Pilgrims came from far and near to hear the hymns and

preaching of the Master. Here his followers would gather in the mornings and afternoons for religious services. He believed in a castless society without any distinctions based on birthright, religion or sex. He institutionalized the common kitchen called langar in Sikhism. Here all can sit together and share a common meal, whether they were kings or beggars.

While working the fields one day in 1532 Guru Nanak was approached by a new devotee who said, "I am Lehna," Guru Nanak looked at him and replied, "So you have arrived Lehna - the creditor. I have been waiting for you all these days. I must pay your debt." ("Lehna" in Punjabi means debt or creditor.) Lehna was a great devotee of the Hindu God Durga. One day having hearing about Guru Nanak and his teachings, he decided to visit and see the Guru for himself. Once Lehna met Guru Nanak he left his previous beliefs and became an ardent disciple of the Guru. Lehna's devotion to Guru Nanak was absolute, when he was not working on the farm, he would devote his spare time to the contemplation of God. Over time he became Guru Nanak's most ardent disciple. Guru Nanak put his followers to many tests to see who was the most faithful. Once while accompanied by Lehna and his two sons Guru Nanak came across what looked like a corpse covered with a sheet. "Who would eat it?" asked Guru Nanak unexpectedly. His sons refused, thinking that their father was not in his senses. Lehna though agreed and as he removed the cover he found that it was a tray of sacred food. Lehna first offered it to Guru Nanak and his sons and then partook of the leftovers himself. Guru Nanak on seeing this replied;

"Lehna, you were blessed with the sacred food because you could share it with others. If the people use the wealth bestowed on them by God for themselves alone or for treasuring it, it is like a corpse. But if they decide to share it with others, it becomes sacred food. You have known the secret. You are my image." (Janamsakhi)

Guru Nanak then blessed Lehna with his ang (hand) and gave him a new name, Angad, saying "you are a part of my body". Guru Nanak placed five coins and a coconut in front of Guru Angad and then bowed before him. He then had Bahi Budhha anoint Angad with a saffron mark on his forehead. When Guru Nanak gathered his followers together for prayers he invited Angad to occupy the seat of the Guru. Thus Guru Angad was ordained as the successor to Guru Nanak. Feeling his end was near, the Hindus said we will cremate you, the Muslims said we will bury you. Guru Nanak said; "You place flowers on either side, Hindus on my right, Muslims on my left. Those whose flowers remain fresh tomorrow will have their way." He then asked them to prey and lay down covering himself with a sheet. Thus on September 22, 1539 in the early hours of the morning Guru Nanak merged with the eternal light of the Creator. When the followers lifted the sheet they found nothing except the flowers which were all fresh. The Hindus took theirs and cremated them, while the Muslims took their flowers and buried them.

Thus having spread the words of reform throughout his lifetime, Guru Nanak successfully challenged and questioned the existing religious tenants and laid the foundations of Sikhism.

Relevance of Guru Nanak and his teachings

By Jagrup Singh Sekhon

The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and his philosophy of universalism are more relevant in contemporary times when humanity is passing through all shades of serious conflicts. The 554th birth anniversary of Sikhism's founder has proved to be a watershed in the history of Indo-Pakistan ties in an era of bitterness and animosity.

The decision to open the Kartarpur Corridor and the visa-free access to followers of his philosophy to the shrine at Kartarpur in Pakistan's Narowal district—less than 4 km from Dera Baba Nanak, another revered place of Sikhs in Indian Punjab—is a testimony to Baba Nanak's teachings of love, brotherhood and universalism. The Sikhs recite this prayer two times in a day, *Jinha Gurdhama Tou Pranth Nu Vichhodaya Gya Hi, Ohna De Sewa Sambhal Da Daan Pyare Khalsa Ji Nun Baksho* (Dear God, bless the Sikh community to have uninterrupted access to religious places left behind in Pakistan as a result of division of the subcontinent in 1947).

The teachings of Guru Nanak Dev show us the path of establishing a just social order. The social order of his time was based on inequality and injustice. He not only condemned but challenged that order in which the dominant forces of all shades were exploiting the marginalised sections. In this way, the ideology of Baba Nanak was deadly against the unjust order of the then Mughal ruler Babur. Baba Nanak condemned the caste structure and showed a path to his followers to rise above caste. His closest disciples Bhai Mardana and Bhai Bala belonged to lower castes.

The dignity of women has a special place in the teaching of Guru Nanak. He not only talked about the equality of man and woman but gave special space to the woman as a creator. Women were considered very low in the social hierarchy and treated as men's property. In these conditions Guru Nanak gave a very revolutionary idea by preaching equality of women with men. The dignity of women has been underlined in the following verses of Guru Nanak:

Bhand jamiye bhand nimmiye, bhand mangan veaho / Bhando hovey dosti, bhando challe raho / Bhand mua bhand bhaliye, bhand hove bandhaan / So kyon mandaaakhieay jit jamme raajan Bhando hi bhand upje / Bhande baajh na koay / Nanak bhande bahra, eko sacha soay (From woman, man is born;



Within woman, man is conceived; to women he is engaged and married. Woman becomes his friend; Through woman, the future generations come. When his woman dies, he seeks another woman; to woman he is bound. So why call her bad? From her, kings are born. From woman, woman is born; without woman, there would be no one at all. (Guru Nanak, Raag Aasaa Mehal 1, Page 473).

The uniqueness of his deep philosophical insights gave birth to the concept of the word 'secularism'. He was among the first who paid homage to the ideal of Na ko Hindu, na Musalman (there is no Hindu: there is no Musalman) and all are the creation of the Almighty. His conviction is that the entire universe is suffused with divine light. Leading an exemplary life, Guru Nanak presented a new vision of life to end dissension among people. His ideology was so simple, so compassionate and so practical that the

disenchanted people found in him a Messiah who gave a new purpose to their lives.

The philosophy of Baba Nanak, from the very beginning, devised an in-built system for the cooperative provision of free food (langar), accommodation and security for the needy. Before his death at Kartarpur, the Guru selected his successor from his followers and by the time he breathed his last the nucleus of a new social group had come into existence with an acknowledged Guru to guide its social and religious life. He built a community at his last place as a model of an egalitarian and sustainable society based on three principles—sangat, pangat and langar (congregation, sitting in row, free kitchen). This was to give practical shape to his teaching of oneness of mankind, to eliminate social distinctions and promote community ownership.

Giving dignity to labour was one of the other important contributions of Guru Nanak's philosophy as he said that "they alone who live by the fruits of their own labour and share its fruits with others have found the right faith". It was a death blow to the then caste structure, social hierarchy and untouchability. This ideology laid emphasis on self-reliance achieved through hard work, which would be the source of one's identity and self-respect. Primacy was given to building an equitable society where the deprived, the oppressed and the women could experience a new meaning to their existence

It is in this context that the teaching of Guru Nanak has great relevance in contemporary times. His vision of environment i.e. Pawan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahhat (Air is our guru, water our father and land our mother) about 500 years ago is a testimony to his vision of human existence and the challenges to it in times to come. He left his legacy to all of mankind; unfortunately it has not been sufficiently followed by the community that claims to be the inheritors of his teachings. The recent tussle between various Sikh groups while celebrating his birth anniversary shows that the community has yet to adhere to his ideals of brotherhood, castelessness and egalitarianism.

(The author is Professor of Political Science at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar)
Source: The New Indian Express

Guru Nanak's vision and philosophy

Building an Egalitarian Society

Even though India is an aspiring superpower, its caste hierarchy is still engraved in the societal order.

- Guru Nanak Dev's vision of a casteless society in which there is no caste hierarchy can help to establish an egalitarian society.
- His idea of equality can be deduced by the following innovative social institutions, as given by him:

Langar

Collective cooking and sharing of food.

Pangat

Partaking food without distinctions of high and low caste.

Sangat

Collective decision making.

- These egalitarian practices had directly challenged the untouchability and the caste system and continue to do so.

Social Harmony

Increased cases of intolerance, mob lynching and right-wing vigilantism, affects the secular nature and social harmony of the Indian society.

- Guru Nanak Dev's concept of "Jeeye kaa ik daata" can address these issues.

- According to him, the whole world is God's creation (Jeeye kaa ik daata) and all are born equal. There is only one universal creator i.e. "Ik Omkaar Satnaam."
- This spirit of equality began with Guru Nanak Dev's clear recognition that there is no distinction between a Hindu and Muslim. For him, no country was foreign and no people were alien.
- This philosophy is similar to the Sanskrit saying "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" that describes the whole world as one family.
- Apart from it, forgiveness, patience, forbearance, and kindness are the core of Guru Nanak Dev's teachings.

Creating a Just Society

Inequality is the root cause of all social evils.

- Guru Nanak Dev placed the motto of "kirat karo, naam japo and vand chhako" (work, worship and share) before his disciples.
- He stood for karma as the basis of dharma, and he transformed the idea of spiritualism into the ideology of social responsibility and social change.
- He suggested that we earn by honest labour and share the earnings with the needy.
- He advocated the concept of "dasvandh" or donating one-tenth of one's earning among needy persons.

- The selfless service to mankind known as "Seva" is central to the teaching of Sikhism.
- These ideals can help us in establishing a just society today.

Gender Equality

Women have been the most oppressed sections of the society.

- Guru Nanak Dev argued that "How can women be inferior when they give birth to men?"
- According to him, "Women as well as men share the grace of God and are equally responsible for their actions to him."
- Respect for women and gender equality is perhaps the most important lesson to be learnt from Guru Nanak Dev's life.

According to Indian Philosophy, a Guru is the one who provides illumination, dispels doubt and shows the right path. In this context, the ideas of Guru Nanak Dev can help promote peace, equality and prosperity across the globe.

Every person can learn a lot from the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev. Leaders of the world can also learn from his life and teachings so that meaningful dialogues between various communities can be initiated (especially in the conflict-ridden parts of the world). This will certainly propagate the ideas of peace, stability and cooperation, and make the world a better place to live in.

Guru Nanak: The eternal traveler

By Navtej Sarna

In a unique example of spiritual wanderlust, Guru Nanak spent more than 20 years on the road, spreading his message of love, compassion and equality of man. At a time when there were no quick or sophisticated means of travel, he undertook four long journeys, called *udasis*, signifying detachment. Though scholars have laid out detailed routes that he may have used, concrete evidence of the exact order of his travels is difficult to find. Indications of the places he visited as well as his experiences are contained in the *janam-sakhis*, written some decades after his passing. Some details can also be discerned from Guru Nanak's own hymns as well as in the writings of Bhai Gurdas, the scholar and amanuensis who first inscribed the *Adi Granth* in Guru Arjan's presence. Bhai Gurdas's poetic vision describes Nanak's immense travels thus: *Babe tare char chak/ nau khand prithvi sacha dhoa* (The Baba traversed the nine regions of the earth, as far as the land stretched).

It is believed that Guru Nanak certainly travelled as far as Assam in the east, present-day Sri Lanka in the south, Mount Kailash in the north and Mecca-Medina in the west. Some speculative accounts take Nanak even further afield. His mission took him to snowy heights and across burning deserts, through little villages and mighty capitals, among the ordinary as well as learned, to fairs, festivals, to temples, mosques, *khanaqahs*. These travels gave him an opportunity to observe the workings of the religions of the day in actual practice and to debate and discuss these matters of the spirit with sages and seers and also to dispel ignorance and blind ritualism, of which there was no dearth. Bhai Gurdas puts it thus: *Dithe Hindu Turaki sabhi pir paikambari kaumi katele/ Andhi andhe khuhe thele* (I saw Hindus and Muslims, holy men of all kinds/ The blind pushing the blind into a well).

Today, *gurudwaras* and shrines mark Nanak's travels to these far-flung places; local legends further establish the fact that the Guru indeed travelled extensively. Nanak was accompanied by Mardana on his travels, who carried and played the *rabab*, and also became an interesting protagonist of the many *sakhis* that are attached to these travels. One cycle of *janam-sakhis* and several illustrations show another companion, Bhai Bala.

According to some sources, Guru Nanak dressed in strange clothes that could not be identified with any sect and symbolised the universality of his message. He wore a loose long shirt of a Muslim dervish but of brownish-red colour of the Hindu *sanyasi*. Around his waist he wore a white cloth belt like a *fakir*. A short turban *Babe bhek banaia udasi ki riti chalai/ Charhia sodhan dharth lukai* (The Baba donned robes, and in the tradition of detachment/ Went to put humanity on the right path) partly covered a *qalandar's* conical cap in the manner of Sufi wanderers. His slippers were often of two different colours and designs. Sometimes it is said he wore a garland of human bones around his neck. As Bhai Gurdas wrote: *Guru Nanak's first journey took him to the east, as far as Assam and Dhaka. On the way, he visited places of pilgrimage, including Haridwar, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Kedarnath, Badrinath*



and Gaya. The *janam-sakhis* tell several tales of his discourses with learned yogis.

He also visited the Jagannath temple in Puri in Orissa. This temple is known for its annual procession when the idol is mounted on a huge chariot and the multitudes that gather vie with each other for the privilege of pulling the chariot. Here is one version of what happened there: when Guru Nanak and Mardana camped near the temple, their hymns and music attracted several devotees on their way to the temple, annoying the priests. One day, the chief priest came to Nanak and invited him to join the *aarti* (evening prayer) in the temple and Guru Nanak readily accompanied him. It was a beautiful ceremony, conducted at dusk. The priest placed earthen lamps filled with ghee on a bejeweled salver decorated with flower petals and sweet incense. They lit the wicks and swung the salver pendulum-like in front of the image while the congregation sang hymns, blew conches and tolled the bells. Nanak sat unmoved through the ceremony, and when the priests expressed their anger and surprise, he responded with a song now part of the *Granth Sahib*.

The song describes the celestial *aarti* in which the sky, the sun, the moon, the stars, the wind, the forests and the unstruck music pay obeisance to the great Creator. This, according to Nanak, was the true *aarti* that could be offered to God:

The sky the salver, the sun and moon the lamps, The stars studding the heavens are the pearls

The fragrance of sandal is the incense Fanned by the winds, all for thee The great forests are the flowers

What a beautiful aarti is being performed For you, O destroyer of fear.

The second journey took Guru Nanak south, to present-day Sri Lanka. He was accompanied by two Jat followers: Saido and Gheho.

The third *udasi* of Guru Nanak was to the north. He travelled widely in the Himalayas—several scholars have traced his steps to Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Ladakh and even Nepal and Tibet. The central event of this northern *udasi* is the visit to Mt Sumer,

recorded in all the *janam-sakhis* and also by Bhai Gurdas—Mt Sumer is said to be none other than Mt Kailash, the abode of Shiv and Parvati. There took place his meeting with 84 *siddhas*, among them the ancient souls Goraknath, Machendranath and Charpat Nath, or perhaps their spiritual successors, who had meditated long and deep and possessed great power and wisdom.

In Bhai Gurdas's version of the meeting, the *siddhas* express amazement at seeing Nanak: O youthful one! What power brings you to these heights? Who is that you worship? And Guru Nanak replied: the eternal Lord alone.

The *siddhas* ask him how the world below fared. Guru Nanak made no secret of what he felt. He said darkness, sin and injustice had taken over the world. Corruption was rampant; the fence itself had begun to eat the crop.

Sidh chhapi baithe parabati kaunu jagat kau par utara (The wise *siddhas* have escaped into the remote caves and mountains—who will then redeem the world?)

Guru Nanak had several meetings with *siddhas* and yogis, in particular with those of the *kanphata* (split-eared) sect. His discourse with these holy men, in question-and-answer form, is contained in his *Siddha*

Gosht, comprised of 73 verses in the *Granth Sahib*. The entire discourse is conducted in a spirit of humility, intellectual inquiry and tolerance. In this discourse, the *siddhas* argue that it was not possible to be part of the world and follow the path of meditation and spirituality. Nanak replied that one had to be as a lotus or a duck—to stay in the water but still remain dry. One had to be part of the world and yet be unaffected by it through meditation on His name.

The fourth *udasi* took Guru Nanak to the west and to Islamic countries and important centres such as Mecca and Baghdad. It is said that he dressed in a blue robe in the manner of a *Haji* and carried a book, a staff and a small carpet for saying his prayers.

Phir Baba gaia Baghdad no bahari kia asthana/ Ik baba akal rupu duja rababi

Mardana (Then Baba went to Baghdad and camped outside the city/ He himself one with the Timeless, and his *rabab* player Mardana).

Baghdad was then a great centre of Islamic learning, art and culture. On the outskirts of the city, in a graveyard, Mardana strummed the strings of his *rabab* in holy melody and Nanak sang hymns. When this was reported to the *Pir-e-dastgir* of Baghdad as being against the teachings of Islam, he came out to meet Nanak and inquired: *Puchhia phirikai Dastgir kaun phakir kis ka ghariana* (What faith do you belong to, and what sect of *fakirs* do you come from)? Mardana replied: *Nanak kal vich aia rab phakir iko pahichana/ Dharth akash chahudis jana* (Nanak has come to this world in *kalyug*/ He has rejected all *fakirs* except the Supreme Being, who is all pervasive—in the heavens, the earth and all four directions).

During his stay in Baghdad, the Guru also met another *pir* known as Bahlol who had several discourses with him. Finally, Bahlol and his son became followers of Nanak, who then stayed there for about four months. A shrine in Baghdad, also known as the tomb of Bahlol, marks the visit of Guru Nanak and his association with Bahlol.

After these four long journeys, Guru Nanak settled down at Kartarpur on the banks of the river Ravi. He discarded his travelling robes and put on the garb of a householder. It was time to give practical shape to his ideals and to show that true salvation lies in righteous living in this world, not in renunciation. A community of men of all faiths and callings, high and low, gathered around him. Several important traditions, including those of spiritual gatherings to listen to the praise of the Creator and the *langar*, or communal kitchen, were born here. It was here too that Guru Nanak gave up his body in 1539 after anointing Lehna, or Guru Angad, as his spiritual successor.

(Navtej Sarna is a former ambassador of India to the US and author of several books, including *The Book of Nanak*)
Source: India Today

Sikh shrines associated with Guru Nanak



Gurdwara Sri Ber Sahib

This Gurdwara is situated on the banks of the river Kali Bein near Sultanpur Lodhi, in Punjab. Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji used to perform his ablutions in the river Bein. It was here that he meditated under a Ber (plum) tree for 14 years. According to legends, he disappeared under its waters one day only to emerge three days later as the enlightened Guru. His first words upon his emergence were that there is no Hindu, no Mussalman. The Gurdwara's ground marks the place he entered the rivulet. Built by the Maharaja of Kapurthala in the mid 20th century, the Gurdwara has a three-storeyed building with a marble sanctum, octagonal pillars and stucco designs on its entrance.

Gurdwara Khandh Sahib



The name of this Gurudwara comes from 'kachi khandh' or mud wall which stood at the site of the Gurdwara in accordance with local traditions during Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji's wedding. It is located at Kandhli gate, Batala Punjab. He sat beside the wall awaiting formal reception by his hosts. An old lady at the time had pointed out the dilapidated condition of the wall to which he reassured that it was safe. Thus, the wall became a revered object for his devotees. They even constructed a memorial in front of it. A mud wall encased in glass and plastered neatly next to Guru Granth Sahib is a symbolic representation of the previous one.

Gurdwara Pathar Sahib



25 miles away from Leh lies Gurdwara Pathar Sahib. It is situated on the Leh-Kargil road and is situated 12,000 ft above sea level. It was built in 1517 AD in order to commemorate Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji's visit to Ladakh. During his lifetime, Shri Guru Nanak Dev traveled to many places and even went to Tibet. Some Tibetans even rever Guru Nanak Dev ji as a Buddhist monk with the name, Guru Gopka Maharaj, according to the Dalai Lama.

Gurdwara Sri Reetha Sahib



Situated near Diyuri village in the Champawat district of Uttarakhand this Gurudwara holds special significance for Sikhs. Along with Bhai Mardana ji, Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji himself visited the place. He asked Mardana ji to eat a reetha (soapnut) as they were sitting under its tree. Usually slightly bitter, the reetha had tasted sweet. Nearby ascetics got wonder-struck by this feat. Later, all reethas where Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji sat were found to have turned sweet.

Gurdwara Shri Pehli Patshahi

Gurdwara Shri Pehli Patshahi means the Gurdwara of the first master. It is situated near Lakhpat in Gujarat. Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji visited here during his first and fourth udasis (missionary journeys). He visited the site on his way towards Mecca during his fourth udasi. His rare personal possessions are retained in this Gurdwara. Thus, making it a must-visit place for any devotee.

Darbar Sahib Gurdwara



Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, also called Kartarpur Sahib, is a gurdwara in Kartarpur, located in Shakargarh, Narowal District of Punjab, Pakistan.

It is built on the historic site where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, settled and assembled the Sikh community after his missionary travels (udasis to Haridwar, Mecca-Medina, Lanka, Baghdad, Kashmir and Nepal and lived for 18 years until his death in 1539. It is one of the holiest sites in Sikhism, alongside the Golden Temple in Amritsar and Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib.

The gurdwara is also notable for its location near the border between Pakistan and India. The shrine is visible from the Indian side of the border. Indian Sikhs gather in large numbers on bluffs to perform darshan, or sacred viewing of the site, from the Indian side of the border.

