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The INDIAN PANORAMA



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

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

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Angelina Jolie slams world leaders, says they are complicit in deaths of thousands in Palestine



Angelina Jolie lamented that "Gaza has been an open-air prison for nearly two decades and is fast becoming a mass grave." File photo

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 LOS ANGELES (TIP): Angelina Jolie, apart from being an acclaimed Hollywood actress, is also an activist and she has been keeping a close watch on Israel's ongoing war with Hamas. Taking to her social media, the actress called world leaders complicit in the death of thousands of people in Gaza as they have refused to demand a ceasefire.

On her Instagram, the 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith' actress shared a picture of the horrifying devastation that has taken place, and wrote a lengthy message

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Antony Blinken and Llyod Austin to travel to India for 2 plus 2 ministerial dialogue

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin would be travelling to India for the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with their Indian counterparts External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi this month, the State Department has said.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, November 1, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said that Blinken's trip to India comes at the end of a more than a week-long trip - November 2 to November 10 - beginning with Israel and Jordan, following which he would continue with his Indo-Pacific travels to Japan, S Korea and India.

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Antony Blinken (left) and Lloyd Austin.

File photo

India defends abstention in UNGA on ceasefire in Gaza



India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojana Patel delivers the explanation of India's vote at the U.N. General Assembly's Emergency Special Session on October 27, 2023. Photo / Xl@IndiaUNNewYork

OCTOBER 28, 2023 NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): The government defended its decision to abstain in a U.N. General Assembly vote on resolution that called for a humanitarian truce and ceasefire in Gaza, saying it did not include "explicit condemnation" of the

October 7 terror attacks in Israel. A note circulated by government sources responding to criticism from Opposition members about the vote said that since India's concerns over omissions had not been covered by the final text of the resolution, it had decided to abstain.

"There can be no equivocation on terror," the sources said, calling India's position "steadfast and consistent".

The resolution, titled the "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations", proposed by Jordan on behalf of the Arab League and co-sponsored by about 40 countries, was passed in the UNGA on October 27 with

CONTD ON PAGE 36

F.B.I. Raids Home of Eric Adams's Fund-Raising Chief

The raid at the home of Brianna Suggs was part of an inquiry into whether foreign money from Turkey was funneled into his campaign.

NOV. 2, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Federal prosecutors and the F.B.I. are conducting a broad corruption investigation into whether Mayor Eric Adams's 2021 election campaign conspired with the Turkish government to receive illegal foreign donations, according to New York Times which claimed it was in possession of a copy of the search warrant.



Mayor Eric Adams Photo / nyc.gov

The New York Times reported that the investigation burst into public view on Thursday, November 2, when federal agents conducted an early-morning raid at the Brooklyn home of the mayor's chief fund-raiser, Brianna Suggs. Ms. Suggs is a campaign consultant who is deeply entwined with efforts to advance the mayor's agenda. Investigators also sought to learn more about the potential involvement of a Brooklyn construction company with ties to Turkey, as well as a small

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Advertisement for Expedia Cruises featuring 'AMAZING DUBAI' with prices of \$749 and \$999.

Advertisement for OMNI MORTGAGE CORP. featuring Andy Singh and Herman Singh with contact information.

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COMMENT

The Misuse of Government Agencies in India: A Threat to Democracy



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In recent years, there has been a growing concern over the alleged misuse of government agencies by the Modi government in India. The accusations revolve around the intimidation and implicating of opposition party politicians and governments in false cases, potentially to gain a stronger foothold for the Hindutva ideology. This trend has raised questions about the state of democracy in India and the potential threat it poses.

Several government agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the Income Tax Department, have come under scrutiny for their alleged misuse to target opposition figures. These agencies are intended to uphold the rule of law, maintain transparency, and ensure accountability. However, their recent actions have raised concerns about their independence and impartiality.

These agencies have initiated investigations without substantial evidence, leading to the implication of opposition politicians and governments in false cases. Such actions erode public trust in these agencies and, by extension, the democratic institutions that are

supposed to safeguard the nation's interests.

The timing of these investigations often coincides with significant political events, such as state elections. This raises suspicions of politically motivated actions intended to disrupt the opposition and consolidate the power of the ruling party.

The alleged misuse of government agencies is closely tied to the promotion of the Hindutva ideology in India. Hindutva is a form of Hindu nationalism that seeks to establish the cultural and political dominance of Hindus. While it is distinct from Hinduism, the ideology has gained prominence in Indian politics in recent years.

The Modi government, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is associated with Hindutva, and critics argue that this ideology is influencing the government's actions. The use of government agencies to target political opponents is seen as part of a broader strategy to consolidate power and promote the Hindutva agenda.

The implications for democracy are concerning. Democracy relies on the principles of pluralism, freedom of

expression, and the protection of minority rights. The promotion of a singular cultural and political ideology at the expense of others threatens these democratic principles.

A fundamental tenet of any democracy is the rule of law. It implies that all citizens, regardless of their political affiliation, are equal before the law. The alleged misuse of government agencies in India challenges this principle, as it appears that certain individuals are being selectively targeted for political purposes.

Democracy also depends on the separation of powers, with the executive, legislative, and judicial branches acting independently to check and balance one another. When government agencies are used to target opposition figures, this balance is disrupted, and it raises concerns about the government's ability to impartially uphold the law.

To protect democracy in India, it is essential to address the alleged misuse of government agencies and promote transparency and accountability. This can be achieved through an independent oversight, judicial scrutiny, public awareness, and international scrutiny.