The Kartarpur Corridor was opened by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on 9 November 2019, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and just days before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. This historic moment officially allowed Indian Sikh pilgrims rare visa-free access to the site in Pakistan. It is also claimed to be the largest gurdwara in the world.

The gurdwara was built to commemorate the site where Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, settled after his missionary work and did farming. Guru Nanak founded the Kartarpur town by Ravi River in 1504, plowing the fields and setting up a community kitchen, or Langar. He assembled a Sikh commune there, and lived for 18 years until his death on 22 September 1539. The gurdwara is built where Guru Nanak is said to have died.[5] It is therefore the second holiest site of the Sikh religion after Gurdwara Janam Asthan – the birthplace of Guru Nanak located in Nankana Sahib, Pakistan.

Here, Guru Nanak gave the three principles of Kirat Karo, Naam Japo, Vand Chako, which means work hard for a livelihood, keep remembering God and share your bounties with the world. Guru's teachings have been peace, harmony, and universal brotherhood. Guru Nanak believed in equality between castes, religions, and genders and gave the word Ik Onkar meaning there is only one God.

According to Lahore-based art historian Fakr Syed Aijazuddin, the shrine houses the last copies of the original Guru Granth Sahib. A Sikh pilgrim remarked, "Every step here reminds us of the Guru's life". Indian Sikhs gather in large numbers on bluffs on the Indian side of the border to obtain darshan, or sacred viewing, of the site.[9]

As per popular legend, there was a dispute between the local Hindus and Muslims after Guru Nanak died. Muslims, who saw him as their pir, wanted to bury him while Hindus, who claimed Nanak as their guru, wanted to cremate his body. But the legend follows that Guru Nanak's body was turned into flowers, which were then divided between the two communities.

Gurdwara Sri Nankana Sahib



Nankana Sahib is located in Pakistan about 50 miles west of Lahore. Originally known as Raipur, it went by the name of Rai Bhoi di Talwandi at the time of Guru Nanak's birth. Nankana is the site of several historic gurdwaras built to commemorate miraculous occurrences during Guru Nanak's life. The gurdwaras are surrounded by 18,750 acres of land bestowed to Guru Nanak by Rai Bular Bhatti, the Muslim headman of Talwandi village. His descendants have revered Guru Nanak through the centuries.

Gurdwara Nankana (Janam Asthan) is built at the site of Guru Nanak Dev's birthplace and childhood home. It is the most prominent of all the gurdwaras located in the town of Nankana, Pakistan. It is the host of annual gurdwarab festivities commemorating Guru Nanak's birth which are celebrated on the full moon in the latter part of the year.

If there is one God, then there is only His way to attain Him, not another. One must follow that way and reject the other. Worship not him who is born only to die, but Him who is eternal and is contained in the whole universe.

GURU NANAK



Heartiest Congratulations On The 554th Birth Anniversary Of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



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SPECIAL REPORT ON RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY POLLS

It's no cakewalk for BJP, Congress
complacent on slew of Guarantees

BY DR YASH GOYAL



BJP Manifesto release by BJP President JP Nadda

NOVEMBER 23, 2023

JAIPUR (TIP): The elections are finally here in the sandy desert of Rajasthan. Mainly it would be a contest between the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP parties, but the state level political parties have put both of them in a triangular contest on about 80 seats.

The high-profile election campaign for 199 seats of assembly has ended as the ruling Congress, the BJP, BSP, RLP, CPI-M, and AAP have left no stone unturned to lure the voters for the November 25 voting in Rajasthan. Though the voting was scheduled on 200 seats but election on one seat of Karanpur was postponed after Congress candidate Gurmeet Kunnar's death.

One thing is very clear that there is no wave in this election like there was Modi wave in LS 2014 and 2018 polls. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is overwhelmed that there has been no anti-incumbency factor to his government that could harm his prospects of winning a second consecutive term in the present polls. Gehlot's 10 flagship schemes implemented in his tenure and offering 7-guarantees, if voted to power, has kept BJP troubled and confused, that is why the Modi government inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of schemes worth crores of rupees in all sectors in the last six months.

For the last 15 years, there was a pattern of one term (five years) for one party and the next term for another party. Once BJP, second time Congress. It appears that it's no cakewalk for BJP which is considering her turn of power as certain with greedy eyes. Congress is complacent of its flagship schemes and 7-guarantees.

While the BJP is solely dependent on party symbol 'Kamal' (lotus) and 'Modi Face' as projected by the Prime Minister himself in various poll rallies. Keeping away the prominent local leaders mainly former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje from his coterie, Modi was always joined in every poll rally, road shows and meetings by the State BJP President CP Joshi who is LS MP from Chittorgarh too. At a few public meetings, Raje was seen sitting on dais with the PM but did not deliver her speech. Without taking any risk, BJP has fielded its 7 MPs in the assembly elections, that too by changing their original constituencies.

In the last assembly poll 2018, out of 200 Legislative Assembly, the Congress had won and formed the government with 100 (with one alliance partner) MLAs, whereas BJP had 71, RLP 3, BSP 6 (who later joined the Congress in 2019), Independent 13, CPI-M and BTP 2 each. Congress has votes percentage of 39.30 and BJP secured 38.77 percent. The government formation by the Congress took place at the difference of 0.53 percent against the BJP.

Probably third front, the BSP, RLP, Tribal Parties (BTP and ATP) which are having up to 1 to 4 percent of vote share are going to give a triangular contest to the Congress and BJP. Like BSP and Independents which supported the Gehlot government when the BJP allegedly tried to topple the Government in 2020-21, can play a major role in forming the new government, if it is a hung assembly.

Congress' CM Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot, CP Joshi,

Govind Singh Dotasara, Dr B D Kalla and BJP's Vasundhara Raje, Rajendra Rathore, seven sitting BJP MPs and one of the RLP are among the 1875 contestants are in the fray.

Besides two major political parties, BSP's 188 candidates, AAP's 87, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party's (RLP) 77, Bhartiya Tribal Party (BTP) 5 and CPI-M's 17 contestants are vying the election. Out of 1875 candidates, the Congress has fielded 200 (with one alliance of RLD), BJP 200, Independents 737, BSP 185, AAP 86, RLD 78, and CPI-M Three.

Twenty-six ministers including Gehlot are also trying hard to return to their constituencies. Seventeen rebels of Congress, and 23 of BJP are among other third front parties facing triangular contests on at least 85 seats. Congress has given tickets to contest polls only to 27 women (13.5 percent), and BJP 20 (10 percent). Besides the BJP, all other parties have given opportunity to Muslims to try their luck for legislatorship.

Modi and his cabinet colleagues, BJP leaders including Vasundhara Raje, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress' star campaigners Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, AAPs Arvind Kejriwal and BSP Supremo Mayawati have held poll meetings since November 9 in the constituencies in support of their contestants by making guarantees and promises.

The PM has held about 20 meetings out of 26 planned so far, and a big roadshow in Jaipur and Bikaner. Kharge, Priyanka, and Rahul Gandhi accompanied by Gehlot, party in charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, and Sachin Pilot have conducted whirlwind electioneering. There were allegations and counter allegations from both sides by star campaigners. Literally there was mudslinging between the top leaders of both the BJP and the Congress.



Congress Manifesto release by Congress President Charge and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and other party leaders, including Sachin Pilot

In its election manifesto, the ruling Congress has given assurance of 7-guarantees besides its ongoing 10 flagship schemes, if voted to power. Jan Ghoshna Patra-II (manifesto) assuring to raise the medical health insurance "Cheeranjivi" from Rs.25 lakh to Rs.50 lakh, besides offering 10 lakh new jobs to the youths which included 4 lakh government jobs if voted to power, and to provide Rs. 2 lakh bank loan without interest to farmers.

Whereas the BJP in its Sankalp Patra assuring a strong government, best infrastructure, life safety to women-Dalit-poor; free education to girls, a bonanza of farmers' schemes, and Ladli Protsahan Yojna. Kisan Saman Nidhi would be raised to Rs.12000 per annum and the LPG cylinder to deserving Ujjwala beneficiaries would be provided in Rs. 450, and about 2.5 lakh government jobs too.

Twenty-six ministers including CM Gehlot are also trying hard to return to their constituencies. Seventeen rebels of Congress, and 23 of BJP are among other third front parties facing triangular contests on at least 80 seats. Congress has given tickets to contest polls only to 27 women (13.5 percent), and BJP 20 (10 percent). Besides the BJP, all other parties have given opportunity to Muslims to

try their luck for legislator.

Most of the BJP's star campaigners including the PM, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh have raised the anti-Gehlot regime issues including the worst law and order condition, paper leak scam, appeasement policy to shelter terrorists, red diary pages' secrets, women and girls' rape, private lockers, Udaipur's Kanhaiya Lal beheading case, and corruption scams in mining and other departments. The BJP also twisted the Congress' arm on religion, caste, and Sanatan dharma by fielding 5 sants from Sirohi, Tizara, Pokhran and Hawamahal seats.

Congress leaders trying their best to defend the allegations made by the BJP star campaigners including the PM and Shah, and Gehlot challenged them to discuss and take up the matters related to the state government's flagship schemes like OPS, Health Insurance, Farmers' loan waiver, Women relief in LPG cylinder; free mobile to women, and recently introduced 7-guarantees. RaGa is constantly hitting the BJP for not thinking of 'caste census/survey' in the country. Congress criticized the Central government's Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax raids and sent a strong message to the public for Modi's anti-democratic move.

Final verdict of this election is still in the hands of voters (other than BJP & Congress' fundamental voters) that may swing due to two factors; the castes (SC/ST/OBC/Minority/Gurjar/Jat/Rajput) and candidate's close affinity with voters. Caste factor most of the time dominate and decides the candidates' fate in the Rajasthan polls.

NAMO : On his last poll meeting at Sagwara on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I am predicting that Ashok Gehlot's government will never be formed in the state. Last time also by committing sin they (Congress) threw dust in your eyes; this time they are doing it in a new name. Clean up the mess of Congress."

GEHLOT : In an interaction with our correspondent, Gehlot has expressed confidence that the Congress would retain power in the state by securing a massive mandate in the Assembly elections.

"There is no anti-incumbency against the Congress government in the state despite the fact that the Assembly elections are round the corner. We will beat the anti-incumbency trend for the first time in the state," he said in an interview to our senior correspondent recently. Congress is united, BJP not able to even identify CM face in Rajasthan, Gehlot said.

CM claimed that the state government was taking decisions with the aim of providing the maximum relief to the people and the schemes launched by his government were being discussed across the country. "People in other parts of the country are talking about our schemes, like the Old Pension Scheme and the Right to Health."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



PM Narendra Modi



CM Ashok Gehlot

"In this world
when you ask of happiness
Pain steps forward"
GURU NANAK



*Heartiest Congratulation on the 554th
Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji*



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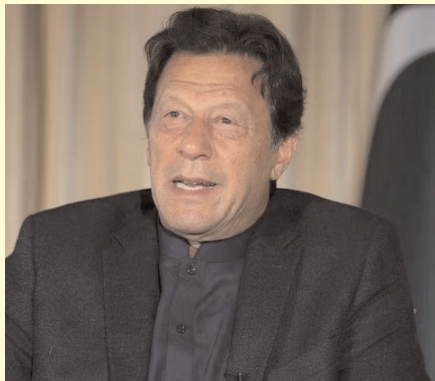
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PAKISTAN COURT STRIKES DOWN NOTIFICATION TO KEEP FORMER PM IMRAN KHAN IN JUDICIAL LOCKUP

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Islamabad High Court on November 21 declared illegal the August 29 notification which had directed jail authorities to keep former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan in "judicial lockup" in the cipher case, according to media reports.

The court issued the directives while hearing an intra-court appeal filed by Khan against a single-member bench's decision that had approved the ex-premier's jail trial in the cipher case, according to the Dawn newspaper.

Earlier in the morning, the two-member panel of Islamabad High Court reserved the judgement till evening.

A single-judge bench of the same court had earlier turned down the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's appeal against his trial in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

The 71-year-old former premier has been kept in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since September 26 when he was shifted there from the District Jail in Attock.

The Ministry of Law issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of the former prime minister as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulqarnain on August 29, Geo News reported.

In March 2022, Khan and his foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi were alleged to have violated the secret laws of the country while handling a communication (cipher) sent by Pakistan's embassy in Washington.

The diplomatic cable reportedly went missing from Khan's possession.

According to the former ruling party, the cable contained a threat from the United States to topple the PTI's government.

The duo was indicted on October 23 and their formal trial has already begun with the recording of statements by witnesses.

The Islamabad High Court had upheld the indictment when challenged by the cricketer-turned-politician.

However, it had stayed the trial until adjudication on the intra-court appeal. (PTI)

Bangladesh beauty queen brings 'dawn of hope' for trans women

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladeshi trans woman Yasin Ahmed Sokal always wanted the freedom to dress like her sisters, but never in her wildest dreams did she imagine being showered with applause at a beauty pageant in her conservative homeland.

For 24-year-old Sokal, her triumph in one of the South Asian nation's most prestigious beauty contests was not only a personal victory but one that sent a message of hope.

Sokal, whose name means "dawn" in Bengali, was this month named second runner-up in Miss Evergreen Bangladesh 2023.

"I hope I've brought a dawn of hope for trans women in Bangladesh," Sokal said in the capital Dhaka.

"It is a victory for thousands of trans women and thousands of Sokals out there."

Among Bangladesh's population of 170 million an estimated 1.5 million people are transgender, but they have long faced discrimination and violence.

Stories are common of transgender people being abandoned by families and communities, forcing them to beg or be driven into the sex trade.

"It sends a message of hope to all closeted transgender people that is: beauty doesn't remain limited to men and women," she said.

"Beauty is everywhere, diversity is beauty, and beauty has no gender."

Attitudes in the Muslim-majority country towards trans people are slowly shifting, although the LGBTQ community still faces massive legal and societal discrimination.



Homosexuality is criminalised under a colonial-era penal code.

Sokal, a fashion student in Dhaka, grew up in a hostile world where her wish to be a woman was mocked.

"I was born male, but I'd always realised I was growing up as a woman," Sokal told AFP.

Coming from a Muslim family from a rural village 60 kilometres (38 miles) east of the capital Dhaka, Sokal knew as a child she felt different.

"I was a victim of bullying so many times in school and college," she said, in a quiet voice.

She described how she was refused enrolment into an English course "because of my gender identity".

For the beauty contest, which was open to only women, Sokal was questioned as her name sounds like a man's.

"It was only after I was able to convince them about my identity that

they called me for the audition," she said.

"Victory in the Miss Evergreen Bangladesh is a testament that I am a woman. Thanks to the contest, finally people have appreciated my beauty."

While Sokal identifies as a trans woman, many in Bangladesh would identify her as a "hijra" -- a South Asian term for a "third gender".

In Bangladesh, hijras have held a unique cultural position, with the popular belief they can confer luck or good health to others.

In 2013, trans people were officially identified as a separate gender, and in 2018, they were allowed to vote and run in elections.

Two transgender candidates have since won mayoral elections, while employers have slowly overcome earlier stigmas to recruit them to jobs.

Islamic clerics have opened dozens of seminaries to trans students, expediting their social inclusion. (AFP)

Thailand's Cabinet approves a marriage equality bill to grant same-sex couples equal rights

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's Cabinet on November 21 approved an amendment to its civil code to allow same-sex marriage, with an expectation for the draft to be submitted to Parliament next month.

Karom Polpornklang, a deputy government spokesperson, said the amendment to the Civil and Commercial Code will change the words "men and women" and "husband and wife" to "individuals" and "marriage partners" for same-sex couples to be able to receive the same rights that heterosexual couples receive.

He said the law would guarantee the right to form a family in a relationship between same-sex couples, adding that the next step will be an amendment to the pension fund law to recognize same-sex couples as well.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin told reporters that the draft law is expected to be proposed to Parliament on Dec. 12.



If it becomes law after Parliament's approval and King Maha Vajiralongkorn's endorsement, Thailand will be the third place in Asia, after Taiwan and Nepal, to allow same-sex marriage.

While famous for being an LGBTQ+ friendly country, Thailand has struggled to pass a marriage equality law. Parliament last year debated several legal amendments to allow either

marriage equality or civil unions, which do not grant same-sex couples all the same rights as heterosexual couples. All of the bills failed to be passed before the parliamentary session of the previous government ended.

The new government led by the Pheu Thai party, which took office in August, revived the attempt to pass a marriage equality bill, which it had promised during its election campaign. (AP)



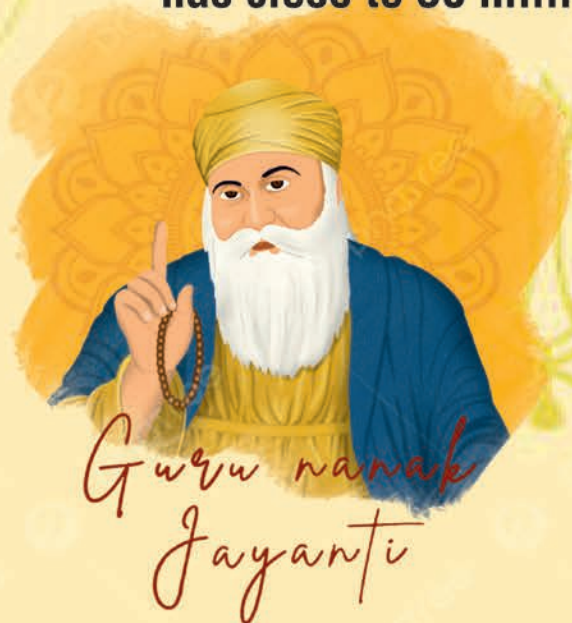
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DESI FILMS OF NOTE

BY MABEL PAIS

AMERICAN SIKH

Dirs: Ryan Westra & Vishvajit Singh; USA; English; Short; 10m
2023 Academy Award Winner GUNEET MONGA KAPOOR with
Michelin-starred Chef and Filmmaker VIKAS KHANNA Executive Produce
OSCAR® Qualified Animated Short AMERICAN SIKH

'AMERICAN SIKH,' directors Ryan Westra and Vishvajit Singh teamed up to bring more diverse representation and experiences into today's media and to challenge perceptions of what an American (and a superhero) can look like.

2023 Academy Award winner Guneet Monga Kapoor ('The Elephant Whisperers') and one of Vanity Fair's top ten chefs Vikas Khanna serve as Executive Producers for this important film.

Vishvajit Singh is publicly known for his Captain America persona - a Sikh man equipped with his turban and beard - fighting against bigotry, intolerance and perceptions of what an American should look like. But Singh, the only member of his family born in the U.S., didn't always feel he could embrace his identity this way.

The true and unlikely story of an American born, turban-wearing Sikh man, Vishvajit Singh, who after a lifetime of facing prejudice, self-doubt and violence, finally finds acceptance in a superhero costume.

GUNEET MONGA KAPOOR



Guneet Monga Kapoor

Credit/ Sikhya Entertainment

Voted as one of the top 12 women achievers in the Global Entertainment industry by The Hollywood Reporter and among the top 50 Indians changing India by 'India Today,' Guneet has been a force to reckon with and a game-changing producer in Indian cinema. Guneet is an Indian film producer, a BAFTA nominee and amongst the first producers from India to be inducted in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She is the recipient of the Global Media Makers fellowship by Film Independent and the US Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. In 2019, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded her the prestigious Sloan Science and Film grant.

Guneet Monga Kapoor

is a trailblazing filmmaker, not only is she the first producer in India to win an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short for 'The Elephant Whisperers,' she is also one of the first producers from India to be inducted into the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Science.

Guneet is the founder of Sikhya Entertainment, a Mumbai-based production house. She has produced close to 30 feature films including ground-breaking cinema such as 'Lunchbox,' 'Monsoon,' 'Shootout,' and 'Massan,' to name a few. She was one of the Executive Producers behind 'Period. End of Sentence.' which won an Academy Award in 2019.

VIKAS KHANNA

Vikas Khanna is an internationally acclaimed Indian American Michelin-starred chef, filmmaker, and author. He is a James Beard nominee and one of the first Indian chefs to be awarded a Michelin Star in the U.S. He has been featured amongst the 10 most influential chefs in the world by Vanity Fair. Vikas is the author of 41 award winning books, and the creator of 'Holy Kitchens' creating awareness of Sikhism through community kitchens. 'The Last Color' marks Khanna's debut as a film writer and director, which raised awareness of the disinheritance of widows, whilst 'Barefoot Empress' focussed on education for girls in India.

Learn more about directors Ryan Westra, Vishvajit Singh and the film at americansikhfilm.com.

AGAINST THE TIDE

Dir: Sarvnik Kaur; Exec Prod: Mira Nair; 2023; India, France; Koli, Marathi, Hindi; 1h 37m

Winner - Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Award

Nominee - Gotham Award for Best Documentary

Shortlisted - IDA Award for Best Feature Documentary

OPENS IN NEW YORK CITY ON NOVEMBER 24



Koli Fishermen - Rakesh & Ganesh

Credit / Courtesy, norget.com

'AGAINST THE TIDE' is crafted from moments in the lives of Bombay fishermen Rakesh and Ganesh, inheritors of the great Koli knowledge system - a way to harvest the sea by following the moon and the tides.

Rakesh has kept faith in the traditional fishing methods while Ganesh has strayed away from them, embracing technology. 'Against the Tide' is a tale of friendship and rising resentment between the two men, as close as brothers, against the backdrop of an adoring sea, which is increasingly turning hostile because of climate change.

Even as the fish become scarcer and the environment more hostile, the difference in their fishing techniques becomes the reflection of their different approach to life. Following the undulated life trajectories of Rakesh and Ganesh diligently and over a long period, the film weaves a story about the perpetuity and fragility of brotherhood, love, and a beautiful natural world that is being crushed under the menacing effects of climate change.

SARVNIK KAUR

Sarvnik's grandparents were born in Pakistan when the country was part of British India. In 1947, India and Pakistan were divided and the two countries entered into a mortal conflict which continues today.

Her grandfather's family, Sikhs, fled Pakistan to a refugee camp in New Delhi, where her father was born. In 1984, her grandparents had managed to leave the camp and build a modest house, but it was completely destroyed during an anti-Sikh riot. She was one year old. Her family had to move again. She grew up with the trauma of these successive uprootings and a constant fear.

For the past ten years, she had lived next to a Koli village. This has allowed her to get closer to them, to witness their daily concerns. In 2016, when the regional authorities decided to transform their market into a commercial complex without consulting them, the 'Collective of Women Fish Sellers' immediately put up resistance. Sarvnik became actively involved with them and made some short films that they used to conduct their campaign. This is how her journey with the Kolis began. She has spent the last five years with the Koli community and has come to understand their lives - the conflicts and the joys - as a filmmaker, as an ethnologist, and now as a friend. With time and patience, both Sarvnik and the Kolis have established a relationship of trust.

By following the life of one and then the other, she hoped to make the film viewer question his own convictions and the choices he would have made himself if he had been in their place.

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

HONORING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH

BY MABEL PAIS

LAKOTA NATION VS. THE UNITED STATES

Directed by Jesse Short Bull and Laura Tomaselli

Produced by Phil Pinto and Benjamin Hedin

'LAKOTA NATION VS. UNITED STATES' is a powerful and thought-provoking documentary chronicling the ongoing current struggle and journey of the Lakota people to reclaim their land and sovereignty and the legal battle they have waged against the United States government.

The Black Hills, the birthplace and life-giving land of the Lakota people, is the most sacred place on earth to them that has shaped thought, identity and philosophy for the O'ėti Šakówi? since time immemorial.

at Sundance. In 2014 he was part of the effort to change the name of Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County in South Dakota. Currently employed by the Oglala Lakota tribal government, Short Bull is a member of the board of the Black Hills Film Festival. With the First Peoples Fund he leads youth filmmaking workshops in the Oglala Lakota Nation.

"LAKOTA NATION VS. THE UNITED STATES" is a story that I have a powerful connection to. My great-great grandfather, Tatanka Ptchela (Short Bull) was an active witness to the conflict between the two nations in the mid and late nineteenth century. He refused to sign the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty and lived his life resisting the encroachment of Lakota lands.

Five generations later, as a member of the Oglala Tetonowan Oyate, and employee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I bear witness to the efforts of people

recently, she edited the documentary features MLK/FBI and Surge as well as the nonfiction shorts 'Feathers' and 'Lowland Kids.' For her work on MLK/FBI Tomaselli received a Cinema Eye Award Nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Editing. Her films have screened at Sundance, SXSW, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Toronto International Film Festival.

She said, "While this history isn't familiar to a majority of Americans, these landscapes certainly are. This rang true as our crew traveled through and around the Black Hills region on what felt like a surreal family vacation. Filming alongside tourists at sites like Mount Rushmore, the difference in our perspectives was consistently jarring. (The systematic extermination of the American buffalo is now a "Buffalo Hunt" roller-coaster adjacent to the set of Dances with Wolves.) From the outset of this



Battle Scene from lakotationvsus.movie

Credit / lakotationvsus.movie

Yet with the arrival of the first Europeans in 1492, the sacred land has been the site of conflict between the people it has nurtured, and the settler state seeking to exploit and redefine it in its own image. This powerful new documentary is a searing testament to the strength of the Oyate and a visually stunning rejoinder to the distorted image of a people long shaped by Hollywood. 'Lakota Nation vs. United States' is a lyrical and provocative testament to a land and a people who have survived removal, exploitation and genocide--and whose best days are yet to come.

Watch the official trailer - youtu.be/eV9Oeut62vw
Learn more at lakotationvsus.movie

JESSE SHORT BULL (CO-DIRECTOR)

Jesse Short Bull, Director, wrote and produced the 2013 short 'Istinma,' set in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota.

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts, Short Bull received a 2016 Sundance Institute Native American and Indigenous Program Development Grant

and also attended the Creative Producing Summit

committed to getting the Black Hills back.

From the humblest of dreams, to the dedicated government-to-government conversations, I believe it is time to tell the story of America's longest running failure to do the right thing," said Jesse Short Bull.

"With the (current) U.S. government leadership in place, there is a sense of urgency to tell this story. It is a real fear of mine that as time passes by, future generations will still be fighting for their right to their Sacred He Sapa (Black Hills). This story needs an end, and that end is the return of our relative, the Black Hills. The Lakota nations involved with the Black Hills land claim are those I will work my hardest to represent fully and accurately. My grandfather, Tatanka Ptchela, refused to accept anything for the Blacks Hills, and I will approach my work on this film with the same standard as he did, committed to the people and the advancement of their desires."

LAURA TOMASELLI (CO-DIRECTOR/EDITOR)

Laura Tomaselli, Director and Editor is a filmmaker with credits spanning narrative, documentary, and commercial projects. Most

project we felt a weight to visually represent the Black Hills as sacred and holy rather than a backdrop. In demolishing the sacred Six Grandfathers to make way for the construction of Mount Rushmore, interviewees would often invoke demolishing the Sistine Chapel as a metaphor. In this way our visual approach often became shortened to "film nature like a church."

"WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THAT PHRASE BY FAULKNER, "THE PAST ISN'T REALLY PAST AT ALL." WE WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH AMERICANS INTERACT WITH THIS STORY IN THE PRESENT DAY-A REENACTMENT OF CUSTER'S LAST STAND, A CEREMONY TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTS OF COLONIZATION ON TURTLE ISLAND. THIS IS A STORY ABOUT ENDURING LAKOTA RESISTANCE AND EXISTENCE, BUT IT'S ALSO A CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESENT. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF UNTIL WE ACTUALLY LEARN THE HISTORY."

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

INDIE FILM FEST RETURNS FOR SECOND TIME TO NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

DYLAN K NARANG's 'Tapawingo' Opens Fest
Co-Director VINUSHU SUNDARESAN's 'The Blind Zone'
Co-Director DANIEL RASHID's 'Chauncey'
RAVI STEVE KHAJURIA's 'The Pros And Cons Of Killing Yourself'
MICAH KHAN's 'The Zombie Wedding'
MOHAMMAD ANWERZADA's 'Itch'
NAZRIN CHOUDHURY's Red, White And Blue

Dances With Films (DWF - danceswithfilms.com), Los Angeles' largest purely indie film-focused film festival over the past 26 years, heads to New York City for the 2nd year (November 30-December 3) featuring a film lineup nearly three times the size of last year's NYC debut.

Among DWF NYC's lineup of 136 films, including 20 narrative features, 9 documentary features, 19 television and streaming pilots, and 88 short films (73 narrative and 15 documentaries), are an impressive number of world premieres. All screenings will take place, November 30-December 3, at the Regal Union Square at 850 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

After becoming the leading beacon for true indie films and filmmakers in Los Angeles over the past 26 years, this will mark Dances With Films' return to New York City for the second year. Dances With Films' Founders and Directors Leslee Scallon and Michael Trent, said, "This year's theme is "the color of imagination" and that imagination, by its various definitions, exemplifies what 'Dances With Films' will be highlighting this December. We could not be more excited to return to NYC and debut so many wonderful films and help provide a platform for all our indie filmmakers and their projects under the spotlight of this great city."

DWF NYC also present a series of filmmaker panels focused on current real world issues faced by today's indie filmmakers at The Stand (116 E. 16th Street) Panels will include "Distribution: Navigating the Marketplace as Well as Forecasting the Future", which will be moderated by Scott Macauley (Filmmaker Magazine), and is slated to include executives from Magnolia Pictures, IFC, and STX Entertainment, "Making the Sale: The Producer/Sales Agent Dynamic" moderated by Kate Erbland (Indiewire), and includes Carylanna Taylor (Head of Sales Film Sales Corp), Josh Braun (Founder & President, Submarine), and Jason Ishikawa (Sr. Exec. & Co-head of Sales, Cinetic Media), and "The Casting Director/Producer Dynamic" moderated by Michael Sladik (SAGindie New York), and includes casting directors Shayna Markowitz, Bernie Telsey, and Paul Schnee.

'DANCES WITH FILMS' 2023 NYC EVENT LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT

'Tapawingo'

Dir: Dylan K. Narang; USA; 1h 49m



'Tapawingo,' Opening Night. Credit / danceswithfilms.com

An oddball becomes the bodyguard for a misfit teenager and finds himself in the crosshairs of the town's family of bullies.

CLOSING NIGHT

'The Activated Man' - World Premiere

Dir: Nicholas Gyenyey; USA; 1h 55m



'The Pros and Cons of Killing Oneself.'
Credit / danceswithfilms.com

As Ors Gabriel struggles with the grief from losing his best friend and beloved dog to cancer, the trauma brings on strange visions only Ors can see.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

'Advanced Chemistry' - World Premiere

Dir: Etana Jacobson; USA; 1h 36m

The Bastard Sons - World

Premiere

Dir: Kevin Interdonato; USA; 1h 30m

'Between The Lights' - World Premiere

Dir: Michael Groom; UK; 1h 44m

'Bound' - World Premiere

Dir: Isaac Hirotsu Woofter; USA; 1h 41m

Can't Seem to Make You Mine - World Premiere

Dirs: Sara Katarina Burke, Aaron Andrew Keene; USA; 1h 42m

Daruma

Director: Alexander Yellen; USA; 1h 44m

Grounded

Dir: Justin Chan; USA; 1h 24m

Home Free

Dir: Aaron Brown; USA; 1h 38m

Influence - World Premiere

Dir: Ryan Moore; USA; 1h 23m

Katie's Mom

Dir: Tyrrell Shaffner; USA; 1h 51m

M - North American Premiere

Dir: Vardan Tozija; Macedonia/Croatia/Kosovo/France/Luxembourg; 1h 39m

Nobody's Home - World Premiere

Dir: Michelle Bossy; USA; 1h 23m

Palimpsest - North American Premiere

Dir: Hanna Vastinsalo; Finland; 1h 49m

Space Baby

Dir: Rex Dean; USA; 1h 39m

Tallywacker - World Premiere

Dir: Brendan Boogie; USA; 1h 30m



'The Zombie Wedding.'
Credit / danceswithfilms.com

The Zombie Wedding - World Premiere

Dir: Micah Khan; USA; 1h 39m

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

44 Lights: Music from

Ground Zero

Dir: Barbara Blackburn Tuttle; USA; 1h 8m

American Pot Story: Oaksterdam

Dirs: Dan Katzir and Ravit Markus; USA; 1h 37m

Brothers Broken

Dirs: Geoff Levin, Lily Richards; USA; 1h 26m

Denim Hunter - U.S. Premiere

Dir: Emilio Di Stefano; Sweden; 1h 27m

The Depths of My Despair

Dir: Elizabeth Lawrence; USA; 1h 8m

District Of Second Chances - World Premiere

Dir: Wynette Yao; USA; 1h 16m

Meet Me Where I Am

Dir: Grant Garry; USA; 1h 26m

Studio One Forever

Dir: Marc Saltarelli; USA; 1h 26m

Torched - The Story of Austin Torch

Dir: Hoag Kepner; USA; 1h 6m

There are two MIDNIGHT FEATURES, nineteen TELEVISION AND WEB SERIES PILOTS, sixty NARRATIVE SHORTS, fifteen DOCUMENTARY SHORTS, and thirteen MIDNIGHT SHORTS.

DANCES WITH FILMS

Now in its 26th year, 'Dances With Films' champions the unflinching spirit at the very core of the independent film scene. With most film festivals relying heavily on celebrity, it has relied on innovation, talent, creativity, and sweat equity that revolutionized the entertainment industry. And that reliance continues to prove successful with alumni moving on to write, direct, and produce celebrity-studded vehicles, star in blockbuster movies, and television series, produce multi-million-dollar films and create hot TV shows.

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



*We wish all a
Happy 554th Birth
Anniversary of
Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji*

“For each and every person, our Lord and Master provides sustenance. Why are you so afraid, O mind? The flamingos fly hundreds of miles, leaving their young ones behind. Who feeds them, and who teaches them to feed themselves? Have you ever thought of this in your mind?”

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Shah Rukh Khan top on IMDb list of 2023's most popular Indian stars

IMDb has announced its list of the year's most popular Indian stars, with Shah Rukh Khan landing in first place. Khan has had quite a year, leading two major blockbusters, Jawan and Pathaan, which are respectively the No. 2 and 3 biggest Hindi movies ever worldwide.

IMDb determines the star rankings by page views worldwide. Scroll down for the full list.

Also making the cut high on the list are Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone. Bhatt, whose credits include Oscar winner RRR, this year starred in Netflix's Heart of Stone with Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan, and Karan Johar's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.

Bhatt commented, "I thank my audience for bringing me to the position that I am at. While I hope to continue entertaining them, I am filled with only love and gratitude. I also promise to keep working hard and bringing more inspiring stories and characters on screen."

Veteran actress Padukone was seen this year with Shah Rukh Khan in both Jawan and Pathaan. On deck, she has Siddharth Anand's Fighter also starring Hrithik Roshan, and Rohit Shetty's Singham Again with Akshay Kumar.

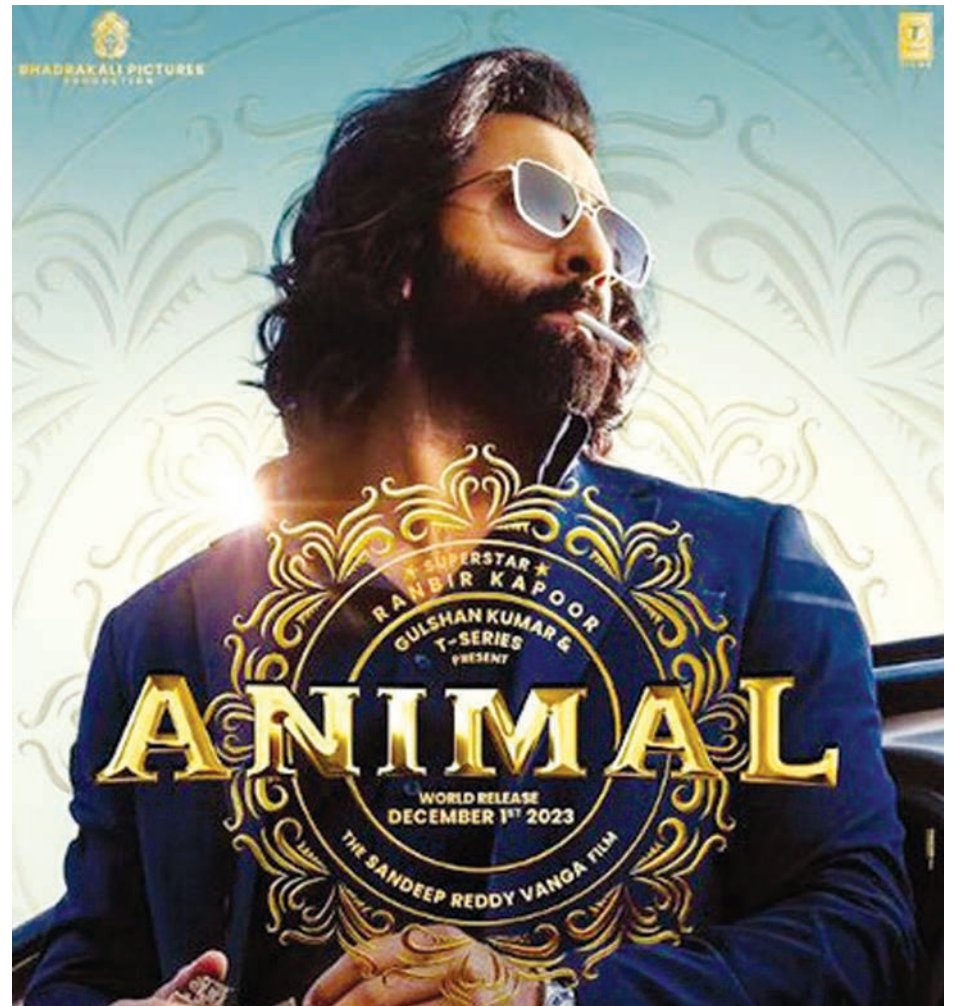
Ranbir calls Animal 'adult-rated Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham'

Actor Ranbir Kapoor has described his upcoming film Animal as "adult-rated Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham". As per news agency PTI, Ranbir also said he has played the "most complex character" of his life in Animal. The actor interacted with the media at the trailer launch event of Animal.

At the event, Ranbir was asked to describe the film and he said, "Animal is basically the adult-rated Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. If I had to describe this story in a line, then it's about a man who goes to any length to protect his family. That's what the core of the film is." Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham was a 2001 family drama helmed by Karan Johar.

On his character, Ranbir also said that he won't call it "darkness but it is the most complex character I have played". Talking about violence, Ranbir added, "That you hit someone and blood comes out, you'll get bored after 10 seconds. Violence is about the mind, what it thinks, what the human mind is capable of? What is right or wrong, where society is concerned? Is Bobby sir the antagonist or I am the antagonist? Who is right, who is wrong? These are questions as a society, audience, we will start asking after this film."

Talking about Bobby Deol, Ranbir said that he grew up watching him. He added that when he got a chance to work with Bobby he realised they were similar as people. Ranbir said that as both are Punjabis, so there was an instant connection. He recalled that they were shooting shirtless in London in minus 4 degree temperature but



"there was so much warmth between us" adding that they will cherish the bond forever.

Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film's trailer showcases a violent world set against the backdrop of a

troubled relationship between Ranbir's Arjun Singh and his father Balbir Singh, played by Anil Kapoor. The film also stars Bobby Deol and Rashmika Mandanna. Animal will hit the screens on December 1. *Source: HT*

Amid dating rumors, Kartik Aaryan parties with Tara Sutaria

Wednesday, Nov 22, was actor Kartik Aaryan's birthday and to mark the special occasion he visited Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai. Hours later, the actor threw a birthday party that was attended by celebs such as actor Vaani Kapoor, director Abhishek Kapoor as well as Rasha Thadani, actor Raveena Tandon's daughter, who is set to make her Bollywood debut soon. Tara Sutaria, who is rumoured to be dating Kartik, also graced his birthday bash.

An inside picture from party has surfaced and shows Kartik posing with Tara Sutaria and Rasha on his either side. They were all dressed in black party looks. Recently, Kartik and Tara sparked dating rumours after they were seen together out and about in Mumbai. Amid rumours that the two are dating, it is also being reported that Kartik and Tara will share screen space in Anurag

Basu's Aashiqui 3, and are therefore often spotted together. However, nothing has been confirmed yet by the makers.

Earlier, Tara Sutaria wished birthday boy Kartik Aaryan with a BTS picture from their photoshoot for a brand. Kartik and Tara were both in black. He was holding her in his arms. Sharing their photo, Tara also revealed her nickname for Kartik. She wrote on Instagram Stories, "Happy Birthday Popat (Kartik Aaryan)! May our Scorpio energy always make brand shoots look like this".

Tara Sutaria confirmed breakup with Aadar Jain, and said she was single in an interview with News18 earlier this month. Tara and Aadar had made their relationship official in 2020 after dating for a couple of years. "I'm not in a relationship," the actor, who was last seen in Ek Villain Returns (2022), had told the portal.





Jamie Foxx accused of sexual assault in new lawsuit

Actor Jamie Foxx has been accused of a rooftop sexual assault that allegedly happened 8 years ago in New York City.

According to a report by TMZ, the court documents reveal that he has been sued by a woman in a case of sexual assault. The woman alleged that Jamie Foxx assaulted her at the Catch restaurant rooftop in New York City in August 2015.

In the document the plaintiff, identified only as Jane Doe, alleges Foxx "intentionally and without consent used force to offensively touch" her, by groping her breasts and genitals at a rooftop bar in Manhattan.

The restaurant; its employees; and the co-founder of Catch Hospitality Group, Mark Birnbaum have been listed as defendants in the lawsuit.

"The alleged incident never happened. In 2020, this individual filed a nearly identical lawsuit in Brooklyn. That case was dismissed shortly thereafter," a spokesperson for Foxx said.