GUEST COMMENT

Lost voice: On India's abstention on the Gaza vote at the UN

India should have made efforts for a consensus on the Gaza vote at the UN

India has explained its decision to abstain at last week's vote at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for a ceasefire in the Israel-Palestine conflict as its way of protesting the omission of any "explicit condemnation" of the heinous October 7 terror attack by Hamas militants on Israel. India's principled stand on terrorism, which the Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN articulated, cannot be questioned. However, the death toll is rising and the need for global solidarity to stop the violence is imperative, a task that New Delhi, with its traditionally balanced position on the issue, and its recent G-20 role in bridging global divides, would have been well suited to play. Every other country in the neighborhood, in the extended BRICS grouping and much of the developing world, was part of the 120 countries that voted for the UNGA resolution on Friday. Regardless of its reasoning, New Delhi had other options which it overlooked or ignored. The resolution at the emergency special session

entitled "Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations" does include a paragraph "condemning all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians, including all acts of terrorism and indiscriminate attacks". India could have played a prominent diplomatic role with countries proposing the resolution to ensure clearer mention of the October 7 attacks, including during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent conversation with Jordan's King Abdullah bin Al Hussein about the conflict. India's leadership of such an amendment may have fared better than the Canadian proposal that failed to secure two-thirds of the UNGA membership present. Alternatively, India could have voted for the motion, while recording in its Explanation of Vote (EoV) that it regretted the omissions of the specific references to the October 7 attacks, which is what France did. In its EoV, India did not itself name Hamas for the terror attacks, nor has it so far designated Hamas as a terror group, leaving some

doubt about the explicit mentions that New Delhi had wanted. On the other hand, if India wanted to convey a strong line on fighting terrorism, it could have voted against the resolution, along with the U.S., the U.K. and Israel.

India's abstention indicates a shift in the Modi government's stand, seeking a 'safe' position, rather than taking a stand on the violence in Israel and Palestine. This is a departure from India's UNGA vote in 2018 that called for Israel to cease "excessive force" in retaliatory strikes on Gaza at the time, and is more in line with its decision to abstain on votes at the UN in 2021 on resolutions critical of Russia's war in Ukraine. The government lost an opportunity to make India's voice heard in the growing geopolitical conflict. Abstaining on a matter of global importance without making efforts to forge a consensus is out of sync with a desire to be the voice of the Global South, or for a seat at the global high table.

(The Hindu)

Rajasthan Association of North America showcases talent, tradition, hospitality at the 23rd Deep Mahotsav



Chief Guest Consul General Randhir Jaiswal lighted the lamp and spoke appreciatively of RANA's contribution. Seen in the picture, among others, are Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph (5th from left), and RANA President Prem Bhandari (6th from left)

OCTOBER 31, 2023

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), on October 28, celebrated its 23rd Deep Mahotsav at Pearl Banquet & Convention Center in Long Island, marking a significant cultural and community event. The gala was attended by distinguished individuals from the tristate area, and the venue was filled to capacity.



Prem Bhandari, RANA President, gives introductory remarks

At this grand celebration, RANA honored three prominent Rajasthani figures who have made outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

One of the honorees was Kushal Sacheti, a prominent New York-based diamond merchant and philanthropist known for his commendable work. He received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, Rajasthan Ratna, a recognition that is awarded very selectively - this being only the second time in 24 years. The first recipient was Rajasthan's UDH Minister, Shanti Dhariwal.



Kushal Sacheti, a prominent New York-based diamond merchant and philanthropist known for his commendable work, received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, Rajasthan Ratna

Praising Sacheti's humility and generosity, RANA President Prem Bhandari shared a few glimpses from his life experience. "Kushal Sacheti has provided scholarships to 150 students in the US, who then went on to become engineers and MBA graduates. If anyone wanted to return the money, he would advise them to provide scholarships to others who are in need like he did," Bhandari said, who also remarked that Sacheti would ask him to not reveal his contribution. Sacheti also received a standing ovation at the gala.

Another luminary, Dr. Rabindra K. Goyal, was celebrated for his exceptional contributions to both the medical field and the community.

The title of Entrepreneur of the Year was bestowed



Dr. Rabindra K. Goyal (L) was recognized for his remarkable contributions to medicine and his community

upon Sweta Jain, a distinguished figure in the diamond merchant industry.



The title of Entrepreneur of the Year was bestowed upon Sweta Jain, a distinguished figure in the diamond merchant industry.

The event showcased the rich culture of Rajasthan through performances by Rajasthani children and women who graced the stage with traditional Rajasthani songs.



Women performing the famed Rajasthani folkdance Ghoomer

Dignitaries who attended included Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, who was the chief guest and Deputy Consul General of India in New York, Dr. Varun Jeph.

Surender Adhana, an Indian Foreign Service Officer posted at Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York was a guest of honor.

The gathering was also graced by Air India's US and Canada Head, Girish Salvin, senior Air India Captain Gautam Yadav, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and many other notable personalities.

President of RANA was commended for the 24/7

commitment to community service, not only in the US but worldwide.

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal praised RANA's services and contribution in various sectors.

The event was an opportunity to reflect on India's remarkable achievement in space exploration, as RANA's president spoke about Chandrayaan 3, making India the first country to land at the south pole of the moon.

This success was attributed to the able leadership of India's Honorable Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Special mention was made to Sunita Khokhar, whose significant role contributed to the successful landing of Chandrayaan 3.

Sripal Lodha, the owner of UMA plastic based in Jodhpur, Rajasthan received appreciation for supplying plastic to ISRO for a decade, including its use in Chandrayaan 3, free of cost.

The event emphasized the potential of Rajasthan as not only the largest state in India but larger than 133 countries worldwide. It has the potential to become a hub of solar energy akin to California in the USA.

Furthermore, Rajasthan could emerge as a prime tourism destination with the right initiative from the state government.

RANA has played a pivotal role in fostering community connections, consistently receiving support from Consul Generals in New York. Under the leadership of Randheer Jaiswal, various activities, including yoga sessions at Times Square and the promotion of millets with Jaipur Foot USA, have been successfully organized. The "Consulate at Your Doorstep" program has been actively serving the community for the past 8-9 years.

In the past year, RANA has sent a substantial contribution of \$856,000 USD to its parent organization, BMVSS, for the benefit of differently-abled individuals. Jaipur Foot's founder, Padma Bhushan D. R. Mehta, was a special guest who not only highlighted the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi but also emphasized the global significance of his principles and ideology.

Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, spoke about the ongoing Jaipur Foot camps, including one in Baghdad, Iraq, sponsored by the MEA, Government of India. This initiative, known as "India for humanity," was initiated to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to showcase his principles to the world.

On behalf of JFU, Prem Bhandari expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for making JFU's parent organization, BMVSS, a partner in this initiative.

Bhandari praised Dr. Raj Bansal of Florida, who as RANA's honoree last year, committed to establishing a reading hall for SMS Medical College, with work already in progress.

It was announced that there soon would be a free artificial limb fitment Jaipur Foot camp in the Northeast, a testament to the organization's commitment to providing aid and support to those in need.



The famous singer Khuda Baksh had the guests jiving

Famous singer regaled the audience with his mellifluous singing which compelled guests to take to dance floor

In addition to celebrating culture and community service, the audience enjoyed authentic Rajasthani cuisine, adding a culinary touch to the festivities.

(Based on a press release by RANA Diwali Secretary Ravi Jargad)

Indian American Dr. Shyam Kottlil gets Kerala Center's lifetime achievement award

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center (The Kerala Center) has honored eight individuals for notable contributions in their professions and to society with selfless dedication.

Dr. Shyam Kottlil from Baltimore was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of virology and scientific research by New York Senator Kevin Thomas at the Center's 31st Annual Awards Dinner in Elmont, New York on Oct 28.

In his keynote speech, Kottlil explained the successes and failures of managing the Covid outbreak and how to prevent future outbreaks which according to him will certainly happen sometime in the future, according to a media release.

The award for entrepreneurship went to Sajeeb Koya, the man behind the LED Façade lighting that lights up Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

His company 3S International headquartered in Pickering, Ontario, Canada, has executed numerous vibrant Architectural and Media Façade LED projects all over the world. Koya said that his goal is to complete 100 such projects all over the world.

The award for Media and Journalism went to Ajay Ghosh, Chief Editor and Co-Publisher of The Universal News Network ([www/theunn.com](http://www.theunn.com)).

He serves as Media Coordinator for the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and ITServe Alliance. Ghosh was the founding President of Indo-American Press Club and is Secretary of its Board of



Kerala Center, New York presented to Dr. Shyam Kottlil from Baltimore the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of virology and scientific research

Directors.

The award for community service went to Gopala Pillai who has served as the President and Board Member of several organizations in Texas and Detroit and has been with the World Malayali Council from 1995 as its Secretary, President, and Chairman. Through these organizations, he has been able to provide many services for the good of society.

The award for outstanding achievements in Medicine went to Dr. Shelby Kutty, a physician-scientist and academic leader, serving as the Helen B. Taussig endowed professor and director of pediatric and congenital cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

He also chairs the analytic intelligence

program at Johns Hopkins and is one of the world's preeminent experts on multimodality cardiovascular imaging.

The award for contributions to Pravasi Malayalam Literature went to Jayant Kamicheril, a recipient of the Kerala Sahithya Academy award for 2022 for his book "Oru Kumarakom Karantay Kuruthamketta."

The award for excellence in Nursing went to Dr. Anna George, current president of the Indian Nurses Association of New York (INANY).

She is a Nurse, a nurse practitioner, a human rights advocate, and a social activist. She is a leader who transformed the nursing professional organization INANY into a professional entity.

The award for legal service went to Lata Menon, an accomplished barrister

and solicitor and active community member, who has become a recognized name in the legal community in Ontario as well as the Indian states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, where she practiced as a lawyer before immigrating to Canada.

Kerala Center president Alex K. Esthappan provided a brief description of the activities and goals of the Center. New York Senator Kevin Thomas and Nassau County Legislator Carrie Solages presented the awards. They were introduced by Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of the Trustee Board and Award Committee member.

Sen. Thomas, a prior awardee himself, praised the Kerala Center for honoring individuals who excelled in their professions and served society with dedication.

Legislator Solages remarked that students of Indian and Malayalee descent made him a better student and that helped him to go to George Town University.

Dr. Madhu Bhaskaran, the chairman of the Award Committee and Board of Directors, explained the process of selecting the awardees.

The ceremony was attended by leaders of many community organizations including FOMAA and FOKANA. As part of the Award Ceremony, a souvenir was released by the souvenir committee consisting of P.T. Paulose and Jose Kadapuram, by giving a copy to U. A. Naseer.

Inaugurated in 1993 Kerala Center has honored over 200 individuals of Keralite descent who excelled in their profession and/or made great contributions to the larger society in the last 30 years.

Indian-origin soldier Hael Solomon among Israelis killed in Gaza

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

JERUSALEM (TIP): A 20-year-old Indian-origin Israeli soldier was among the Israeli combatants killed while fighting in Gaza, community members and the Mayor of the town said on Wednesday, November 1.



Staff-Sgt. Hael Solomon, an Indian origin Israeli soldier died while fighting in Gaza

Staff-Sgt. Hael Solomon was from the southern Israeli town of Dimona.

"It is with great sorrow and grief that we announce the death of a son of Dimona, Hael Solomon, in the battle in Gaza," Dimona's Mayor, Benny Bitton said in a Facebook post on Wednesday.

"We share in the grief of the parents, Ronit and Mordechai, and the sisters: Yasmin, Hila, Vered, and Shaked Hael aspired to do meaningful service and enlisted in the Givati (Brigade). Hael was a devoted son and had respect for his parents always in his eyes. Possessing immense good qualities, he believed in endless giving, modesty, and humility. The whole city of Dimona is grieving his passing," Bitton wrote.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student stabbed at US gym battles for life



Varun Raj Pucha continues to be in a critical condition and is on life support, sources familiar with his treatment said.

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

VALPRAISO, INDIANA (TIP): Varun Raj Pucha, the 24-year-old Indian student who was stabbed at a fitness center in the US state of Indiana over the weekend, continues to be in a critical condition and is on life support, sources familiar with his treatment said.

Varun Raj Pucha, a computer science student, was stabbed with a knife in the temple by assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on Sunday morning for reasons that the authorities are still investigating.

"After three days of treatment, Varun continues to be on life support and has severe neurological impairment. He is likely to sustain permanent disability and have partial, if not complete, vision loss and left-sided weakness," sources told media.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Sikh man who murdered his wife in London jailed for 15 years

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A 79-year-old Sikh man has been sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 15 years after murdering his wife with a bat at their house in east London in May this year.

Tarsame Singh was sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to killing his 77-year-old wife, Maya Devi.

On May 2, Singh walked into the Romford police station and told the front desk that he had just killed his wife, following which officers immediately attended the house on Cowdray Way in Elm Park and found Maya unresponsive on the living room floor. The wooden bat was found nearby and a significant amount of blood staining was found on the carpet and nearby walls. Maya was pronounced dead at the scene and a post-mortem examination found the cause of death to be head injuries.



Tarsame Singh is sentenced at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Wednesday, November 1, after he pleaded guilty to killing his 77-year-old wife, Maya Devi (in the picture)

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin author Nandini Das wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize



India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

LONDON (TIP): India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a leading international non-fiction prize worth GBP 25,000, for her book 'Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire'.

The UK-based academic's debut work, described as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through

England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts", was revealed as this year's winner at a ceremony at the British Academy in London on Tuesday evening.

As a Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, the 49-year-old author has sought to present a new perspective on the origins of empire through the story of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century.

"By using contemporary sources by

Indian and British political figures, officials and merchants she has given the story an unparalleled immediacy that brings to life these early encounters and the misunderstandings that sometimes threatened to wreck the whole endeavor," said Professor Charles Tripp, Chair of the prize jury.

"At the same time, she grants us a privileged vantage point from which we can appreciate how a measure of mutual understanding did begin to emerge, even though it was vulnerable to the ups and downs of Mughal politics and to the restless ambitions of the British," he said.

He described how through her beautiful writing and exceptional research, the jury was drawn to the contrast between an impoverished, insecure Britain and the flourishing, confident Mughal Empire and the often-amusing, sometimes querulous exchanges between their various representatives.

The British Academy Book Prize, formerly known as the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, was established in 2013 to reward and celebrate the best works of non-fiction that demonstrate rigor and originality and have contributed to public understanding of other world cultures and their interaction.

Das will receive GBP 25,000 for winning the prize.

Indian American professor at Stanford Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj wins Faraday Medal



Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj, an Indian American professor at Stanford University has received from UK based The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) the prestigious Faraday Medal for his contributions to wireless technology.

OCTOBER 30, 2023

LONDON (TIP): The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) has awarded the prestigious Faraday Medal to Arogyaswami Joseph Paulraj, an Indian American professor at Stanford University for his contributions to wireless technology.

Paulraj was among 11 of the world's top engineering and technology talent honored by the UK-based multidisciplinary professional engineering institution for services to the industry, on Oct 23 at IET 2023 Achievement Awards.

Described as "one of this year's most significant awards, the Faraday Medal," was awarded to Paulraj for the invention, advancement, and commercialization of Multiple-antenna Input, Multiple-antenna Output (MIMO) wireless technology, according to a media release.

MIMO is a fundamental breakthrough technology that multiplied the link speed and improved the range and reliability of wireless networks. The performance of today's extensive 4G/5G mobile and WiFi networks would not be possible without MIMO.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Punjabi girl murdered in UK; husband arrested



Mehak Sharma with her husband Sahil Sharma.
File photo

OCTOBER 31, 2023

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Relatives of Mehak Sharma (19), who was found murdered at her residence in Croydon in South London, have claimed that her husband had repeatedly been threatening her with dire consequences and, on Sunday, he murdered her.

Mehak was a resident of Jogi Cheema village in Gurdaspur district of Punjab. She was married to Gurdaspur resident Sahil Sharma (23) on June 24 last year.

The girl, according to her mother Madhu Bala, had gone to London five months after she tied the knot with Sahil.

Sahil is a resident of New Sant Nagar in Gurdaspur. He followed his wife to the UK on a spouse visa. Bala said her daughter had told her many times that Sahil had been ill-treating her.

"Mehak used to ring me up every morning. However, on Sunday, October 29, I did not receive any call. I thought she must be busy. However, when I did not get a call on Monday, I got panicky. I, subsequently, asked my relative, who lives about 150 km away from Croydon, to visit Mehak and inform me accordingly. It was in the evening that he rang me and told me that the London Metropolitan Police had taken Sahil into custody after being charged with murder of Mehak," said Madhu Bala.

Mehak was working as a caretaker with Fabulous Homecare Limited, a home care provider operating out of Croydon. Bala's husband, Tarlok Chand, had died a few years ago.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICAN PHYSICIAN HONORED BY JEWISH GROUP FOR STANDING AGAINST ANTISEMITISM



Indian American physician Dr Bharat Barai has been felicitated by an influential Jewish group for his relentless effort to strengthen ties between India, the US and Israel and his stand against antisemitism

OCTOBER 30, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): An influential Jewish group has felicitated Indian American physician Dr Bharat Barai for his relentless effort to strengthen ties between India, the US and Israel and his stand against antisemitism.

"We stand with you, our Jewish brothers and sisters," said Dr Bharat Barai, an ardent advocate of the India-Israel relationship who has made six trips to Israel, adding that the collaborative relationship between the Hindu and the Jewish communities has benefited both.

Dr Barai was presented the award "for standing against antisemitism" at the "Campus Championship Gala" of StandWithUS on Sunday, October 29.

"Hindus all over the world, along with most of the civilized world have condemned these brutal barbarian Hamas, affirming their solidarity with the Jewish people, and supporting the right of Israel to defend itself and demolish the demand of mass," Barai said amidst standing ovation from the hall full Jewish people in a suburb of Chicago.