Sofia Boutella engages in guns blazing stand-off as Kora in 'Rebel Moon' poster

Director Zack Snyder's upcoming and highly anticipated sci-fi-fantasy-epic film 'Rebel Moon Part One: A Child of Fire' has unveiled a striking new poster which features actress Sofia Boutella as fierce warrior as Kora, a fierce rebel who is aiming her pistol at enemies, likely in a stand-off as the blazing sun, hidden by Jupiter is lighting the sky with gunships behind her, and one ship crashing into the ground.

According to another official synopsis of the film: "After crash landing on a moon in the furthest reaches of the universe, Kora (Sofia Boutella), a stranger with a mysterious past, begins a new life among a peaceful settlement of farmers. But she soon becomes their only hope for survival when the tyrannical Regent Balisarius (Fra Fee) and his cruel emissary, Admiral Noble (Ed Skrein), discover the farmers have unwittingly sold their crops to the Bloodaxes (Cleopatra Coleman and Ray Fisher) — leaders of a fierce group of insurgents hunted by the Motherworld."

A mixture of iconic sci-fi film franchises such as 'Star Wars', 'Blade Runner', 'Dune', and '2001: A Space Odyssey', among others 'Rebel Moon' is a bleak movie that takes place in a dystopian future. More of a space opera rather than just an action film, 'Rebel Moon' is essentially a sci-fi-epic that features a prophesied one to end a cataclysmic war. There are spaceships raining lasers down on a small village



leading to a bloody carnage, talking robots, a monitoring AI authority, mutant creatures, laser and plasma guns, energy blades, teleportation devices, and in typical Zack Snyder fashion, a lot of slow-motion.

The story centers around a young woman living on the outskirts of a galaxy who must find a group of warriors to save the galaxy from an invasion by a tyrant. Funny enough, 'Rebel Moon' takes place in the same

universe as his zombie-action film 'Army of the Dead', but this time this is sci-fi-epic instead of a shoot the living dead in the face kind of thing.

Boasting a massive narrative with a detailed world, many characters, intricate complex storytelling, and an entire mythology, 'Rebel Moon' was meant to be a single part film until it was made in two parts so as to do the narrative and Snyder's own vision justice. *Source: IANS*

Jenna Ortega drops out of 'Scream 7' over scheduling conflicts with 'Wednesday 2'

Actress Jenna Ortega has left the 'Scream 7' film due to scheduling conflicts. The actress dropped out of the horror franchise due to her 'Wednesday' season 2 shooting schedule with Netflix, which was said to be in the works months ago before the SAG-AFTRA strike began.

Production dates for the upcoming season of 'Wednesday' are yet to be confirmed, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Meanwhile, Jenna also needs to wrap filming on Tim Burton's 'Beetlejuice 2', which has a few more days to shoot after it was interrupted by the SAG-AFTRA strike.

As per Mirror.co.uk, the news of her exit from 'Scream 7' comes as her co-star and Mexican actress Melissa Barrera was fired from the movie franchise, with her axing following on from posts she made relating to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and Gaza conflict.

Variety has confirmed that Jenna's exit from Scream was not connected to Melissa's dismissal. According to a new report, Spyglass Media Group has "dropped" Melissa from the cast of 'Scream VII', with them said to be "pushing back on a narrative that has quickly coalesced around the decision that Barrera was fired for showing support for the Palestinian

cause."

Melissa, 33, was cast as Sam Carpenter in August 2020 for the fifth 'Scream' film, with the film hitting screens in January 2022. She is also famous for having starred in the likes of In 'The Heights' and 'Carmen'. She was supposed to be at the helm of the leading role for the next 'Scream' movie.

Ortega received a Comedy Series Actress Primetime Emmy nomination and a Golden Globe Comedy TV Actress nom for her turn as the title character of Wednesday.

The Scream franchise with a seventhquel stands to hit the \$1 billion global mark at the box office. Through six films, it stands at \$911M.

In response to Barrera being dropped from Scream VII, Spyglass issued the statement, "'Spyglass' stance is unequivocally clear: We have zero tolerance for antisemitism or the incitement of hate in any form, including false references to genocide, ethnic cleansing, Holocaust distortion or anything that flagrantly crosses the line into hate speech."

Christopher Landon, the new director on Scream 7, posted on X, and then removed the Tweet, "This is my statement: "Everything sucks. Stop yelling. This was not my decision to make."



Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 30

24th November



1271 Bhagat Nam Dev Ji was born at Nursi Bahamani, district Sitara (Maharashtra). His verses have been included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. He died in 1349 at Pandarpur.

Nam Dev was a celebrated saint whose name was a household word for the people of Maharashtra. They chanted his hymns amidst their families.

He was born in the village of Narsi Bamni in the Satara District of Maharashtra. His father was Dam Seti and mother Gona Bai. He was inspired to bhakti by his father and later became a disciple of Vishoba Khechar. They say, that once, when his maternal grandfather was to go out somewhere, he instructed Nam Dev to offer milk to God. Following the instructions literally, he placed a cup of milk before the image of the Lord. With a child's unquestioning faith and unflattering devotion he created such an atmosphere that God drank the proffered milk. Another time, when Nam Dev was absorbed in meditation, the proud Brahmins, jealous of his spiritual attainments, threw him out of the temple, saying that being a Shudra, he had no business to be in a holy place. Nam Dev bore the humiliation calmly and sat outside the back wall of the temple and plunged into deep meditation. Moved by his love and devotion, God performed a miracle and the temple gate moved to where Nam Dev was sitting. Seeing this, the Brahmins recognized his greatness and besought him for forgiveness.

1598 Akbar visited Guru Arjan Dev Ji at Goindwal. Guru Arjan's perception of the times to come was not withstanding Akbar's high regards for him. According to the Court historian, Abdul Fazal's Akbar Namah, Guru Arjan accorded a prodigious reception to Akbar on this day at Goindwal. Akbar was really impressed by Guru Arjan's bewitching and handsome appearance, sweet and melodious voice and fascinating and charming manners, his princely style of living, his warm reception and his singing of hymns in praise of God. At Guru Arjan's instance, Akbar issued orders to remit the revenue by one-sixth.

1675 Martyrdom, Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.



1969 Fateh Singh announced another fast unto death for transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. The fast was to begin on Jan. 26, 1970, to be followed by self-immolation on Feb. 1, 1970.

1979 "Maerath Morcha" announced on behalf of All India Sikh Student Federation.

25th November

1710 Sikhs successfully attacked and killed Rustam Dil Khan near Sadorae.

1888 The final straw, causing a breakup among Singh and Arya Samaj, came at the Lahore Arya Samaj anniversary celebrations. Here Lala Guru Datt Arora in a speech sharply criticised Sikhism. Pertinently, he said that is Swami Dayanand called Guru Nanak a fraud, what did that matter? Swamiji had the sum of the Vedas in his hands! He continued that "Guru Gobind Singh was not even a hundredth part like our Maharishi Sawami Dayanand Saraswati and it is difficult to say whether the Sikhs have any religion or not, but surely they have no knowledge of any kind." Other Arya speakers, specifically Pandit Lekh Ram and Lala Murlidhar rose to second Lala Guru Datt's comments and added their own words of sarcasm to the criticism of Sikh religion.

1967 Lachman Singh Gill became the Chief Minister of Punjab.

26th November



1708 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) stormed Samana Town, leaving 10,000 dead, followed up by routing Faujadars of Kapuri and Mustabad. Samana was a center of traditional Sikh hatred. The executor of Guru Tegh Bahadur belonged to this place; his son had beheaded the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh; evacuation of Anandpur Sahib was made by the Guru on strength of false promises made by Ali Husain of Samana. The Khalsa army punished the tyrants and their associates. Later, the city of the "Jallads" (executioners) was placed under the charge of Fateh Singh, one of the five Councillors.

1871 Giani Rattan Singh Namdhari and his assistant Rattan Singh were hanged outside Ludhiana jail in open public view.

1949 The Sikhs rejected the new Constitution of India. The Sikh members refused to sign it.

1972 The first Gurdwara service was held at the Guru Ram Das Ashram in Los Angeles, California.

1973 A young Navy enlisted man was ordered to report for captain's mast at Miramar Naval Air Station at San Diego to explain the uniform he wore. When he reported for duty on this day, he was told that White turbans are definitely non-regulation.

27th November

1502 Guru Amar Das married Bibi Mansa Devi of village Sankhetra, district Sialkot, daughter of Baba

Devi Chand of Behl Clan. After the marriage, Bibi Mansa Devi was renamed as Bibi Ram Kaur. They had their first child in 1519, a daughter Bibi Dani, when Guru Amar Das was 40 years old. Other children from this marriage were Baba Mohan born in 1521, Baba Mohri born in 1522, and Bibi Bhani born in 1534.

1914 Sikhs unsuccessfully attempted to attack Ferozepur Fort. Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh, a stalwart of the Ghadr movement, took part in this attack and was consequently arrested on May 9, 1915 and galloped for a long term of imprisonment till Oct. 4, 1930 under section 121 (a) of the Indian Penal Code in the Second Lahore Conspiracy Case.

1984 Sardar Simaranjeet Singh Mann was arrested along with his associates near Joghani border. Simaranjeet Singh Mann and his associates were on his way to Nepal.

28th November

1982 Members of All India Sikh Student Federation rallied during the Asian Games. They raised slogan expressing Sikh demand. For this they were subsequently arrested.

29th November



1631 Sant Sipahi Baba Buddha Ji passed away in Ramdas at the age 125. Guru Hargobind personally conducted the last rights. Subsequently, his son Bhai Bhana Ji was made the head Granthi of Sri Harmandir Sahib.

1737 Bhai Mani Singh, a great scholar among the Sikhs, was martyred. He started a school of exposition of holy Guru Granth Sahib. He was second famous head priest of Sri Harmandir Sahib, after Baba Buddha Ji.

1885 Baba Ram Singh Namdhari passed away after 13 years of solitary confinement while in exile at Rangun, Burma.

1955 Sardar Pratap Singh's accepted shahadat in Loon (Salt) Mandi, in connection with Punjabi Suba morcha.

1961 Master Tara Singh, along with Sant Fateh Singh and 8 members of Akali Dal Working Committee were tried for breaking the solemn vow taken before the Akal Takhat. Both Master Tara Singh and Sant Fateh Singh separately had taken vow before the Akal Takhat for fasting unto death for achieving Punjabi Speaking State but had broken the fast without achieving the objective on sheer assurances.

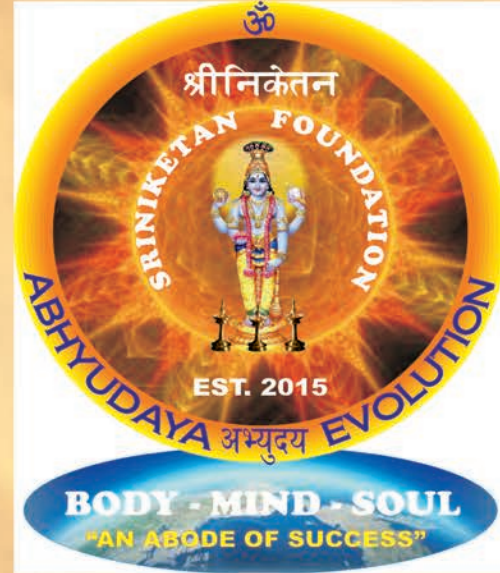
30th November

1710 Mahabat Khan captured Lohgarh fort after Sikh forces withdrew from Sadhaura. Amir Khan occupied Sirhind.



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PALESTINIAN NGO SAYS 39 RELEASED FROM PRISON BY ISRAEL UNDER TRUCE AGREEMENT

BEITUNIA (PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES) (TIP): A Palestinian NGO said November 24 that 39 prisoners had been released by Israeli authorities under a truce agreement to pause the fighting in Gaza after 13 hostages from Israel had been handed over.

A total of 28 prisoners were released in the occupied West Bank, an AFP correspondent saw, while the other 11 were brought to annexed east Jerusalem, according to the Palestinian Prisoners' Club advocacy group.

Two white coaches, escorted by armoured vehicles, were seen leaving the Ofer military camp in the early evening.

The Palestinian prisoners inside the buses in Beitunia were greeted by large crowds, many of whom chanted "God is great", and bursts of firecrackers that lit up the night sky.

The 39 were freed under a ceasefire agreement with the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas, which released 13 women and child hostages seized in its attack on southern Israel on October 7.

Israeli prison authorities confirmed 39 inmates had been released, describing them as "the first group of detainees freed under the plan to bring the hostages home".

The Detainees' Affairs Department of the Palestinian Authority issued a list of 24 women and 15 minors being freed.

They included Malak Salman, who was arrested seven years ago on her way to school, when she was 16, for trying to stab a policeman in Jerusalem.

Now 23, she was returned to her home in Beit Safafa, in annexed east Jerusalem, under Israeli police escort.

"The police are in our house and are stopping people coming to see us," her mother Fatina told AFP.

"My daughter is weak, she has not eaten since yesterday," she added.

Israeli police have issued orders banning celebrations in Jerusalem for released prisoners.

White plumes of smoke were seen as authorities fired tear gas to disperse the crowds. (AP)

Four-day truce begins in Gaza; Israeli hostages, Palestinian prisoners released

GAZA (TIP): A group of 13 Israeli hostages have been released after a four-day ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war began on November 24 morning in Gaza.

Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said 12 Thai hostages kidnapped by Palestinian militants during Hamas's October 7 raids into Israel were also released on Friday, hours after a truce in the Israel-Hamas war began.

On the other hand, A Palestinian NGO said on Friday that 39 prisoners had been released by Israeli authorities under a truce agreement to pause the fighting in Gaza.

It was done as part of an agreement that Qatar helped broker, in the first major reprieve in seven weeks of war that have claimed thousands of lives. The deal also includes the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, which was to take place later Friday.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel who fear for their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct. 7



attack that triggered the war.

Starting from 7:00 am (0500 GMT), the pause was set to silence guns and stop bombings in a conflict that erupted after Hamas's murderous raids into Israel on October 7.

Over the four days, at least 50 hostages are expected to be released, leaving an estimated 190 in the hands of Palestinian militant groups. Meanwhile, 150 Palestinian prisoners are expected to be released.

The Hamas-led government in Gaza

says the war has so far killed about 15,000 people and displaced countless more. The exact number of casualties is impossible to independently confirm, but it is clear that for many Palestinian and Israeli families, the pause in violence has already come too late.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he will press ahead with the war after a cease-fire expires. Some 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mostly during the initial incursion by Hamas. (AFP)

Israeli army withdraws from Gaza hospital after truce: Hamas ministry

GAZA (TIP): Israeli forces withdrew from Gaza's largest hospital Al-Shifa on November 24, the Hamas-run health ministry said, on the first day of a temporary truce between Israel and the Palestinian militants.

The Israeli military raided Al-Shifa last week, targeting what it said was a Hamas command centre in a tunnel complex beneath the medical facility. The Palestinian militant group and hospital officials have repeatedly denied the claim.

Al-Shifa has been a major focus of Israel's ground offensive in the Gaza Strip following attacks by Hamas across southern Israel on October 7, which Israeli officials say killed about 1,200 people.

Since the Israeli raid, many of the estimated 2,300 patients, staff and displaced civilians sheltering in the Al-Shifa complex have been evacuated to the south of the Gaza Strip.

But the World Health Organization was "extremely concerned" about the safety of the estimated 100 patients and health workers remaining at Al-Shifa, spokesman Christian Lindmeier said.

Hamas health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said the Israeli military had withdrawn but the people remaining at Al-Shifa were in a battered complex whose "main generator is destroyed along with numerous buildings".



The Israeli military did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

"We're working on further evacuations from hospitals as soon as possible," said Lindmeier, with recent Israeli operations focusing on the Indonesian Hospital, another medical facility in northern Gaza. Lindmeier said the latest evacuation convoy had left Al-Shifa with "73 severely ill or injured patients" including some in need of critical care.

On Thursday, Israeli forces arrested Al-Shifa director Mohammad Abu Salmiya, who has been frequently quoted by international media about conditions inside the complex.

Israeli soldiers escorted journalists to a

tunnel shaft they said was part of an underground network used by Hamas.

Al-Shifa Hospital has been the scene of an extended Israeli special forces operation as part of its war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, where the Hamas-run government says nearly 15,000 people have been killed, most of them women and children.

On Friday, a four-day truce in the Israel-Hamas war began, with hostages set to be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. "We hope that this humanitarian pause leads to a longer-term humanitarian ceasefire for the benefit of the people of Gaza, Israel and beyond," said Jens Lærke, spokesman for the United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA. (AFP)

China will allow visa-free entry for France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Malaysia

BEIJING (TIP): China announced November 24 that it will allow visa-free entry for citizens of five European countries and Malaysia as it tries to encourage more people to visit for business and tourism.

Starting Dec. 1, citizens of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Malaysia will be allowed to enter China for up to 15 days without a visa. The trial program will be in effect for one year.

The aim is "to facilitate the high-quality development of Chinese and foreign personnel exchanges and high-level opening up to the outside world," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing.

China's strict pandemic measures, which included required quarantines for all arrivals, discouraged many people from visiting for nearly three years. The restrictions were lifted early this year, but international travel has yet to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels.

China previously allowed citizens of Brunei, Japan and Singapore to enter without a visa but suspended that after the COVID-19 outbreak. It resumed visa-



free entry for Brunei and Singapore in July but has not done so for Japan.

In the first six months of the year, China recorded 8.4 million entries and exits by foreigners, according to immigration statistics. That compares to 977 million for all of 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

The EU Chamber of Commerce in China welcomed the announcement and expressed hope that more European nations would be given visa-free access

soon. In a statement, it called it "a tangible and practical improvement, which will also increase business confidence."

The Chinese government has been seeking foreign investment to help boost a sluggish economy, and some businesspeople have been coming for trade fairs and meetings, including Tesla's Elon Musk and Apple's Tim Cook. Foreign tourists are still a rare sight compared to before the pandemic. (AP)

SOUTH AFRICAN OLYMPIC RUNNER OSCAR PISTORIUS GRANTED PAROLE 10 YEARS AFTER KILLING HIS GIRLFRIEND

CAPE TOWN (TIP): Double-amputee Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius was granted parole on November 24, 10 years after shooting his girlfriend through a toilet door at his home in South Africa in a killing that jolted the world.

Department of Corrections spokesperson Singabakho Nxumalo said Pistorius would be released from prison on Jan. 5.

Pistorius, who turned 37 this week, has been in jail since late 2014 for the Valentine's Day 2013 killing of model Reeva Steenkamp, although he was released for a period of house arrest in 2015 while one of the numerous appeals in his case was heard. He was ultimately convicted of murder and sentenced to 13 years and five months in prison.

Serious offenders in South Africa must serve at least half of their sentence to be eligible for parole, which Pistorius has done.

Pistorius was at the height of his fame and one of the world's most admired athletes when he killed Steenkamp. He shot her multiple times in the bathroom of his Pretoria villa in the predawn hours with his licensed 9mm pistol. (AFP)

Irish Prime Minister says Dublin rioters brought 'shame' on Ireland

LONDON (TIP): Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on November 24 that protesters who battled police and looted shops in Dublin after a school knife attack were motivated by "hate" and brought "shame on Ireland".

Thursday night's violence in the Irish capital -- which erupted after three children were wounded in the stabbings -- was of a level not seen in decades, according to police, who arrested 34 people.

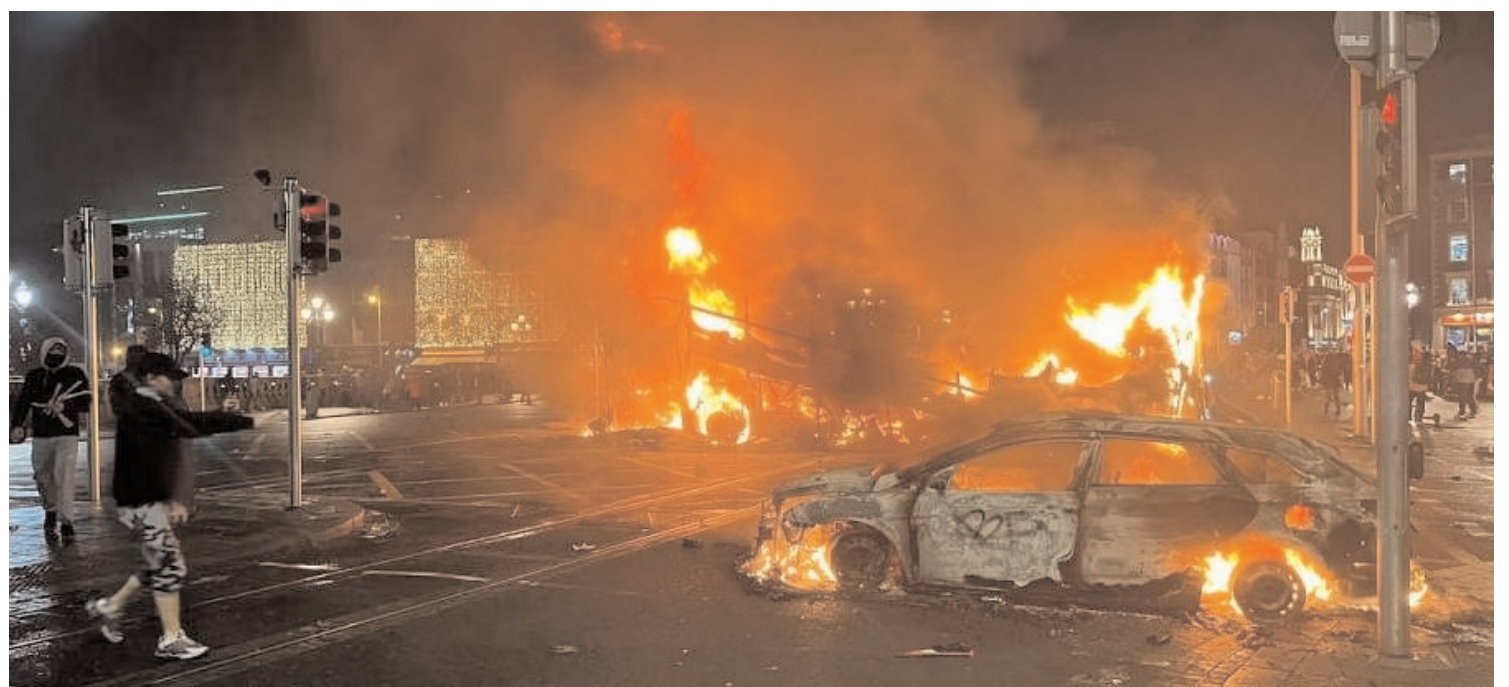
"Those involved brought shame on Dublin, brought shame on Ireland and brought shame on their families and themselves," a visibly angry Varadkar told reporters, describing the rioters as "criminals".