He hoped that after Hamas is eliminated by Israel, more countries from the Middle East would join the Abraham Accord.

Referring to some of the news reports, he said these are by individuals who are misinformed or uninformed or hardcore religiously indoctrinated individuals. These are fabricated narratives, playing the victim card after committing a barbaric atrocity.

Peggy Shapiro Director of Special Projects "Stand With US" praised Dr Barai for his relentless support of the Jewish communities and the relationship between India, the US and Israel. She referred to the ongoing atrocities against the Jews by Hamas this month.

"That's the special level of evil," said Peggy Shapiro Director of Special Projects "Stand With US" referring to the recent brutalities and atrocities perpetrated by Hamas against innocent Jews in particular young children and calling for the destruction of the only Jewish State.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

"Your turban does not mean terrorism", New York City mayor says amid recent attacks on Sikhs

GIVES A CLARION CALL FOR EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT SIKHISM

OCTOBER 31, 2023

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP): The Sikh turban does not mean terrorism but symbolizes faith, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said, as he described the recent attacks and hate crimes against the community as a "stain" on the country and vowed to protect its members.

He also gave a clarion call for educating people about Sikhism.

"You are not about terror; you are about protector. That is what needs to be taught throughout this entire city. Our young people need to know that, our adults need to know that," Adams said while addressing members of the Sikh community at the Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Centre in the Queens neighborhood of South Richmond Hill.

Describing the Sikh community as an "anchor" in the Richmond Hill neighborhood, Adams said: "Your turban does not mean terrorism. It means protecting, it means community, it means family, it means faith, it means city, it means us coming together. We will change the dialogue and narrative with you. We can do it together."

Adams and New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar met and addressed members of the Sikh community here on Sunday, October 29, in the wake of recent incidents of hate crime and assault against Sikhs.

On October 15, a 19-year-old Sikh boy was attacked by Christopher Philippeaux, 26, while he was riding the bus in Richmond Hill. Philippeaux punched the teenager in the back of the head, tried to knock off his turban and told him "We



The Sikh turban does not mean terrorism but symbolizes faith, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said.

Photo / Baldev - BJ Photos

don't wear that in this country." Philippeaux has been charged with assault as a hate crime and aggravated harassment, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

Within days of this, 66-year-old Jasmer Singh was attacked when his car collided with another vehicle. The driver of the other car, 30-year-old Gilbert Augustin, allegedly punched the elderly Sikh man three times in the head and face and Singh later succumbed to his injuries.

Describing the attack against Singh as a "violent senseless act", Adams said, "Jasmer should still be with us. He should still be with his son. He should still be living out the American dream, watching

his son, who's now an immigration attorney.

"He should still be...part of this community. That dream turned into a nightmare the other day when his life was taken from us prematurely," Adams said, flanked by Singh's son Subeg Singh Multani and other members of the Sikh community.

Describing Sikhs as "protectors" of society, Jenifer Rajkumar asserted that the hateful targeting of Sikhs is "not acceptable" and perpetrators of such violence would be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law.

"For the first time, we are going to use the levers of government to end hate

crimes against Sikh Americans. For the first time, we are going to come together and...educate...New York State, the United States and the entire world about who the Sikh people truly are so we are not attacked and misunderstood," Rajkumar, the first Indian-American woman elected to New York State Office and who described herself as a "daughter of Punjab", said.

Rajkumar said this was not the first time she had visited the gurdwara and had spoken out against hate crimes. "But it is the last time I want to be standing here speaking out against hate crimes. Starting now we are going to end the hateful targeting of Sikhs," she said.

New York man, who killed a Sikh man, charged with manslaughter

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

QUEENS, NY (TIP): A man who attacked an elderly Sikh person during a car accident in New York on October 19 has been charged with manslaughter. Gilbert Augustin was arraigned on Tuesday, October 31, on an indictment charging him with manslaughter and assault as hate crimes in the death of 66-year-old Jasmer Singh, District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

However, Augustin pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to 20 charges related to the incident, including first-degree manslaughter as a hate crime and second-degree assault as a hate crime, the court records stated, reported CNN.

Moreover, the charges also included reckless endangerment, leaving the scene of an incident without reporting it, and operating a motor vehicle without



Assailant of Jasmer Singh (in the picture), who died after being hit, is charged with manslaughter

a license, an indictment filed in a state court in Queens County said.

Reportedly, the incident was not initially investigated as a hate crime, a New York Police Department spokesperson said.

"During a Queens district attorney's grand jury, new information came to light that was not originally revealed to NYPD detectives," the spokesperson said.

James Concemore Neville, Augustin's defense attorney, called the case "a very difficult one for all parties concerned."

"I will say that it's a very sad, tragic case and that my job in this situation ... is to protect Augustin's rights - his constitutional rights," Neville said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian national pleads guilty to USD 11.5 million healthcare fraud

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): Indian national Chintan Anjaria, who owns a marketing company in India has pleaded guilty to a massive USD 11.5 million healthcare fraud, Attorney for the United States, Vikas Khanna announced Thursday, November 2

Anjaria pleaded guilty on October 31, before US District Judge Michael E. Farbiarz in Newark federal court to information charging him with conspiracy to violate the Federal Anti-Kickback statute and conspiracy to commit health care fraud, a media release said.

Anjaria's sentencing is scheduled for March 12.

According to court documents from February 2017 to May 2022, Anjaria participated in a kickback and bribery scheme with orthotic brace supply companies, telemedicine companies, and testing laboratories, resulting in the submission of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare.



Photo for representation

Anjaria controlled a marketing company in India through which he and his conspirators identified Medicare beneficiaries to target for orthotic braces and cancer genetic tests (CGX).

Employees of the company called beneficiaries and pressured them to agree to accept orthotic braces and/or CGX, regardless of medical necessity, federal prosecutors said.