"They did not do what they did because they wanted to protect Irish people. They did not do it out of any sense of patriotism, however warped."

"They did so because they're filled with hate. They love violence. They love chaos and they love causing pain to others," he added.

The unrest came after a five-year-old girl sustained serious injuries in a suspected stabbing in Parnell Square East, north central Dublin.

Two other children and two adults -- a woman and the suspected perpetrator of



the attack -- were taken to hospital after the incident at around 1:30 pm (1330 GMT).

Rumours on social media about the nationality of the assailant, who police only described as a man in his fifties, helped fuel unrest following the attack.

Police blamed a "complete lunatic faction driven by far-right ideology" for

the violence.

"As a country, we need to reclaim Ireland. We need to take it away from the cowards who hide behind masks and tried to terrify us with their violence," said Varadkar.

He promised that his government would use the "full resources of the law, the full machinery of the state to punish

those involved in yesterday's grotesque events".

Varadkar added that he would pass new laws in the coming weeks to enable police "to make better use" of CCTV evidence they collected during the unrest.

He also said Ireland would "modernise" its laws regarding hate and incitement. (AFP)

Kartik Purnima

Kartik Purnima is an auspicious festival held on the Purnima of the Hindu month of Kartik. The date falls between the months of October and November. Kartik is regarded as the holiest month of the Hindu calendar.

The victory of Lord Shiva over the demon Tripurasur is commemorated on Kartik Purnima, which is also known as 'Tripuri Purnima' or 'Tripurari Purnima.' When this auspicious day occurs in the 'Krittika' Nakshatra, it is referred to as 'Maha Kartik'.

Significance of Kartik Purnima

The importance of Kartik Purnima is stated in many Sacred Scriptures in Hinduism. For Hindus, the day of Kartik Purnima is extremely religious and cultural. Devotees who worship Lord Vishnu on this day are said to gain immense fortune. The birthday of Vrinda (Tulsi Plant) is also held in Kartik Purnima, and on this day, the ceremonious Tulsi Vivaah is also held. The Kartik Snan, which is similar to performing 100 Ashvamedha Yagyas, is an important part of Kartik month. This day is so beneficial that any religious activity carried out on this day will gain many advantages.

Kartik Purnima Story

On this day, devotees of Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva read the story about Kartik Purnima. According to Kartik Purnima Katha, three demons named Vidyunmali, Tarakaksha and Viryavana had conquered the whole world, defeated the Devas and were collectively referred to as Tripurasur. Tripurasur created three Tripura cities in space after defeating the gods. Lord Shiva killed Tripurasur with a single arrow on Kartik Purnima to put an end to his rule. As Devas heard this, they became happy and marked the day as a festival of enlightenment that is also called Dev Deepavali or Diwali for the gods.

Vrinda's (Holy Tulsi Plant) birthday is also celebrated on Kartik Purnima. Matsya, Lord Vishnu's incarnation as the fish, was also born on this day. Kartik Purnima is also thought to be the birthday of Lord Shiva's son, Kartikey. Fasting and rituals on Kartik Purnima pave the way to Dharma, Artha, Kama, and Moksha, according to Hindu mythology.

Kartik Purnima Puja Vidhi and Rituals

- On this day, worshippers take a holy bath by visiting pilgrimage sites during sunrise and moonrise. It is believed that this Kartik Snan is a vastly sacred bath.
- One can also take bath at home by adding Ganga Jal in the bathwater. Then, in front of Lord Vishnu, light ghee or mustard oil Diya and worship him in a ceremonial manner.
- This day, devotees are worshipping Lord Vishnu with great dedication. The Lord's idol is worshipped with flowers, incense sticks and lamps. Offering prayers to Lord Vishnu on this day can help devotees overcome their worries and live a peaceful and happy life.
- On the Kartik Purnima festival, devotees also observe a fast. The fast is called Satyanarayana Vrat and reads the Satyanarayana Katha.
- In their homes, worshippers also perform 'Rudrabhishek.' Lord Shiva's temples are brightly lighted on this day.
- It is said that donating Diya is very beneficial. The day is also considered a blessing for reciting Vedic mantras and bhajans.
- Mela, or fair, is held in Pushkar during this month to celebrate the wedding of Vrinda and Lord Vishnu. On this day, the fair comes to an end, and worshippers take a holy dip in the Pushkar Lake in order to gain salvation.
- On Kartik Purnima, try to feed any brahmins who are poor or in need.

Celebrations and Different Festivals on this Day

In various parts of the country, the holy month of Kartik is celebrated with great zeal and dedication. Hindus consider performing a bathing ritual and worshipping their Gods and Goddesses to be auspicious. As per Hindu mythology, on this day the Hindu Gods have come down to the earth in the sacred rivers and, consequently, by taking a holy bath in a river, worshippers receive the blessings of all gods. Here's how this auspicious day is celebrated in different communities:

Kartik Purnima is celebrated for five days, because



Important information

Kartik Purnima Date: 27th November 2023

Kartik Purnima Timings:

Purnima Tithi Begins – November 26, 2023 at 03:53 PM

Purnima Tithi ends – November 27, 2023 at 02:45 PM

Ekadashi is the 11th day, and Purnima is the 15th day of Kartika month during Shukla Paksha. Tulsi Vivah, Bhishma Panchaka, Vaikunth Chaturdashi, and Dev Deepawali are some of the festivals that take place during this time. Tulsi Vivah is a Hindu festival that begins on Prabodhini Ekadashi and ends on Kartika Purnima. It can be observed on any day between Ekadashi and Kartika Purnima, according to Hindu scriptures. During this time, a large number of people participate in the wedding rituals of Tulasi Mata and Lord Shaligram.

From Prabodhini Ekadashi to Kartik Purnima, Bhishma Panchak is observed. The Bhishma Panchak fast, which takes place during the last five days of this month, is considered extremely important by Vaishnav culture. One day before Kartik Purnima, Vaikunth Chaturdashi is celebrated. To please Lord Vishnu, devotees fast and perform a special Puja ceremony. Lord Vishnu prayed Lord Shiva and offered a thousand Lotus Flowers on the day of Kartik Chaturdashi during Shukla Paksha. In many Hindu temples, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva are both worshipped.

Dev Diwali is also celebrated on the day of Kartik Purnima. The killing of Tripurasur by Lord Shiva brought great happiness to the Gods. As a result, this day is observed in a similar manner to Diwali. Worshippers light earthen lamps and 'Diyas' to erase sorrow over hope and darkness over the light on the banks of the rivers.

This day is known as the 'Jain Festival of Light' by those who follow Jainism.

The day of Kartik Purnima is known among Sikhism devotees as Guru Nanak Jayanti or GURPURAB, as it represents Guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary.

Kartik Purnima is known by many different names. The ultimate goal, however, remains the same. This festival's main goal is to cleanse the soul from sins and invite positivity into life. Kartik is the holiest month among all lunar months. Performing specialised rituals on this auspicious day, one can get rid of the impact of malefic planets and planetary doshas.



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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."



If the people use the wealth bestowed on them by God for themselves alone or for treasuring it, it is like a corpse. But if they decide to share it with others, it becomes sacred food.

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Walk more to slow down ageing

Walking is the most basic, but important way to stay fit. But most of us don't give much thought to how we walk or whether we should improve the way we walk. However, walking correctly helps to prevent back, hip, neck, and leg pain and injury risk while also promoting good posture, strong bones, increased balance, and stability. Besides, it promotes weight loss and can even help you slow down ageing. Just follow these ways to walk to reap these benefits.

Even though walking is one of the most underappreciated exercises, it targets every part of your body from head to toe. You should be aware that walking can tighten your skin, aid in weight loss, improve blood circulation, boost energy levels, and lower your risk of developing a number of chronic conditions, all of which can help you stay youthful.

Alternate your speed

To make the most of your walking, keep switching between moderate and vigorous pace. Your body will be put to the test, your heart rate will rise, and you'll burn more calories when you walk in this way. Start with adding 20 seconds of high pace in between your regular walking pace and gradually increase the duration. Keep listening to your body and slow down when body asks you to.

Carry light hand weights

A workout that is not challenging enough, is not even worth doing. Walking is already an easy task for most people. Therefore, you must step up your game and incorporate some difficult features if you want to reap the most rewards. Switching



to a power walk, which involves walking while carrying small weights or wearing ankle weights, is an excellent approach to do this.

This will push your body to work a little harder and you will end up building more muscle and hence slow down ageing. Make sure you do not overdo with the weights, as it can lead to a neck or shoulder or back injury.

Always use stairs

The benefits of walking can also be derived to some extent by monitoring our walks during the day – such as at work or while shopping at the mall. One helpful tip is to take the stairs whenever possible instead of using any escalators or elevators. Also, park your car far away when you go for your daily shopping.

Take more than one walk

Try to incorporate at least two

walks per day. Your absolute minimum to slow down ageing should be 30 minutes. Add two 10-minute light walks—one before lunch and one in the morning. A light walk after eating can decrease the body's insulin and blood sugar levels.

Take your dog for a walk

This is the one for you if you have a dog. Simply take your dog for enjoyable walks in the park every day without having to make any special plans. They will enjoy the free space and the physical activity. You can also take a break to play fetch or stretch out. There are great chances that your dog will make you run here and there, increasing your heart rate and improving your mood. If you do not have a pet at home, see if your friend or a neighbour does and you can go for a happy evening walk.

Source: Healthshots



Turmeric can work wonders for your body

Turmeric is often regarded as one of the best nutritional supplements. The herb's properties range from antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, to anti-carcinogenic and anti-inflammatory. Following is a list of easy and efficient recipes which combine turmeric with various other things, to add to its effect.

Turmeric Milk

This is the most common grandmothers' recipe when anyone in the family falls sick with cold and cough or pain. Simply mix half tablespoon of turmeric in boiled milk (ideally full-fat). You can also add turmeric while boiling the milk.

Acne Gel

Turmeric is also very healthy for skin and can be used to treat acne. Take 1/3 tablespoon of turmeric and mix it with an equal amount of honey (you can increase the amount by keeping the proportion same). Put the paste on your acne and leave it until dry. Rinse it with water and pat dry.

Daily Detox Drink

Turmeric is known for its detoxification properties and can leave you soothed if you drink it every day. One simple daily detox turmeric recipe can be prepared by adding 1/3 tablespoon of turmeric, honey (to taste), and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice in lukewarm water. Have it everyday empty stomach in the morning.

Face Mask

Turmeric can be used to prepare a face mask that leaves your skin smoothed and brighter. Add in 1 tablespoon of yoghurt 1/3 tablespoon of turmeric and 1/2 tablespoon of honey. Leave it until dry. Rinse it with water and pat dry.

FOOD CORNER

Rajasthani Jungli Maas

Jungli Maas is a delicious spicy mutton recipe from Rajasthan usually cooked in the jungle while on hunting. As Jungli Maas recipe required very few ingredients so it is perfect non vegetarian recipe to cook in outdoors or while hunting birds or animals. Jungli Maas got its flavour with dried red chillies, salt and ghee. You can also add garlic to enhance the flavour of the dish. The hero of the recipe is Meat so let it shine without adding any fancy ingredients or spices.

Ingredients

- Mutton or Goat meat (with bone)- 1 kilograms
- Garlic cloves- 8 to 10
- Dried red chillies- 15 to 20 or to taste
- Ghee or Clarified Butter- 1/2 cup
- Salt- to taste

Method

- Cut the mutton pieces in equal size.
- Heat ghee in a heavy bottomed pan, add meat and fry it for about 10 to 12 minutes.
- Add whole red chillies, salt and garlic cloves.



- Cover the pan and cook on a low flame.
- Add little water make sure the water should never dry up completely else the meat will fry and become dry but too much water can boil the meat. So add 4 to 5 tablespoons of water every time when it starts drying.
- Cook for an hour or two till the mutton become tender and start leaving the bone. Cooking time will depend on the size of the mutton pieces.
- Serve hot Jungli Maas with rice or roti. To cut down the spiciness serve cool cucumber raita with food.

Murgh Makkai Shorba

Ingredients

- Chicken stock- 1 litre
- Corn- 150gms
- Garlic- 25gms
- Fresh coriander- 25gms
- Cumin seeds- 2 tsp
- Salt – According to taste
- Turmeric- 1/2 tsp
- Oil- 4 tsp
- Chicken breast- 35gms

Diced chicken and Coriander sprigs for garnishing

Method

Heat oil in a pan add garlic and cumin seeds in hot oil. Make the paste of corn with little water and add it into the pan. Add chicken stock and cook for some time. Add seasoning. Serve hot and garnish with chopped coriander and chicken dices.



Rheumatoid arthritis in young adults: Causes, symptoms and treatment

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is often perceived as a disease that affects older people but it can also have a significant impact on young adults where the onset of RA in the late teens or early twenties can dramatically alter the trajectory of life for these individuals. According to health experts, youngsters with RA may find themselves navigating a world of chronic pain, fatigue and limited physical abilities.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Divya K Lala, Consultant Rheumatologist at Medicover Hospitals in Navi Mumbai, shared, "One major way that rheumatoid arthritis impacts young adults is through career choices. Moreover, the emotional toll of living with rheumatoid arthritis as a young adult cannot be underestimated. It is common for individuals in this age group to experience feelings of isolation, frustration, and sadness due to the challenges posed by the disease. They may struggle to maintain relationships with friends who do not understand the extent of their limitations or face difficulties dating due to concerns about being judged based on their health condition."

The symptoms

According to Dr Divya K Lala, while the signs of RA in young people may be similar to those experienced by adults, there are a few key differences to be aware of. She highlighted, "One common symptom of RA in youngsters is joint pain and swelling, particularly in the hands and feet. This can make it difficult for them to participate in activities such as sports or even simple tasks like writing or gripping objects. Another indication may be morning stiffness that lasts longer than an hour, making it challenging for children to get up and get ready for school. In some cases, fatigue may also be present, making youngsters feel tired and lacking energy throughout the day. By recognizing these symptoms of RA in youngsters early on, prompt



medical intervention and management strategies can be put into place to help alleviate the impact on their daily lives."

The treatment

Dr Divya K Lala concluded, "The primary objectives in managing RA are to restore functionality and effectively alleviate symptoms and inflammation. Treating RA in young people requires a multifaceted approach that encompasses medication management, lifestyle changes, emotional support, and regular monitoring by the experts. By taking medications alongside physical therapy interventions tailored to their unique needs and preferences. Physical therapy plays a vital role in managing RA in youngsters. It helps improve joint flexibility, muscle strength, and overall function while also providing education on techniques for joint protection. Exercise, eat well, and maintain an optimum weight to keep the symptoms of arthritis under control."

Source: HT

Covid vaccines didn't cause sudden deaths, says new ICMR study

A recent peer-reviewed study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has dispelled concerns about an increased risk of sudden death among young adults in India due to Covid-19 vaccination.

Instead, the study suggests that factors such as post-Covid hospitalisation, family history of sudden death, and certain lifestyle behaviours may be the underlying causes.

The research, involving 47 tertiary care hospitals across the country, focused on apparently healthy individuals aged 18-45 without known health issues who unexpectedly died between October 2021 and March 2023.

Data collection involved interviews to gather information on Covid-19 vaccination, infection, post-Covid conditions, family history, smoking, recreational drug use, alcohol consumption, binge drinking, and intense physical activity in the 48 hours preceding death. The study emphasised the



positive associations between lifestyle factors like smoking, alcohol use frequency, binge drinking, recreational drug use, and vigorous physical activity with unexplained sudden death.

The frequency of alcohol use was highlighted as a contributing factor.

Contrary to concerns, the study found that two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine lowered the odds of unexplained sudden death, whereas a single dose did not.

Overall, the study affirmed the documented benefits of COVID-19 vaccination in preventing all-cause mortality across various age groups

and settings.

The research was prompted by anecdotal reports of sudden unexplained deaths among seemingly healthy young adults in India during the pandemic.

It highlighted the need to investigate such cases more thoroughly, considering the potential links to COVID-19 or vaccination.

While acknowledging that COVID-19 may increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, the study noted a lack of understanding regarding the pathways through which the virus could lead to sudden deaths.

It also highlighted the scarcity of evidence for sudden deaths among COVID-19-recovered individuals or those with breakthrough infections.

The study contributes valuable insights into the factors influencing sudden deaths among young adults in India and emphasises the importance of a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing these occurrences.



New glaucoma treatment strategy to guide stem cells to retina

Researchers have identified a promising new strategy for glaucoma cell replacement therapy. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide, and vision loss, due to the loss of retinal ganglion cells (RGCs), cannot currently be reversed with any treatment.

In the new study researchers at the Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear changed the micro-environment in the eye in a way that enabled them to take stem cells from blood and turn them into retinal ganglion cells that were capable of migrating and surviving into the eye's retina.

They conducted their study on the adult mouse retina, but the work's implications could one day be applied to human retina.

One limitation that prevents the success of current stem cell transplantation strategies in retina studies is that the majority of donor cells remain at the site of injection and do not migrate where they are most needed.

To identify an improved solution, the researchers created RGCs out of stem cells, then tested the ability of various signaling molecules known as chemokines to guide these new neurons to their correct positions within the retina.

The research team utilised a "big data" approach and examined hundreds of such molecules and receptors to find 12 unique to RGCs. They found stromal derived factor 1 was the best performing molecule for both migration and transplantation.

"This method of using chemokines to guide donor cell movement and integration represents a promising approach to restoring vision in glaucoma patients," said Petr Baranov, from Mass Eye and Ear, who is also an assistant professor of Ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School.

The research was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Source: IANS

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Antarctic ozone hole largest on record over past 3 years, new research finds

Contrary to public perception, the Antarctic ozone hole has been amongst the largest on record over the past three years, new research has found.

The ozone hole above Antarctica has been remarkably massive and long-lived over the past four years and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are not the only things to blame, said researchers in their study published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

CFCs are greenhouse gases containing carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine have been studied to contribute to ozone depletion. The ozone layer in the Earth's atmosphere blocks the harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun to protect people from skin diseases.

According to the study's lead author Hannah Kessenich, PhD candidate at the University of Otago, New Zealand, the team found much less ozone in the centre of the hole compared to 19 years ago.

"This means that the hole is not only larger in area, but also deeper throughout most of spring," said Kessenich.

The team analysed the monthly and daily ozone changes, at different altitudes and latitudes within the Antarctic ozone hole, from 2004 to 2022.

"We made connections between this drop in ozone and changes in the air that is arriving into the polar vortex above Antarctica. This reveals the recent, large ozone holes may not be caused just by CFCs," said Kessenich.

The researchers believe that there are complex factors contributing to the ozone hole, even as the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer regulates the production and consumption of man-made chemicals known to deplete the ozone.

Therefore, they are raising concerns about how major communications about the ozone layer over the last few years have given the public the impression that the 'ozone issue' has been solved.

"While the Montreal Protocol has vastly improved our situation with CFCs destroying ozone, the hole has been amongst the largest on record over the past three years, and in two of the five years prior to that.

"Our analysis ended with data from 2022, but as of today the 2023 ozone hole has already surpassed the size of the prior three years - late last month it was over 26 million square km, nearly twice the area of Antarctica," said Kessenich.

The researchers said that understanding ozone variability is important because of the major role it plays in the Southern Hemisphere's climate.

"We all know about the recent wildfires and cyclones in Australia and New Zealand and the Antarctic ozone hole is part of this picture.

"While separate from the impact of greenhouse gases on climate, the ozone hole interacts with the delicate balance in the atmosphere. Because ozone usually absorbs UV light, a hole in the ozone layer can not only cause extreme UV levels on the surface of Antarctica, but it can also drastically impact where heat is stored in the atmosphere," said Kessenich.