Federal prosecutors alleged that Anjaria and his company paid kickbacks to telemedicine companies to obtain doctor's orders for the orthotic braces and CGX tests.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association organizes a memorable Diwali Festival



New York City Mayor Eric Adams with Jackson Heights Indian American Merchants' Association officials led by President Shiv Dass, and elected officials and officers of New York administration at the Diwali festival on October 21, 2023. Seen, among others are, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan

I.S. SALUJA

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY (TIP):

Diwali is an Indian festival of lights that sends out the message of victory of good over evil, victory of light over dark. One of the most popular Indian festivals abroad, Diwali is celebrated in almost every nook and corner of the world. In New York, there are dozens of Diwali celebrations extending over a period of sometimes a month or more.

Jackson Heights, Indian Merchants' Association organized a Diwali festival on October 21. The busy marketplace, known as Little India, was packed with visitors who witnessed the colorful festivities and the great singing by local singers and a famous Punjabi singer Khuda Baksh.

The chief guest at the festival was New

York City Mayor Eric Adams who congratulated the gathered Indian American community on the occasion. He had a word of praise for the Indian American community and in particular, Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association and its president Mr. Shiv Das. Also, the Mayor spoke about the school holiday on Diwali in New York schools. He gave credit for the school holiday to Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar.

Mr. Shiv Dass in his welcome note earlier praised Eric Adams as one of the greatest mayors of New York City and thanked him for having kept his word he gave during the election campaign that once he was elected, he would come to Jackson Heights and participate in a social event.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar thanked the Mayor for his support in her efforts to have Diwali as a school holiday. She congratulated the Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association for organizing the Diwali festival in the busy marketplace, and assured of her cooperation always to the "great Indian American community".

Always with the Indian American community and for the Indian American community, the one and only Dilip Chauhan who is Deputy Commissioner for International Affairs in the Office of the New York City Mayor was there to receive

Some citations were presented on the occasion. Mayor's citations were presented to Attorney Mahipal Singh, Deepak Verma of Amba Jewelers, and Shaukat Ali of Kabab King.

Queens Borough President's citation was presented to Davinder Kumar of Kunal Jewelers.

New York Assemblyman David Weprin presented a citation to Mohinder Verma, Secretary, Jackson Heights Merchants' Association.

Jackson Heights Indian American



Khuda Baksh regaled the audience with his mellifluous singing.

Photos / Jay Mandal- on assignment

Merchants' Association Treasurer Virender Kanwar was also awarded a citation.

Sherry Dutta, a much sought after MC, managed the entire program superbly.

The local orchestra and the artists, and the famous singer Khuda Baksh, regaled the audience with their performances.



Mayor Adams and Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar presenting a New York Assembly Citation to Shiv Dass, President of Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association. Also seen is Bobby Kumar Kalottee (extreme right)

York City Mayor Eric Adams who congratulated the gathered Indian American community on the occasion. He had a word of praise for the Indian American community and in particular, Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association and its president Mr. Shiv Das. Also, the Mayor spoke about the school holiday on Diwali in New York schools. He gave credit for the school holiday to Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar.

Mr. Shiv Dass in his welcome note earlier praised Eric Adams as one of the greatest mayors of New York City and

the mayor and participate in the festivities. He also spoke on the occasion.

Other officials and elected representatives who were present at the celebrations included New York State Senator John Liu, a great friend of the Indian American community, Queens Borough President Richard Donovan, Democratic District President Hiram Monserrate, Democratic District Leader Moin Chaudhary, Community Board 3 Chair Frank Taylor, and Bobby K Kalottee, Chair, Human Rights Commission, Nassau County.

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The Long Struggle for Palestinian Statehood: Unjust Denial and the Tragedy in Gaza



BY PROF. INDRAJIT
S SALUJA

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, the unjust denial of Palestinian statehood, and the tragic loss of innocent lives in Gaza are deeply troubling and require immediate attention. It is crucial to condemn the violence and human suffering that persist in this long-standing conflict while recognizing the legitimate rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has been one of the most protracted and deeply rooted conflicts in modern history. It is a complex and multifaceted issue that has resulted in immense human suffering and a prolonged denial of statehood for the Palestinian people.

The roots of the Israel-Palestine conflict can be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Jewish immigration to Palestine increased as part of the Zionist movement, which sought to establish a Jewish homeland in the region. The decline of the Ottoman Empire and the subsequent British Mandate in Palestine further fueled tensions between Jewish and Arab communities.

In 1947, the United Nations proposed the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. The plan was approved by the United Nations General Assembly but rejected by Arab states and Palestinian leaders, who saw it as an infringement on their right to self-determination and an unfair division of territory.

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 led to a war between the newly established Israel and its neighboring Arab states, including Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Iraq. The outcome of this conflict, known as the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, left Israel in control of a significantly larger territory than initially allocated by the UN plan, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs became refugees.

UNJUST DENIAL OF STATEHOOD

The denial of statehood to the Palestinian people is a tragic and unjust aspect of the Israel-Palestine conflict. For over seven decades, Palestinians have been deprived of their right to self-determination, sovereignty, and a homeland of their own. This denial is not only a violation of international law but also a stark injustice that continues to fuel the conflict.

Israel has maintained a military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip since the 1967 Six-Day War. During this period, Israeli settlements have expanded in the occupied territories, displacing Palestinian communities and hindering the prospects for a viable Palestinian state.

Israel's construction of a separation barrier, annexation of East Jerusalem, and imposition of restrictions on Palestinian movement have further undermined the prospects for Palestinian statehood.



Continuing bombardment of civilian homes in Gaza amounts to war crimes, Amnesty International said.

The lack of progress in peace negotiations has left the Palestinians in a state of political limbo, without a clear path to statehood. The ongoing conflict and distrust between both parties have hindered the peace process.

The international community, particularly the United States, has played a significant role in enabling the denial of Palestinian statehood. Veto power in the United Nations Security Council has been used to shield Israel from international condemnation, making it difficult for the UN to enforce resolutions aimed at addressing the conflict.

TRAGIC LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES

The most heartbreaking aspect of the Israel-Palestine conflict is the loss of innocent lives, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The densely populated territory has been the epicenter of numerous military conflicts and Israeli military operations, resulting in significant civilian casualties.