Source: PTI

After Deepfake, researchers alert Windows and Mac users on ClearFake

Early in 2023, researchers discovered a new cyber threat Atomic macOS Stealer (AMOS) which is a sophisticated malware, primarily targeting Apple users. Once installed on a victim's device, AMOS malware has the capability to extract sensitive information, including iCloud Keychain passwords, credit card details, crypto wallets, and various files. While the malware was already a threat, a new report reveals that cyber hackers are now delivering AMOS to Mac users via a fake browser update chain tracked as 'ClearFake'.

According to Malwarebytes, a cyber threat alarm system company, cyber attackers are using the ClearFake approach to deliver AMOS to Mac users. ClearFake, initially observed in Windows attacks, involves distributing fake Safari and Chrome browser updates through compromised websites. By exploiting this growing network of compromised websites, threat actors are expanding their reach, capturing login credentials and sensitive files of the users who download the malware for immediate financial gain or future attacks.

But what exactly is clear fake and how it is being used as a way to deploy AMOS? Well, the researchers further explain that Clear fake is a type of deepfake that is created by using machine learning to manipulate or generate images or videos in a way that makes it appear as if they are real. This can be done by using techniques such as image splicing, facial recognition, and voice synthesis. Clear fakes can be used for a variety of purposes, including spreading misinformation, creating fake news stories, and impersonating people.

In this case, ClearFake is being used to deploy AMOS, a type of malware that steals information from its victims. The attackers are creating fake websites to inject malicious JavaScript code. Once a user visits such a website, deceptive prompts mimicking legitimate browser updates for Safari or Chrome appear. These prompts are carefully crafted to induce users into clicking, triggering the download and installation of AMOS malware.

Upon clicking the link to the fake update, unsuspecting



victims are redirected to a website that surreptitiously downloads and installs AMOS malware onto their unsuspecting computers. Once installed, AMOS stealthily infiltrates the victim's system, gaining unauthorized access to sensitive information. Its primary objective is to pilfer sensitive data, including iCloud Keychain passwords, credit card details, and cryptocurrency wallets.

The adaptability of ClearFake is indeed concerning as it extends its reach beyond traditional Windows environments to target macOS users. This shift highlights the evolving nature of cyber attack strategies, emphasizing the need for heightened vigilance and proactive measures.

How to stay safe

In order to protect against ClearFake and other evolving threats, it is important to take proactive measures. This includes:

- Avoid downloading software from untrusted or unknown sources: It is crucial to update Safari directly from your Mac's System Settings or Chrome directly from Google/the Chrome app.

Source: India Today

AI system self organises to become more like human brain in a study

Scientists at the University of Cambridge put physical constraints on an artificial intelligence system, similar to how human and other animal brains have to develop and operate with both physical and biological constructs. The system then developed some features of the brains of complex organisms to solve tasks.

In a study published in the journal *Nature Machine Intelligence* today, Jascha Achterberg and Danyal Akarca from the Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (MRC CBSU) at the University of Cambridge worked with their colleagues to develop a simplified version of the brain and applied some physical constraints before giving the system tasks. This technology could potentially be used to develop more efficient AI systems and even understand the human brain itself better.

Instead of using real neurons or brain cells, they used computational nodes. This is because both neurons and nodes have similar functions. They both take an input, transform it and produce an output. Also, a single node or neuron might connect to multiple others, with all of them outputting and inputting information.

The physical constraint they placed on their system of computational nodes was similar to a constraint experienced by neurons in the brain—each node was given a specific location in a virtual space, and the



further it was away from another, the more difficult it was for the two to communicate.

After placing this constraint, they gave the system a task to complete. The task in this case was a simplified version of a maze navigation task that is typically given to animals like rats and monkeys when studying their brains. Basically, it was given multiple pieces of information to decide on the shortest route to reach the endpoint of the maze.

Source: Indian Express

Berkshire Hathaway exits Paytm; sells 2.46% stake for Rs 1,371 crore

Billionaire Warren Buffett-backed Berkshire Hathaway Inc on Friday, November 24, divested its entire 2.46% stake in Paytm's parent company One97 Communications for Rs 1,371 crore through an open market transaction.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc through its affiliate BH International Holdings sold more than 1.56 crore shares of fintech company Paytm on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

According to the bulk deal data available with the NSE, BH International Holdings offloaded 1,56,23,529 shares, amounting to a 2.46% stake in Noida-headquartered Paytm. The shares were disposed of at an average price of Rs 877.29 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 1,370.63 crore.

Meanwhile, Copthall Mauritius Investment picked up 75,75,529 shares and Ghisallo Master Fund LP acquired 42.75 lakh shares, amounting to a 1.19% and 0.67% stake in Paytm, respectively.

The shares were purchased at an average price of Rs 877.20 per piece, taking the aggregate deal value to Rs 1,039.52 crore. Details of the other buyers could not be ascertained.

Shares of One97 Communications declined 3.08% to close at Rs 895 apiece on the NSE on Friday.

In October, Fintech company One97 Communications, which operates under the Paytm brand, reported the narrowing of consolidated loss to Rs 291.7 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal.

Govt set to miss divestment target by Rs 30,000 crore

The government will struggle to raise even half the proceeds it had targeted from planned sales of state-run firms this year and will miss divestment targets for the fifth straight year, sources said, as elections shift government priorities.

The government may fall short of its divestment goal by Rs 30,000 crore (\$3.60 billion) in FY 2023-24, two government sources said. New Delhi had targeted Rs 51,000 crore from divestment proceeds for the current fiscal year that ends March, 2024.

In the current fiscal, about Rs 30,000 crore of the Rs 51,000 crore target was expected through stake sales in IDBI Bank and the privatisation of state-owned NMDC Steel.

However, delays in vetting of interested buyers for IDBI by the RBI have stretched the sale timeline beyond the 2024 General Election.

The sale of NMDC Steel will not conclude this year due to state elections and General Election next summer.

While it may still achieve some smaller divestments in the current fiscal year, it would still be well short of half its overall target.

JPMorgan says unsecured loans to China developers a 'risky move'

BEIJING (TIP)

Any step by China to allow banks to provide unsecured loans to eligible developers "would be a risky move" for the lenders, JPMorgan Chase & Co has said.

Such a measure "would be negative for banks as it would raise concerns about national-service risk and credit risk in the medium term," the bank's analysts wrote in a note. The analysts, including Katherine Lei and Karl Chan, added that implementation "would be challenging, as banks could circumvent such guidance due to credit-risk concerns".

China is considering allowing lenders to issue loans not backed up by collateral to some builders, which could potentially free up capital for debt repayment, Bloomberg News reported on Thursday (Nov 23), citing sources.

Analysts have said that Beijing's ramping up the pressure on banks to support the struggling real estate sector is a signal that President Xi Jinping's tolerance for property sector pain is nearing its limit.

The rescue moves are aimed at easing the real estate industry's cash crunch, sources said, underscoring the anxiety among China's top leadership over the protracted crisis. Beijing also wants to ensure developers have enough cash to finish the millions of homes under construction, even if it means added risks for its banks.

The optimistic take is that if firms like Country Garden Holdings can use the cash infusion to finish homes and avoid more headline-grabbing defaults, buyers will regain confidence and sales will rebound. Banks could even avoid losses if the sector stabilises.

The unprecedented move, part of a package of new measures, are aimed at tackling a crisis marked by numerous defaults and fears of contagion in financial markets. The authorities are reportedly finalising a draft list of 50 developers eligible for financial aid, including Country Garden Holdings and Sino-Ocean Group.

Though the developments sparked a rally in property shares as well as the broader China market on Thursday, stocks fell again on Friday. A Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of developer stocks retreated more than 2 per cent on Friday; a broader index of Chinese stocks traded in Hong Kong dropped as much as 1.8 per cent.

Bank shares have remained under pressure, as the latest



report adds to investor concerns about their profitability and asset quality. Chinese lenders have been battling with shrinking margins and rising bad loans since they were drafted by the authorities to backstop the struggling economy and prevent risk spillover from the sluggish property sector.

The brokerage suggests going long property shares and shorting banks if the report on unsecured loans eventually pans out. Continuous positive news flow may support property shares in the short-term, the analysts said, but they warned that it may not be sustainable. More liquidity support to private developers may come only selectively and conditionally, they added.

Banks have been the weak link in China's rescue attempts so far. Despite government exhortations since late last year for them to lend more, property loans fell year on year in the third quarter – the first time this has happened. Banks made 2.4 trillion yuan (\$450 billion) in property development loans in the first three quarters, according to China's financial regulator. *Source: Bloomberg*

Adani-Hindenburg case: 'Don't have to treat Hindenburg report as a statement of truth': SC

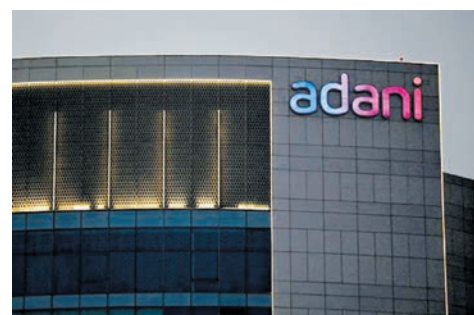
NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, November 24, observed that the Hindenburg Research report should not be treated as a statement of truth. While hearing petitioners plea on the factual revelations made in the Hindenburg report, the apex court said: "We don't have to treat Hindenburg report as being a statement of truth."

The top court further said that there are no means of testing veracity of the Hindenburg report, that's why it had asked Sebi to probe the matter.

"We don't have to accept the Hindenburg report as ipso facto factually correct. That is why we asked Sebi to investigate," the bench observed.

The petitioners further said the actions of the market regulator are "suspicious" as they have had the details since 2014.



The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had shared details with the SEBI Chairman in 2014, they claim.

On Friday during the case hearing, Sebi said it had reached out to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) for "key documents", but it refused to share the documents. "They said we can get documents from Prashant Bhusan. Prashant Bhusan is getting a

report made, and then pitching it before SC, this is a case of conflict."

The petitioners told the Supreme Court that the reports published by the Financial Times and Guardian show that certain funds were run by Gautam Adani's brother Vinod Adani. "Sebi said we have completed investigation reports, but have not disclosed," they added.

The apex court said: "Can Sebi be asked to disclose findings, even before SEBI can initiate proceedings under law? How can we pre-judge SEBI findings?"

The petitioners said that the top court should consider a court-appointed SIT, to which the Supreme Court observes, "Where is the material before us to doubt SEBI probe?"

The SC bench further said that Sebi can't be asked to take a story in a newspaper, even if in Financial Times, as gospel truth.

History This Week

NOV 24 - NOV 30

NOVEMBER 24



November 24, 1969 - The U.S. Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder in the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in March of 1968. Calley was ordered to stand trial by court martial and was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison. However, his sentence was later commuted to three years of house arrest by President Richard Nixon.

November 24, 1989 - In Czechoslovakia, mass demonstrations resulted in the resignation of the entire presidium and secretariat of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

November 24, 1992 - The U.S. military departed the Philippines after nearly a century of military presence. In 1991, the Philippine Senate had voted to reject a renewal of the lease for the American military base.

November 24, 1998 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth II opened a new session of Parliament by announcing a bill to do away with the centuries-old right of aristocrats to sit in the House of Lords, thereby taking membership and voting rights away from 759 Dukes, Earls and other hereditary nobles with titles dating as far back as the Middle Ages.

Birthdays - German Field Marshal Erich von Manstein (1887-1973) was born in Berlin. His plan for the German invasion of France in 1940 involved staging a surprise attack through the Ardennes Forest, and was a stunning success. He went on to achieve several important victories over the Russians in the East, but was dismissed by Hitler in 1944 following a series of arguments over military strategy.

NOVEMBER 25



November 25, 1936 - Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact, an agreement to collaborate in opposing the spread of Communism.

November 25, 1963 - Three days after his assassination, John F. Kennedy was

buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

November 25, 1974 - Britain outlawed the IRA (Irish Republican Army) following the deaths of 21 persons in a pub bombing in Birmingham.

November 25, 1992 - The parliament in Czechoslovakia voted to divide the country into separate Czech and Slovak republics.

November 25, 1995 - By a margin of less than one percent, Ireland voted to legalize divorce, the closest vote in the nation's history.

Birthdays - Pope John XXIII (1881-1963) was born in Sotte il Monte, Italy (as Angelo Roncalli). He became the 261st Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 1958 and served until his death in June of 1963. During his reign, he convened the Second Vatican Council which modernized the mass and increased openness to other religions and denominations.

Birthdays - Chilean military leader Augusto Pinochet (1915-2006) was born in Valparaiso, Chile. He overthrew President Salvador Allende in 1973 and remained in power until he lost the elections in 1990.

NOVEMBER 26



November 26, 1922 - In Egypt, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon first went inside the tomb of King Tutankhamen.

November 26, 1940 - During the Holocaust, Nazis began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, sealing in 400,000 inhabitants while denying them adequate food, sanitation and housing.

November 26, 1979 - After an absence of 21 years, the International Olympic Committee voted to re-admit China.

November 26, 1992 - British Prime Minister John Major announced Queen Elizabeth II had agreed to pay taxes on her personal income.

November 26, 1998 - In Dublin, Tony Blair became the first British Prime Minister to appear before the Irish Parliament, which had been created 80 years earlier in defiance of the British government.

NOVEMBER 27

November 27, 1701 - Anders Celsius (1701-1744) was born in Sweden. He invented the centigrade (Celsius) temperature scale commonly used in Europe.

Birthdays - Wild West lawman Bat Masterson (1853-1921) was born in Henryville, Quebec. He was also a gambler, saloonkeeper, and later became a news writer in New York.



Birthdays - Israeli statesman Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952) was born near Pinsk, Byelorussia. He helped bring about the British government's Balfour Declaration, which called for the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine.

Birthdays - Czech leader Alexander Dubcek (1921-1992) was born in Uhrovec, Slovakia. In 1968, as first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, he attempted to achieve "socialism with a human face" and loosen Soviet Russia's control of his country. This resulted in a military invasion by the Russians.

NOVEMBER 28



November 28, 1919 - Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female in the British House of Commons.

November 28, 1934 - FBI agents killed bank robber George "Baby Face" Nelson near Barrington, Illinois.

November 28, 1942 - Fire erupted inside the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston killing nearly 500 persons who had become trapped inside.

November 28, 1943 - The Teheran Conference began, attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin. Among the major topics discussed, a second front in Western Europe, resulting in D-Day, the seaborne invasion of Normandy in northern France on June 6, 1944.

Birthdays - German socialist Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) was born in Barmen, Wuppertal, Germany. He was an associate of Karl Marx and edited the second and third volumes of Marx's Das Kapital.

NOVEMBER 29

November 29, 1929 - American explorer Richard Byrd and Bernt Balchen

completed the first airplane flight to the South Pole.

November 29, 1947 - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.

November 29, 1989 - Forty-one years of Communist rule came to an end in Czechoslovakia following a twelve day revolution sparked by the beating of protesters. The Czech parliament voted unanimously to repeal constitutional clauses granting the Communist Party sole power. This brought a wave of reform headed by playwright Vaclav Havel, who later became president in the first free elections since World War II.



Birthdays - Nellie Tayloe Ross (1876-1977) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. She became America's first female governor, finishing her husband's term as governor of Wyoming after his death. She was elected governor in 1924, but lost the 1927 election. She also served as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee and was named director of the U.S. Mint by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

Birthdays - Hollywood director Busby Berkeley (1895-1976) was born in Los Angeles (as William Berkeley Enos). After serving in World War I as an entertainment officer, he changed his name and began his show business career. Best known for lavish musicals including Forty-Second Street, Gold Diggers of 1933, Babes in Arms, Strike Up the Band, and Girl Crazy.

Birthdays - British author C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was born in Belfast, Ireland (as Clive Staples Lewis). He wrote books on Christian teachings including The Pilgrim's Regress, The Problem of Pain, Miracles, and The Screwtape Letters.

NOVEMBER 30

November 30, 1939 - Finland was invaded by more than 20 Russian divisions in the Winter War.



November 30, 1995 - Bill Clinton became the first American president to visit Northern Ireland.



Asceticism doesn't lie in
ascetic robes or in walking
staff nor in the ashes.
Asceticism doesn't lie in the
earring nor in the shaven head
nor blowing a conch.
Asceticism lies in remaining
pure amidst impurities.
GURU NANAK

*Happy 554th Birth Anniversary of
Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji*



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Mukteshwar: Quaint hill town

Mukteshwar is a small hill town located around 50 km from Nainital in Uttarakhand. Known for adventure sports and a dazzling view of Himalayan ranges, Mukteshwar is named after the 350-year-old Shiva Temple housed here called Mukteshwar Dham.

The quaint town got its name from the belief that Lord Shiva killed a demon here and gave him Mukti or salvation. With lush green trails and narrow lanes, Mukteshwar is a popular destination for trekking, apart from rock climbing and rappelling. Major attractions here are the picturesque orchards, coniferous forests, rolling meadows, and little cottages and homes built in quaint colonial style. The charm of Mukteshwar lies in spending tranquil time - enjoying nature and listening to the chirping of the birds.

Places To Visit

Sitla

At 6000 ft, Sitla is a hill station popular for its colonial style bungalows. Tourists can engage in trekking expeditions of varying difficulty levels organised by the resorts in this area.

Chauli ki Jaali

Next to Mukteshwar temple is Chauli ki Jaali, an area where it is believed that a Demon and a Goddess fought a battle. The place is marked with what is believed to be faint outlines of a sword, a shield and a trunk of an elephant.

People also hold it as a belief that women unable to bear children will be blessed with children when touched by the natural lattice around the rock.

Mukteshwar Temple

One of the most popular shrines, Mukteshwar temple, is an ancient temple which is almost 350 years old and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Perched on top of the highest point in Mukteshwar (which is a beautiful hill station that got its name after the shrine), the temple lies approximately 2312 m above the sea level. This grand temple is identified as one of the eighteen most important temples dedicated to Lord Shiva in the Hindu scripture. The location of Mukteshwar Temple atop a hill makes it a perfect place for clicking some wonderful pictures and capturing memories. The nature lovers must surely visit the temple and enjoy the breathtaking view one is likely to get from there. A white marble Shiva Linga is also present here which has a copper yoni. In addition to the Shiva Linga, there are idols of other deities as well including Lord Ganesha, Brahma, Vishnu, Parvati, Hanuman, and Nandi. The Mukteshwar temple is considered vital and holds a lot of significance for the committee of iron ore miners known as 'agaries'. This magnificent temple is believed to be home to Shri Mukteshwar Maharaj Ji which is also a suitable place to practice meditation. One can even trek to the hilltop where the temple is located. Also, since the trek is not very challenging and the way up to the hill is covered with fruits orchards and forests in use, it takes

about 2 hours to reach there.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute

The Indian Veterinary Research Institute is a deemed university which was established in 1885. Its foundation was laid by the recommendation of Col. JHB Hallen. The campus at Mukteshwar covers an area of 3450 acres of land and comprises of Division of Virology and that of Temperate Animal Husbandry. Since it is situated at the height of 7620 ft on the intersection of Gagar and Lohaghat ranges of the Kumaon hills, the location adds to the scenic beauty of the place and makes it even more beautiful. This Institute aims at achieving objectives such as carrying out research on the various viruses and diseases which the livestock and poultry come across. It also has a goal of producing antigens, vaccinations, and nucleic acid probes so as to cure such diseases. It also wishes to carry out research related to the health, psychology and nutritional requirement of the various animals belonging to the temperate region. The different courses offered here include Master of Veterinary Science, National Diploma in Preventive Veterinary Medicine, National Diploma in Animal Husbandry, National Diploma in Veterinary Biological Products and National Diploma in Animal Reproduction.

View of Nanda Devi

Nanda Devi is the 2nd highest mountain peak in India and overall 23rd in the world. It stands as tall as 7,816 m above the sea level. This mountain peak is clearly visible from Mukteshwar and tourists visiting Mukteshwar must have a clear look at this mesmerizing beauty.

Mukteshwar Inspection Bungalow

Complete with scenic views of the sunrise across the Himalayas, the Mukteshwar Inspection Bungalow near the temple offers accommodation for a serene holiday.

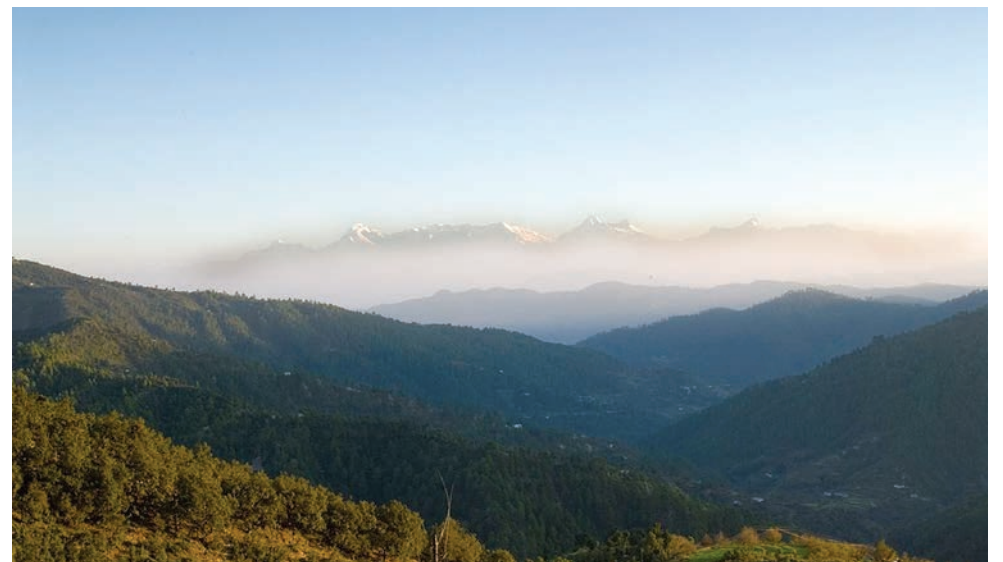
Paragliding

Paragliding is one of the most exciting things to do in Mukteshwar. Besides giving you a feeling of euphoria, exhilaration and a high adrenaline rush, it is a surreal experience to float above the valley and glide amidst the clouds. In addition to offering gorgeous 360 degrees bird's eye view of the place, it is an experience that will stay with you for a lifetime. It is usually offered with a camping package with several other adventure sports options.

Trekking & Camping

One of the most exciting things to do in Mukteshwar is trekking the winding trails. Enveloped in dense woods, the small hill town offers ample opportunities to scale the hills at trekking and hiking. You can also camp in or around the woods and light a bonfire. There are several camping options available for you. If not, you can set up one of your own. Camping in the tranquil atmosphere is going to be one of the most memorable experiences of your life.

Source: Holidify.com





*Heartiest congratulations
on the 554th
Birth anniversary of
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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

THE INDIAN PANORAMA BRINGS YOU WEEKLY HOROSCOPE BY CHIRAG DARUWALLA, SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 27 TO DEC 3, 2023



CANCER : Ganesha says that this week will prove to be extremely favourable for Cancerians. Your work will be appreciated. It is possible that you may also get some important position or responsibility. For those who have been thinking of furthering their business for a long time, their dream can be fulfilled this week. The obstacles coming in the work related to power-government will be removed and money will be gained. With the help of an influential person, you will heave a sigh of relief when the matters related to the court are settled outside. The obstacles coming in getting the ancestral property will be removed. There will be full cooperation from brothers and sisters while solving family issues. In the second half of the week, working women will remain very busy and they may face some difficulties in balancing work and home. During this, avoid haste during work and drive carefully. Love relations will be normal. There will be better coordination with the life partner and there will be opportunities to spend a pleasant time with the family.



LEO : Ganesha says that the people of the Leo zodiac will have to avoid anger and arrogance this week, otherwise not only your ready-made works can get spoiled. Be careful in talking, otherwise, you can wash your hands of years-old relationships. In such a situation, while laughing and joking with someone, avoid making fun of others. This week you will need to take special care of your body along with work, otherwise, you may have to suffer physical and mental pain. The middle of the week will prove to be very auspicious for those working on contract and commission. During this time you will be able to earn profit from various sources. Those doing business or working abroad will get the desired benefits. At the end of the week, any major achievement related to the child side will be a big reason for your happiness and respect. In the second half of the week, you can go on a tourism or religious pilgrimage with your spouse. From the point of view of the love affair, you will need to step carefully this week, otherwise, you may have to face unnecessary stress or slander. Take special care of your health.



VIRGO : Ganesha says that this week will prove to be normal for the people of Virgo. At the beginning of the week, there will be a lot of busyness regarding work. You may also have to bear the responsibility of others at work. You will do well with extra hard work and effort. If you were wandering in search of employment, then you may have to wait a little longer. In business, you will get the full support of your partner, due to which you will find your business progressing slowly but surely. During this time you will find yourself tired of both body and mind. You will remain worried about your mother's health as well. During this, read any paper thoroughly before signing it. Love relations will be normal. Love partner will walk shoulder to shoulder with you in difficult times. Married life will remain happy. Your life partner will become your support in the ups and downs of life.



LIBRA : Ganesha says that the people of Libra will need to pay more attention to their relationship and health this week, because, at the beginning of the week, there may be a difference of opinion or debate with a

dear member of the house. In such a situation, try to overcome any problem with a calm mind and understanding. At the beginning of the week, there will be financial worries if you spend more out of pocket on things related to home repair or amenities. Suddenly there will be chances of long or short-distance travel. Due to the expensive and tiring journey, the mind will remain a little disappointed and sad. However, in the second half of the week, someone related to the child will be found, due to which a wave of happiness will run in the house and he will get a chance to enjoy with the family. This time will also be auspicious from the business point of view. This time is going to be auspicious for you in terms of a love relationship. If the attraction of single people towards the opposite sex increases, then there will be strength in the already existing love relationship. The mind may remain a little worried about the health of the spouse.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says that Scorpio sign people will get full results of the efforts and hard work put in by them this week. At the beginning of the week, the mind will be happy if there is a big opportunity related to career business. There will be an opportunity to work in association with a big scheme or organization. Employed people will get the full support of seniors and juniors in the field. The steps taken in connection with the business will prove to be correct and there will be desired progress in it. Investments made in the past in any scheme or business will prove beneficial. During this time, with the help of an influential person, it will help to solve any major problem related to life. The dispute related to land building will be resolved through talks. This week will prove to be very auspicious from the point of view of a love affair. If you were thinking of proposing to someone for a long time, then doing so this week will make your point. On the other hand, for those who are already in a love relationship, their love and harmony with their love partner will increase. Some good news will knock on the lives of married people, due to which there will be an atmosphere of happiness in the house.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says that the people of Sagittarius will remain busy with work this week. The journey will prove to be pleasant and beneficial. During this, there will be a meeting with an influential person, with whom you will get an opportunity to associate with profitable schemes in the future. People in whose work there was some upheaval going on, this week all things will be seen to be organized. Senior's cooperation will be received and misunderstandings with Junior will be cleared. This week is going to be very auspicious for people associated with politics. Suddenly a big position or responsibility may come in his lap. In the middle of the week, you will feel relieved if any major confusion related to life is removed. During this, the decision in the matter related to the court will come in your Favor. Those doing business with foreign countries can get a big deal. This week is going to be very auspicious in terms of love relationships. Relatives can accept your love affair and put a seal of marriage on it. Married life will remain happy. The great achievement of the life partner will be a big reason for your respect.

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ARIES : Ganesha says that this week will prove to be auspicious for the people of Aries. If you have been suffering from some disease or any other physical pain for some time, then you will get relief from it this week.

Your colleagues will prove to be very helpful in removing the obstacles coming into your work. Students engaged in the preparation of examination competitions can get some good news at the beginning of the week itself. During this, the journey undertaken in connection with career business will prove to be successful and profitable. If any of your money is stuck in the market or any scheme etc., it will come out unexpectedly. In the second half of the week, there will be chances of traveling to any religious or tourist place with the family. During this, most of the youth's time will be spent in fun. Married life will remain happy. Health will be normal.



TAURUS : Ganesha says that the people of Taurus will get full support of good luck this week. At the beginning of the week itself, you can have some big success related to your career or business, due to which there will be an atmosphere of happiness in the house. During this, religious-manglik programs will be held at home and your mind will be very busy in such works. Faith in God will increase and blessings of elders will be received. This time will prove to be auspicious for the people associated with studies and writing. From an economic point of view, the flow of money will be good at this time and there will be an increase in the accumulated wealth. If you have been planning to buy land, buildings, or vehicles for a long time, then by the end of this week your wish can be fulfilled. For those who were thinking of making their career abroad, the obstacles coming their way will be removed. People will appreciate your pair. Married life will also remain happy.



GEMINI : Ganesha says that this week is going to bring new opportunities in life for the people of Gemini. If you were thinking of changing your job or business for a long time, then your dream can be fulfilled this week. You will get new employment opportunities. However, before taking any step forward, you must take advice from your well-wishers. This week you will get the full cooperation and support of your parents while finding a solution to any major family-related problem. Long-distance travel is possible in connection with business in the middle of the week. The journey will prove to be pleasant and beneficial. This week the misunderstandings arising in your love affair will be removed. There will be a special contribution of a female friend in bringing the car of love back on track. For those who were still living a single life, someone can enter their life. To make married life happy, do not ignore the feelings of your spouse and take some time out of your busy schedule for him as well. Be aware of seasonal diseases.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 3 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 27 : Ganesha says today is the beginning of a voyage into the brightest parts of your own psyche. The energy of the universe is ideal for introspection and coming to know oneself better. You might find that you are drawn to life's most profound concerns, which may lead you to investigate topics like purpose and personal development. It is the kind of day that is perfect for writing in a diary, since your thoughts will be able to flow freely onto the paper, and you will discover new insights that you had not noticed previously. Clarity and calm may also be gained through meditation or a solitary stroll in the fresh air. Embrace this mindset of introspection; you have a unique chance to make big personal discoveries and progress during this time.

NOVEMBER 28 : Ganesha says today there is an increase in creative energies, making it an excellent day for artistic expression. The stars are aligned in a way that will boost your creative abilities, whether you're an artist, a writer, a musician, or you simply like creative pastimes. You have the option of beginning a new project or returning to an old one today since your creative potential is at an all-time high. Even in mundane activities, you should make an effort to inject some creative thought. It's possible to find

artistic expression in the kitchen, in the garden, or even in rearrangement of your furniture. You should follow where your imagination takes you and not be hesitant to try out new things and concepts.

NOVEMBER 29 : Ganesha says today is a day devoted to making and maintaining ties and communicating with others. Because you will feel in tune with those around you, today is a good day for having significant talks, whether they are with close friends, members of your family, or coworkers. Now that you have a greater capacity to explain yourself clearly, you should engage in the conversations that you have been putting off. It is also a wonderful day for making new connections and socializing with others. The relationships you cultivate in the present could pave the way for fascinating prospects in the foreseeable future.

NOVEMBER 30 : Ganesha says today's focus is on maintaining equilibrium and harmony. It's possible that you'll experience a strong want to arrange and bring order to not only your surroundings but also your thoughts. Organizing one's life, formulating plans, and establishing objectives are all productive activities for today. In your private life, make efforts to bring harmony to the connections you have. As today is a day

in which even seemingly insignificant actions can have a significant effect, you should give some thought to reaching out to a person you care about with a kind remark or a helpful deed.

DECEMBER 1 : Ganesha says adventure calls on this day. It's possible that you'll get the overwhelming desire to do something out of the ordinary and shake up your usual routine. It could be something as easy as taking a different route to work, or it could be something as significant as making plans for a future vacation. The important thing is to welcome change and the enthusiasm that comes along with it. Maintain an open mind toward new experiences and allow spontaneity to direct your actions. It is also an excellent day for education, so today can be a good time to start reading a new book or researching something you've always been intrigued about.

DECEMBER 2 : Ganesha says a day for contemplation and expression of thanks. Spend some time reflecting on the past year and recalling all of the experiences you've had throughout that period. Keep your attention on the good and what you've gained from the experience. It is also a day to show appreciation for the people in your life and the experiences that have made you who you are today. Think about penning a note or sending a message to a person who has changed your life in

some significant way, or just stop what you're doing for a moment and appreciate the beauty that surrounds you every day.

DECEMBER 3 : Ganesha says you deserve some peace and quiet, so give yourself the gift of a relaxing activity like taking a long bath, reading a book, or going for a stroll at your own pace. Pay attention to what your mind and body want and offer them what they require to feel refreshed. It's also a great day to engage in some low-intensity physical activity, like yoga or a leisurely bike ride, which can help you get your thoughts organised and improve your mood.

NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA IS AVAILABLE FOR ASTROLOGICAL CONSULTATIONS. HE CAN BE REACHED AT INFO@BEJANDARUWALLA.COM AND ON PHONE +91-9638770377 WWW.BEJANDARUWALLA.COM

CONTD FROM PAGE 52



CAPRICORN: Ganesha says that the people of Capricorn will need to be very careful this week from those people who often try to mislead. Be it workplace or home family, avoid taking any wrong step by being misled by someone. At the beginning of the week, the burden of additional work may come on the head of employed people. However, your friends will prove to be very helpful in handling it. This time will prove to be auspicious for students studying and writing. By the end of the week, they may get some good news. Businesspeople must take the advice of their well-wishers once while making a big deal in the middle of the week. Financially, this time can be a bit challenging for you. In such a situation, invest money in any scheme or business only after thinking. If any misunderstanding has arisen in the love relationship, try to remove it through dialogue instead of dispute, otherwise, the relationship may get worse.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says that this week will prove to be mixed for the people of Aquarius. At the beginning of the week, any family-related problem will become a major cause of your troubles. This week, due to a dispute related to land-building or ancestral property, you may have to go to the court-court. At the same time, you

may have to face the anger of your senior in the field of work. This week, avoid making any decisions in anger or by getting carried away by emotions. Avoid giving weight to the small things of colleagues in the workplace. In the second half of the week, you will need to pay special attention to your health. During this, you may come under the grip of seasonal diseases. Financial problems may come to the fore in the second half of the week. Due to this borrowing may have to be done. Take a step forward carefully in a love relationship and avoid glorifying it on social media etc., otherwise, you may have to face unnecessary problems. To make married life happy, respect the feelings of your spouse.



PISCES : Ganesha says that this week is going to be very auspicious for Pisces people. At the beginning of the week, all your planned work will be completed on time when good luck is with you. Employed people can get the desired promotion. Those who were thinking of a job change can get better opportunities. However, while making changes, do consult your well-wishers. This week, you will spend a lot of money on things related to comfort. There will be an atmosphere of happiness when the desired or much-awaited thing arrives in the house. For those who are doing business in partnership, this time will prove to be very auspicious. There will

be chances of profit and progress in the business. Laziness has to be avoided in the second half of the week, otherwise, the opportunity at hand may slip away. During this, you also have to pay attention to your fitness. To maintain health, keep food and routine right. Marriage proposals may come for unmarried people this week. There will be strength in love relations and mutual trust will increase. Married life will remain happy.

ABOUT ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

Celebrity Astrologer Chirag

Daruwalla is the son of famous astrologer Bejan Daruwalla. He is known for his detailed astrological predictions on career, health, love, finance, and business. You can visit their website bejandaruwalla.com for guidance on problems related to your life and solve your problem with the help of expert astrologer Chirag Daruwalla. For guidance on problems related to your life you can speak with Astrologer Chirag Daruwalla on WhatsApp +91 9825470377 or e-mail to info@bejandaruwalla.com

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ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥

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ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ

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ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਹਿੱਕਸਵਿਲ ਵਿਖੇ

25, 26, 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023



ਨੂੰ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਪੂਰਵਕ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ

ਆਰੰਭ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 25 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:00 ਵਜੇ

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਅਤੇ ਸ੍ਰ. ਰਵੇਲ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ੍ਰ. ਤੇਗਬੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਧਾਨ, ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਵਾਰ ਵਲੋਂ

ਭੋਗ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸੋਮਵਾਰ ਸਵੇਰੇ 10:00 ਵਜੇ

ਉਪ੍ਰੰਤ ਰਾਤ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਦੀਵਾਨ ਸਜਣਗੇ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਥ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥੇ

ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੇ।

ਮਹਾਨ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਸਮਾਗਮ 27, 28, 29 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ, ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ

ਵਿਚ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ - ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੀਆਂ

ਐਤਵਾਰ 12 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਬੰਦੀ ਫੋਤ ਦਿਵਸ (ਦੀਵਾਲੀ) ਸਵੇਰੇ 5:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ ਰਾਤ 10:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਪੂਰਵਕ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ

ਮਹਾਨ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦਰਬਾਰ 24 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2023 ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ੁਕਰਵਾਰ ਰਾਤ 6:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੋਂ 9:00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਥ ਪ੍ਰਸਿੱਧ ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥੇ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਕ ਹਾਜਰੀ ਭਰਨਗੇ।



ਭਈ ਗੁਰਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਭਵ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਭਾਈ ਰਾਏ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਭਈ ਅਮਰੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ)



ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਖੰਡਾ ਵਾਲਾ UK)



ਭਈ ਨਰਜੋਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਭੰਗਲਾ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਭਈ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਸ੍ਰ. ਵੀਰਦੇਵਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਰਾਗੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਭਈ ਨਰਜੋਤ 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

ਨੋਟ: 27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਾਰਕਿੰਗ ਲਾਟ ਵਿਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਦੀ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਤੰਬੂ (TENT) ਲਗੇਗਾ, ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਸਟਾਲ ਲਗਣਗੇ ਤਰਾਂ ਤਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਕਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਣਗੀਆਂ

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਤਾ : ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Tens of thousands march in London...

"Officers spotted him carrying a placard with Nazi symbols on it," police said.

Officers handed out leaflets at the march that sought to clarify what would be deemed an offence, after the force faced pressure from senior government officials to be tougher on alleged displays of antisemitism at the protests.

"Anyone who is racist or incites hatred against any group should expect to be arrested. As should anyone who supports Hamas or any other banned organization," said Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner Ade Adelekan.

"We will not tolerate anyone who celebrates or promotes acts of terrorism - such as the killing or kidnap of innocent people - or who spreads hate speech," he added.

The force said 1,500 officers were deployed to police the march.

Earlier this month the UK's former interior minister, Suella Braverman, came under heavy criticism when she described pro-Palestinian protesters as "hate marchers". Critics accused her of inflaming tensions, and she was sacked by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak soon after.

In Paris, a march staged for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women drew both pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli activists as well as other groups.

Some protesters, waving Palestinian flags and posters reading "Free Palestine," walked in a show of solidarity with "Gaza and Palestine's women who are being murdered".

A group of Jewish women also joined the march to denounce crimes committed by Hamas, including rapes and killings, chanting, "We are women, we are proud, we are Jewish and we are angry." Meanwhile, some pro-Palestinian protests were organized over the weekend in France's major cities including Strasbourg, Lyon and Marseille.

Hizb-ut-Tahrir, the Islamist group, also protested Saturday outside the Egyptian Embassy in London. Tens of thousands of people are also expected to take part in a march organized by the Campaign Against Antisemitism charity on Sunday to show solidarity with the Jewish community in the UK. (Source: PTI)

Indian Envoy Sanjay Verma urges...

back up Justin Trudeau's allegations.

In an interview with CTV news channel, the high commissioner was asked about the allegations raised by Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau of possible Indian government's involvement in Nijjar's killing.

Responding to this, Verma said, "There are two points on that. One is that, even without the investigation being concluded, India was convicted.

Is that a rule of law?" On being asked "how was India convicted", the high commissioner said, "Because India was asked to cooperate and if you look at the typical criminal terminology, when someone asks to cooperate, it means you have already been convicted and you better cooperate".

"So, we took it in a very different interpretation. But, we have always said that if there is anything very specific and relevant, and communicated to us, we will look into it," the Indian envoy added. (Source; ANI)

Binaya Srikant Pradhan to succeed...

Mr. Binaya Srikant Pradhan is a career diplomat and belongs to the 2002 batch of the Indian Foreign Service. As a diplomat, he served in senior positions in Indian Embassies in Moscow, Turkmenistan and Pakistan during 2004-12. During 2012-14, he looked after India's relationship with Afghanistan and Iran at the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

During 2014-19, Mr. Pradhan worked as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India. He was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Tanzania in July 2021.

Mr. Pradhan takes keen interest in economic and energy diplomacy. He is also an observer of developments in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia.

A widely traveled man, he is fluent in English, Russian, Hindi and native Odiya languages.

He enjoys playing golf.

Mr. Pradhan is married and the couple has two daughters.

CBI registers preliminary enquiry...

The Lokpal reference came on a complaint made by BJP MP from Jharkhand Nishikant Dubey, who alleged that Mahua accepted monetary gains in lieu of questions she asked in the Lok Sabha against the Adani group of industries and with the motive to help Adani's business rivals.

Neither the CBI nor the Lokpal have issued any formal statement on the issue.

The registration of a PE is important as it opens the doors for ascertainment of whether a criminal offence is made out. In case the anti-graft agency gathers smoke evidence at the PE stage it can convert the enquiry into an FIR.

Meanwhile, Moitra took to 'X' and said that neither the Lokpal uploaded any referral order on its website as per the Lokpal Act nor the CBI put out anything official. "Hope Rs 13,000 crore Adani coal scam merits CBI PE before my witchhunt," she posted.

Moitra said she was "amused to see how headless Lokpal with no full-time Chairman referred" her case to the CBI.

"RTI of 3/11/23 says Lokpal has no Chairman since May 2022 and 3 of 8 member posts also vacant! Maybe Jharkhand Branch of Pitbull Association also moonlighting as Lokpal Committee under BJP," she said on X. Dubey in his complaint to the Lokpal also alleged that Moitra compromised national security.

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha is also looking into the same complaint against Moitra and has recommended Mahua's expulsion from the house finding allegations made against her true. (Source: PTI)

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

Indian Overseas Congress New...

Mr. Mausmi eloquently delved into the rich history of the Indian National Congress, emphasizing its profound significance as a symbol of India's democratic ethos. Arjumand Juwaria, Joint Secretary, voiced concerns about escalating disharmony in India, underscoring the imperative for collective attention and concerted efforts to address this pressing issue.