The situation in Gaza has been exacerbated by a crippling blockade that restricts the movement of people and goods, leaving its residents in dire humanitarian conditions. The blockade has had severe consequences for the delivery of basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water.

Israeli military operations in Gaza, particularly in 2008-2009, 2012, and 2014, have led to high civilian casualties, including women and children. These operations have raised concerns about proportionality and the indiscriminate use of force, leading to allegations of war crimes and human rights abuses.

The tragedy in Gaza is a stark reminder

of the urgent need for a resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, which includes addressing the humanitarian crisis and protecting the rights of innocent civilians.

ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The United Nations has played a central role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict since its inception. However, the UN's efforts have been marred by political divisions, particularly in the Security Council, where the United States has consistently used its veto power to shield Israel from criticism and block resolutions aimed at addressing the conflict.

Over the years, the United Nations has passed numerous resolutions aimed at addressing the conflict and promoting a two-state solution. UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) and Resolution 338 (1973) called for Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied during the 1967 war and the need for negotiations. However, these resolutions have not been fully implemented. UN agencies, such as UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees), have provided critical humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees and populations affected by conflict. These agencies have faced funding challenges, putting essential services at risk.

The UN has hosted multiple peace initiatives and negotiations aimed at resolving the conflict, including the Oslo Accords and the Road Map for Peace. However, progress has been slow, and the fundamental issues remain unresolved.

The UN has conducted inquiries into human rights violations and alleged war

crimes committed during the conflict. These investigations have called for accountability for those responsible for violations of international law.

The international community, including key actors like the United States, the European Union, and regional powers, has a significant role to play in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. Their influence can be used to encourage both parties to return to the negotiating table and work toward a just and lasting resolution.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, the unjust denial of Palestinian statehood, and the tragic loss of innocent lives in Gaza are deeply troubling and require immediate attention. It is crucial to condemn the violence and human suffering that persist in this long-standing conflict while recognizing the legitimate rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.

To address these issues, several steps need to be taken.

To begin with, both sides must commit to ending the cycle of violence and adhering to international humanitarian law, which prohibits attacks on civilians and the use of disproportionate force. An immediate ceasefire is essential to protect innocent lives.

A return to negotiations is the next step. Diplomatic efforts should be revived, and both parties should return to the negotiating table. A two-state solution, based on the 1967 borders with mutually agreed-upon land swaps, remains the most viable path to peace.

Third, the international community should pressure Israel to ease the blockade on Gaza, allowing for the delivery of humanitarian aid, reconstruction efforts, and economic development.

Four, allegations of war crimes and human rights abuses on both sides must be thoroughly investigated, and those responsible should be held accountable in accordance with international law.

Five, the international community should provide political and financial support for peace initiatives, humanitarian assistance, and state-building efforts in Palestine.

Finally, the United Nations should continue its efforts to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, uphold international law, and ensure that resolutions passed by the General Assembly and Security Council are implemented.

The international community, including the United Nations, must work together to bring an end to the violence, ensure accountability for human rights violations, and support the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians for a peaceful and prosperous future. The denial of Palestinian statehood and the suffering of innocent civilians must not be tolerated, and the world should collectively strive for a resolution that guarantees the rights and dignity of all those living in the region.

(The Author is Chief Editor of
The Indian Panorama)

Ethics, parliamentary conduct and the Indian MP



BY P.D.T. ACHARY

A PARLIAMENTARY PROBE AGAINST A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IS NOT THE SAME AS A JUDICIAL PROBE

The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee's proceedings against the All India Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) from West Bengal, Mahua Moitra, have resulted in much public debate. A senior MP from the Bharatiya Janata Party, Nishikant Dubey, lodged a complaint with the Speaker alleging that Ms. Moitra had received money from a businessman for putting questions up in Parliament with a view to promoting the person's business interests. The Speaker in turn referred the complaint to the Ethics Committee for examination and a report.

EXPULSION AND INSTANCES

It must be clarified at this point that if an MP takes money for putting questions up in Parliament, they will be guilty of breach of privilege and contempt of the House. Such complaints are invariably referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation. This committee, after a proper investigation, submits its findings in a report along with the recommendation for action against the MP in question. If a case involving illegal gratification for conducting parliamentary work is proven, the MP may even be expelled from the House. There have been such instances in the Lok Sabha where MPs were expelled from the House on this ground.

In the first case, in 1951, H.G. Mudgal, an MP of the Provisional Parliament, was found guilty of promoting the interests of a business association in return for financial benefits by putting questions up, and moving amendments to a Bill which affected the interests of that business association. A special committee of the House found that his conduct was derogatory to the dignity of the House and inconsistent with the standards which Parliament is entitled to expect of its members. But he resigned before he was expelled by the House (the action recommended was his expulsion). In 2005, a sting operation by a private channel showed 10 Members of the Lok Sabha accepting money for putting questions up in Parliament. Again, a special committee was appointed which found them guilty of conduct unbecoming of a member and recommended their expulsion which was accepted by the House. All the MPs were expelled. Thus, complaints of MPs accepting money for parliamentary work are referred to the privileges committee or special committees appointed by the House for that purpose. However, Ms. Moitra's case has been referred to the Ethics committee although the allegation is about illegal gratification for doing parliamentary work.

The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha is a relatively new committee which was set up in 2000, with a mandate to examine every complaint that related to the unethical conduct of MPs referred to it and to recommend action. It was also



All India Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament (MP) from West Bengal, Mahua Moitra who appeared before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee alleged that what transpired at the meeting was an "orchestrated cheer-haran (disrobing) designed to humiliate" her. Photo credit / ANI

tasked with formulating a code of conduct for MPs.