Ram Gadula, Chairman of the Telangana Chapter, played a pivotal force in orchestrating a seamlessly coordinated event. He played a crucial role in bringing together chapter heads from Kerala, Punjab, Telangana, Haryana, Andhra and other chapters of the Indian Overseas Congress in New Jersey. The event, a culmination of collective efforts, saw Sam Pitroda and Peter Kothari graciously acknowledging Chapter Heads. This celebration of unity and acknowledgment of leadership from diverse chapters marked a significant moment in the Indian Overseas Congress's New Jersey chapter's journey.

In a spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm, the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) New Jersey Chapter witnessed a momentous event as Sam Pitroda, Peter Kothari, and Harkesh Thakur warmly greeted all members and office bearers. Vice Chairman Bharat Patel and Mr. Mukesh Maid, along with Vice President Manmitsing Vasdev, Tanzeem Ansari, and Mahesh Patel, added their support, further contributing to the event's resounding success.

Qayam Masumi, a seasoned and dedicated member, has taken on the role of New Jersey Chapter Secretary, demonstrating the chapter's trust in his capabilities. Raj Desai has assumed the position of Treasurer, while Dipak Valsadia and Harvender Singh have been appointed as Public Relations Officers. Pamposh Shaikh joins as Joint Treasurer, emphasizing the

chapter's dedication to effective communication and outreach. Together, these key figures embody the unity that is a hallmark of the IOC, showcasing their collaborative efforts and commitment to the organization's objectives.

The spotlight of the event shone on the newly formed Executive Committee, a dynamic group comprising Raj Macwan, Vihari Patel, Neeraj Gamadia, Kirit Jakaria, Nandini Kothari, Nina Thakur, Jyoti Ruben, Dave Makkar, Chandrakant Bhatt Basha Syed and Ashish Master. Their diverse expertise, acknowledged and celebrated at the event, promises to be a driving force, enriching both the IOC NJ Chapter and the overarching Indian Overseas Congress.

The grand event, held in New Jersey by the Indian Overseas Congress, served as a powerful rallying point for the diaspora, promoting unity, peace, and a steadfast commitment to democratic values. The gathering resonated with enthusiasm and optimism, with participants expressing their fervent wishes for the Indian National Congress to triumph in all state elections and the upcoming 2024 elections. (Press release issued by HP Singh)

HPD Announces Pilot Program...

"This \$2.6 million grant to New York City is part of Governor Hochul's comprehensive effort to grow our affordable housing supply by crafting community centered solutions to encourage low- and middle-income homeowners to create or upgrade good quality, safe Accessory Dwelling Units," said NYS Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnaukas. "The City is a great partner in the production of affordable homes, whether they are in large, multifamily buildings or single family homes participating in the Plus One ADU program. We will continue to work together to alleviate the housing crisis that is a roadblock to healthy growth and housing choice for all New Yorkers."

Across the city, homeowners face challenges with rising costs and aging in place. City and state Regulations limit what New Yorkers can do with their own property, which can force families to move farther away from their loved ones or are forced into uncomfortably cramped houses. Meanwhile, spaces like garages, attics, basements, and backyards can go unused when small improvements could make them into comfortable homes. For seniors fighting to stay in their neighborhood on a fixed income, or young people stretching to afford a first home, adding an ADU to their property can be life changing. But under current rules, homeowners can't always choose to alter their properties in this way.

To combat New York City's housing crisis, the Adams administration has proposed a set of citywide zoning changes as part of its historic City of Yes for Housing Opportunity plan led by the Department of City Planning (DCP). While the proposal advances through environmental review, HPD is continuing to find creative solutions within the city's existing zoning and building codes, such as the Plus One ADU pilot program, to demonstrate the potential for ADUs to deliver cost-effective benefits to both homeowners and the city, and the ability to deliver these results without significantly changing the look and feel of a neighborhood.

ADUs deliver enormous benefits to homeowners and renters across the country and are an exciting opportunity for creating more housing in New York City. Backyard cottages, garages and other existing spaces can add new homes and support homeowners without significantly changing a neighborhood's character. ADUs can provide homeowners with a little extra income while creating new housing in the process - each unit representing a potential home for grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren, or for recent college graduates returning to start their careers in New York City. Through the initial pilot program, HPD aims to help up to 15 single-family homeowners build ADUs on their properties working in partnership with Restored Homes HDFC.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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25
ਨਵੰਬਰ 2023
ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ
ਸਵੇਰੇ 9.00 ਤੋਂ 5.00 ਵਜੇ ਤੱਕ

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ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦਰਬਾਰ**

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ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਗਿਆਨੀ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਸਾਬਕਾ ਹੈੱਡ ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਸਮਾਗਮ

ਐਤਵਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਸੋਮਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਦੀਵਾਨ
ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਜਣਗੇ।

27 ਨਵੰਬਰ ਰਾਤ ਫੁੱਲਾਂ ਦੀ
ਵਰਖਾ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

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 ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਫਤਿਹਗੜ੍ਹ ਸਾਹਿਬ)

ਪਹੁੰਚ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਪੰਥਕ ਸਖਸ਼ੀਅਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਕੀਰਤਨੀ ਜਥੇ



ਬਾਬਾ ਬੰਤਾ 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
'ਨ੍ਰਿਪਾਣੇ ਵਾਲੇ'



ਭਾਈ ਮੋਹਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ 'ਬਡਾਣਾ'
(ਚਾਡੀ ਜੱਥਾ)



ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ 'ਬਾਵਾ'
(ਹਜੂਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ)



ਗਿਆਨੀ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
ਕਥਾਚਾਰਕ (ਮੁਕੇਰੀਆਂ ਵਾਲੇ)



ਭਾਈ ਕੁਲਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
ਭਾਈ ਦਿਲਬਾਗ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ



ਭਾਈ ਕਮਲਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ
(ਹਜੂਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬੰਗਲਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ)



ਗੁਰੂ ਕੇ ਲੰਗਰ
ਦੇ ਸਟਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਬੰਚਿਆਂ
ਦੇ ਝੂਟਣ ਲਈ ਪੰਥੂਤੇ
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।

ਦਾਸਰੇ : ਗਿਆਨੀ ਭੁਪਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ. ਜਗਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ, ਗੁਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਅਮਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ, ਹਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ
ਅਮਨਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ, ਹਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੰਦੀ, ਕੰਵਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਲੋਗਾਆਈਲੈਂਡ ਦੀ ਸਮੂਹ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ

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The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) NY @25



Dharti Arvind Desai, Immediate past president, TiE, NY Chapter and member of TiE Global Board of Trustees.

Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment



Manjusha Tipre, President, TiE NY

NOVEMBER 22, 2023
NEW YORK (TIP): TiE is the largest global nonprofit organization with 58 chapters in 12 counties which fosters entrepreneurship through education, mentoring, networking, incubating, and access to funding. TiE has had a significant impact on the entrepreneurial community by mentoring 25,000 startups, creating 2.5 million jobs, and generating 1 trillion \$ in wealth.

TiE's New York chapter (TiE NY) was founded in October 1998 as a key chapter in the financial capital of the world to be a toll keeper to the ethos and value system created by TiE. TiE NY has shaped and nurtured a thriving entrepreneurial community one Tuesday at a time through its flagship and unconventional Tuesday events, mentorship programs, and open mic nights. The big milestone anniversary celebration kicked off by ringing the opening bell at NASDAQ by TiE Global Board of Trustees member, Dharti Arvind Desai and TiE NY's President, Manjusha Tipre.

Following this was a 'members-only' cocktail at the iconic private client center of J P Morgan in NYC.

And finally, on Oct 14th, TiE NY celebrated 1300 Tuesdays: TiE NY's Silver Anniversary Event at the beautiful Conrad Downtown from 4.30 to 10 pm.

The theme of the Gala was Celebrate. Nurture. Imagine. On a magical autumn evening in New York, with more than 230 guests in attendance, TiE NY recognized and celebrated all that the TiE NY's chapter has accomplished in the last 25 years, set the stage for NY's entrepreneurs to be nurtured through new and old connections and mentorship, and inspired all in attendance to imagine what the next 25 years of entrepreneurship will look like. An absolutely riveting Keynote address was delivered by our very own unicorn founder Sunil Madhu, who is now a Charter Member and continues to give



Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs, presents a citation from the City's mayor, Eric Adams to Dharti Arvind Desai, Manjusha Tipre, and other board members at the gala

back and pay forward to a community that mentored and nurtured him during his early days as a first-time entrepreneur. A fantastic panel on imagining the next 25 years of entrepreneurship had leaders like Micheal Hund, Lata Setty, Lauren Foundos, and Sara Hand.

The evening also showcased the best artistic talent from the Sonalee Vyas Dance Academy, Columbia Sur and sitar and tabla players, Shraman Sen and Milan Ganatra.

a number of years of advocacy the first time in the history of NYC Mayor declared a Diwali Holiday in NYC Schools. Also, he applauds the great work of TiE mentorship program and great work contributing to NYC's economic growth.

On this commemorative occasion, Dharti said, 'I salute the spirit of giving back of this global community and am very honored to have led the chapter for 3 years and chaired the TiE Women global program with more than 3000 women



Manjusha Tipre, President, TiE NY, Dharti Arvind Desai, Immediate past president, TiE, NY, and the Board Members on stage during the felicitation ceremony.

All Photos: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

Special awards and recognitions were given to the global leaders and sponsors who came from all over the world to celebrate.

A key highlight of the evening was a citation given by New York City's mayor Eric Adam's office to TiE NY, which Dharti, Manjusha, and the board received from Dilip Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner from NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs. Dilip spoke eloquently about the early days with TiE and the mayor's efforts in fostering entrepreneurship through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Also, Deputy Commissioner spoke about his office and how the NYC Administration is going to help the businesses that wanted to establish its presence in NYC. Also, he mentioned after

entrepreneurs impacted. We have miles to go and NY will continue to trailblaze in being a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community of entrepreneurs. Such occasions not only reinforce my commitment to the TiE ethos but also motivate me to do more!"

Manjusha added, "I am a first-generation entrepreneur from a small town in India! I wish I had a TiE when I first started! I call out to the hundreds of start-up founders and thousands of budding entrepreneurs out there who need mentors, incubators, and access to funds! Come join our vibrant community and find out firsthand how we can accelerate your journeys! Look out for our special Tuesday programming on nytie.org for more!"

(Based on a Press release)



The attendees at the gala

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 24 TO NOVEMBER 30

24 NOVEMBER

1877 The first Hindustani Kawayi Jamsetji Patigara to become deputy commissioner was born.

2003 Uma Devi Khatri, who instilled a comedy in Hindi films, died.

1871 The National Rifle Association was organized.

1904 The first successful caterpillar track was produced.



1926 Eminent philosopher Sri Aurobindo attained complete accomplishment.

1944 Famous Indian film actor and film director Amol Palekar was born.

1986 Legislators were expelled from the House together for the first time in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

1988 For the first time under the Dal Balaul law, Lok Sabha MP Lalduhoma was disqualified.

2008 Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, accused in the Malegaon bomb blast case, accused the ATS of showing obscene CDs.

1881 India's freedom fighter and politician Chhoturam was born.

25 NOVEMBER



2014 Sitara Devi, the famous dancer of Kathak died.

1866 Allahabad High Court was inaugurated.

1879 Birth of saint poet TL Vaswani.

1949 The constitution of independent India was signed by the President of the Constitutional Committee and implemented it with immediate effect.

1960 The STD system of telephone was first used in India between Kanpur and Lucknow.

2001 Benazir Bhutto met Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi.

1890 India's famous linguist, litterateur and scholar Suniti Kumar Chatterjee was born.

1890 Radheshyam Kathavachak, a prominent writer in Parsi theatre, was born.

26 NOVEMBER

1949 The supreme law of the country adopted our constitution.

2008 The terror attack on Mumbai shook the world.

2009 The Constitution of India adopted the Constitution.

1960 Telephone STD service started between

Lucknow and Kanpur for the first time in India.

2012 Arvind Kejriwal formed a new political party called Aam Aadmi Party.



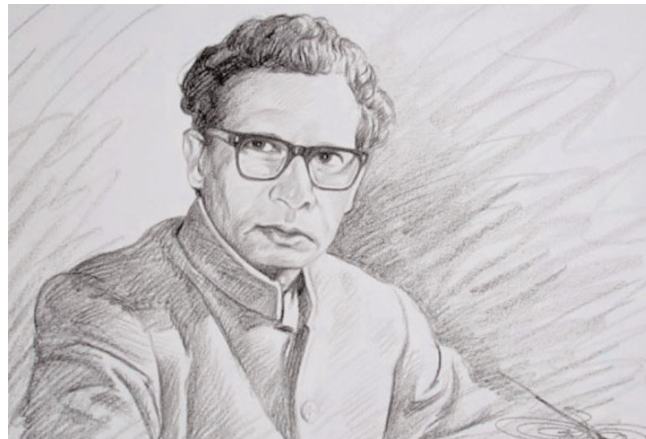
1948 National Cadet Corps was established.

2008 The terrorist attack in Mumbai left 164 people dead, more than 250 injured.

27 NOVEMBER

1001 The Hindu Shahi ruler Jaipal was defeated by the invading Mahmud Ghazni.

1795 The first Bengali drama was staged.



1907 India's famous poet and writer Harivansh Rai Bachchan was born in Allahabad city of Uttar Pradesh.

2011 The famous Indian classical musician Sultan Khan died.

2008 Uttar Pradesh became the first state in the country to pay the Sixth Pay Commission.

1881 India's famous historian and internationally renowned scholar of archeology Kashi Prasad Jaiswal was born.

1888 Famous freedom fighter and first Speaker of Lok Sabha Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar was born.

1978 India's famous social reformer Laxmibai Kelkar passed away.

28 NOVEMBER

1997 Prime Minister IK Gujral resigned from his post.



1962 KC de, the famous blind singer of Bengal, died.

1996 Captain Indrani Singh became the first woman to command an Airbus A-300 aircraft.

1927 Famous Indian physician Pramod Karan Sethi was born.

1890 India's great thinker, social worker and revolutionary Jyotiba Phule died.

29 NOVEMBER

1993 Industrialist Jahangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata died.



1759 Assassination of Emperor Alamgir II of Delhi.

1961 Yuri Gagarin, the world's first astronaut, came to India.

1970 Haryana became the first Indian state to achieve hundred percent rural electrification.

1989 The then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi resigned.

1869 The famous Indian social worker Thakkar Bappa was born.

1913 Famous poet Ali Sardar Jafri was honored with the Jnanpith Award.

30 NOVEMBER

2000 Priyanka Chopra became Miss World.



2010 Indian scientist and Swadeshi movement pioneer Rajiv Dixit died

2012 Former Prime Minister Indra Kumar Gujral died.

1759 Emperor Alamgir II of Delhi was killed by his minister.

1965 Gudiya Museum Delhi was founded by the famous cartoonist 'K.K. Shankar Pillai'.

1831 Indian historian Romila Thapar was born.

1944 Famous Hindi writer Maitreyi Pushpa was born.

2010 Indian scientist and Swadeshi movement pioneer Rajiv Dixit died.

1909 Ramesh Chandra Dutt, the famous writer of English and Bengali language, died.



Hardik Pandya set to return to Mumbai Indians for Rs 15 crore

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is set to cut ties with his current team, Gujarat Titans (GT), and return to his former franchise, Mumbai Indians, for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), as per ESPNcricinfo.

The trade is an all-cash deal comprising the Mumbai-based franchise paying Rs 15 crore as the 30-year-old's salary and an undisclosed transfer fee to the Titans. Hardik stands to earn up to 50% of the transfer fee, according to a report by ESPNcricinfo.

If the move happens successfully then it will be considered the biggest player trade in IPL history. As of now, neither franchise has made it official.

The all-rounder led the Gujarat-based franchise to win the title in the 2022 season of the IPL and was also named the 'Player of the Match' in the final game against Rajasthan Royals.

In the previous edition of the IPL, GT confirmed their place in the IPL final for the second time in their first two seasons. However, in 2023 they lost against Chennai Super Kings and were runners-up.

If the trade happens successfully, the 30-year-old will become the third skipper to be traded after Ravichandran Ashwin changed from Punjab Kings to Delhi Capitals. The second time was when Rajasthan Royals traded Ajinkya Rahane also to the Capitals in 2020.

Hardik made his debut in the 2015 season. Following that he has played 123 matches in which he has scalped 53 wickets and scored 2,309 runs at a strike rate of 139.89.

FIRST T20I

India win: Surya 'shines' at night but Rinku once again finishes off in style

VISAKHAPATNAM (TIP)

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav shrugged off the disappointment of a World Cup final defeat with a captain's knock but it was Rinku Singh's composure that took a young Indian team to a thrilling two-wicket victory in the opening T20 International here on Thursday, November 22.

This was India's highest successful chase in T20 Internationals.

The skipper was in belligerent mood making a mockery of a 209-run chase with 80 off just 42 balls but Rinku's 22 not off 14 balls saved India from the blushes.

India needed 14 off 12 balls after Surya departed but Axar Patel bungled big time and the likes of Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh also were run-out in a jiffy.

With a single needed off the final delivery, Sean Abbott was deposited into the stands by Rinku but to everyone's delight, it turned out to be a big no-ball and hence the maximum wasn't counted. India thus won with a ball to spare.

However, what stood out was Rinku's fearlessness and the sense of occasion and execution under pressure.

Ishan Kishan also brushed aside initial rustiness to smack five sixes in his 39-ball-58 and was an ideal companion for his skipper in a run-chase which became easy due to a flat batting track, short boundaries although there wasn't a lot of dew during the second innings.

What the 112-run stand in 10 overs between Surya and Kishan did for India was keep them at par with Australia and in the hunt for a win.

Rinku, the 'designated finisher' of T20 team, showed little nerves while lending the finishing touches with some lusty blows after Axar Patel's 2 off 6 balls seemed like increasing tension in the dug-out.

Kishan initially had only two runs off his first eight deliveries but once Surya played his customary pick-up short off Jason Behrendorff behind the keeper for a six, the keeper-batter seemed to gain some confidence as he lofted Sean Abbott over deep mid-wicket for a huge six.

Surya lofted Abbott for a maximum and both got going as Kishan found his match-up in leg-break bowler



Tanveer Sangha, who was sent on a leather-hunt.

Sangha's leg-breaks were literally long-hops coming into left-hander and three of Kishan's five sixes were muscled in the same region but it was the hunger for a sixth six over extra cover that brought about his downfall. His skipper, however, hit the best six of the match when he brought about his first half-century with a lofted on-drive off Abbott.

Earlier, India's young bowling attack got a rude reality check as a dominant Josh Inglis smoked them to all parts of the ground with a cracking 110 off 50 balls, taking Australia to a healthy 208 for three. Surya's decision to bowl first on a batting featherbed turned out to be a nightmare for the inexperienced Indian attack. They were taken to the cleaners by Inglis (110 off 50 balls), who hit as many as eight sixes, half a dozen of them off googly bowler Ravi Bishnoi. *Source: PTI*

Union minister Anurag Thakur announces first edition of Khelo India Para Games to be held from December 10 to 17

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With a vision to identify talent and create an opportunity for young and aspiring para athletes to shine, Anurag Thakur, Union minister of youth affairs and sports, announced the first-ever Khelo India Para Games which will be held in New Delhi from 10th December to 17th December.

Through a video message, Thakur said, "I am proud to announce that from December 10 to 17, the first-ever Khelo India Para Games will be held in various locations across New Delhi. A total of 7 disciplines will be held across three SAI (Sports Authority of India) Stadiums."

The announcement is a big shot in the arm towards the government's initiative to develop para sports in the country, and the event will help in identifying talented para athletes who will be further aided



Anurag Thakur, Union minister of youth affairs and sports.

with ample support from SAI and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to hone their skills.

Over 1,350 participants from across 32 states and union territories including the Services Sports Control Board are expected to participate in the maiden Khelo India Para Games which will witness para athletes vie for honours in 7

disciplines including para athletics, para shooting, para archery, para football, para badminton, para table tennis, and para weight lifting. The events will be held across 3 SAI stadiums – the IG Stadium, Shooting Range in Tughlaqabad, and the JLN Stadium.

Recent Hangzhou Asian Para Games stars Sheetal Devi, Bhavina Patel, Ekta Bhyan, Neeraj Yadav, Singhraj, Manish, Sonal, Rakesh Kumar, Sarita among others are expected to represent their respective states in the first edition of KheloIndia Para Games.

Lauding the efforts of Indian para athletes who won an unprecedented 111 medals at the recently concluded Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, Thakur emphasized that the KheloIndia Para Games will aim to provide continuity to the para athletes with the annually held

event. "Just a few weeks back, our para athletes created history as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event and now continuity of the Para Games and creating more development in the Paralympic sports remains our foremost agenda."

Since 2018, a total of 11 Khelo India Games have been successfully held. This includes 5 Khelo India Youth Games, 3 Khelo India University Games, and 3 Khelo India Winter Games. Thakur expressed that these Games have been instrumental in identifying talent across the country and have aided in India's performance at the prestigious multi-discipline events.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
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TAX ID # 55-062-1735



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.