WHAT IS UNETHICAL IS UNDEFINED

An interesting aspect of this committee is that the term 'unethical conduct' has not been defined anywhere. It is left entirely to the committee to examine a particular act of conduct and decide whether it is unethical or not. A couple of cases decided in the past certainly point to the type of conduct which can be called unethical. In one instance, an MP took his close female companion along with him on a parliamentary tour, personating her as his wife. The committee found the MP guilty of unethical conduct and its recommendation was that he was to be suspended from 30 sittings of the House. He was also barred from taking any companion or his spouse on any official tour till the end of tenure of that Lok Sabha. Thus, the moral vagaries of MPs definitely come under scrutiny of the ethics committee.

But there are also other cases of misconduct which were either examined by the ethics committee or special committees. For example, an MP misused the car parking label issued by Parliament. The case was referred to the Ethics Committee which, after examination of the case, closed it as the MP owned up to his mistake and apologized. In another case, an MP took along a woman and a boy on a foreign tour using the passports of his wife and son. This was treated as a serious case as it involved the violation of the Passports Act. This case was referred to a special inquiry committee which held him guilty

of grave misconduct as well as contempt of the committee and recommended his expulsion. It must be noted here that more serious cases involving serious misconduct are dealt with by either the Committee of Privileges or special committees, and not by the ethics committee.

In Ms. Moitra's case, if the complaint is about her having accepted illegal gratification, then the case becomes a case of breach of privilege and cannot be dealt with by the ethics committee. Since a public servant accepting a bribe is a criminal offence; it is normally investigated by the criminal investigative agencies of the government. Parliamentary committees do not deal with criminal investigation. They decide on the basis of evidence whether the conduct of the MP is a breach of privilege or contempt of the House and punish them accordingly. But the punishment by the House relates to his functioning in the House. Otherwise, he will be liable to be punished for the criminal offence, as in the law. It may be remembered that the 10 MPs who were expelled from the Lok Sabha are still facing trial under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

CASH FOR QUERY: THE POLITICAL STORM SURROUNDING MAHUA MOITRA

A parliamentary probe is not the same as a judicial probe. A judicial body probes a matter as in the statutes and Rules, and is conducted by judicially trained persons. Parliamentary committees consist of Members of Parliament who are not experts. Since Parliament has the power to scrutinize the executive, which

is accountable to it, it possesses investigative power also. It also has the power to punish those including its own members in order to protect its honor and dignity.

But the methods followed by Parliament in investigating a matter are different from those of the judiciary. Parliament does the investigative work through its committees which function under the Rules of the House. The usual methods are examination of the written documents placed before the committee by the complainant and the witnesses, oral examination of all the relevant witnesses, deposition of experts, if deemed necessary, sifting of the whole volume of evidence placed before the committee, and arriving at findings on the basis of the evidence. If the committee examines a complaint against a member of the House, he can appear before it through an advocate and also cross-examine the complainant and other witnesses on permission by the chair. Findings are arrived at after the analysis of all the evidence made available to the committee. In the ultimate analysis, the committee takes a view on the basis of common sense. The findings of the committee of Parliament can be said to be on the basis of preponderance of probabilities. The rules of evidence under the Evidence Act are not applicable to a probe by a parliamentary committee. The question of the relevance of the evidence of a person or a document is finally decided by the Speaker only, and not according to the Evidence Act.

ONLINE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS

The issue of MPs sharing their password and login details with another person has come into focus now. In reality, MPs do not have the time to sit down and write out questions. So, they are said to be sharing the password with personal assistants, which can be called a practical necessity. Moreover, the Lok Sabha does not seem to have framed any rules to regulate the online submission of questions. Further, an MP is free to engage any person to do his parliamentary work. He also does not have any obligation to disclose the sources from where he gets information to do his parliamentary work. Article 105 of the Constitution gives them the freedom to say "anything" in the House. This right should be deemed to be extended to the tapping of any source for information for putting questions up or framing Bills or resolutions to be placed in Parliament. Therefore, an investigation into the sources of information of an MP may not have legal sanction. Otherwise, Parliament has the power to discipline its members.

(The author is a former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha)

A world of order and stability belongs to the graveyard



BY NEERA
CHANDHOKE

"POLITICS IS NOT ONLY ABOUT ELECTIONS AND ASCENDING TO POWER. IT IS ABOUT AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PROCESSES THAT ENABLE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND THE STATE. UNLESS I EXPRESS MY PARTICULARITY AND YOU EXPRESS YOURS, WE WILL NOT REALIZE OURSELVES AS HUMANS WHO HAVE THOUGHTS, IDEAS, IDEOLOGIES AND WHO AGREE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES THROUGH REASONED PUBLIC DEBATE. THIS IS WHAT ARISTOTLE SOUGHT, A SOCIETY MARKED BY NOT ONLY DISAGREEMENT BUT ALSO DELIBERATION ON HOW TO RESOLVE DISAGREEMENT."

In his Dussehra address at the Ramlila Maidan on October 24, PM Narendra Modi called for the uprooting of casteism and regionalism that threatened to fracture the unity of 'Maa Bharati'. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, while addressing the Sangh's annual Vijayadashami event in Nagpur, attacked 'cultural Marxism' or 'wokeism' that presumably controlled the media and universities. These forces, he said, were



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat recently attacked 'cultural Marxism' or 'wokeism'.

Photo credit / PTI

selfish, discriminatory and deceitful; they disrupted social cohesion, orderliness, morality, beneficence, culture, dignity and restraint in the world; they plunged education, culture, politics and social environment into confusion, chaos and corruption.

The script sounds familiar. It seeks to suppress alternative perspectives, and thus make room for only one ideology, one sort of politics and one worldview which does not tolerate challenges. Ironically, thinkers who sought 'a better world', from Greek philosopher Plato to Sir Thomas More, to the utopian socialists from Robert Owen to Saint Simon, were skeptical of politics. They disapproved of factionalism, instability and contingency. Karl Marx's socialist society and Gandhi's notion of Swaraj are held to be utopias. The difference between an authoritarian project and a utopia is one of intent. The former seeks absolute power. The latter yearns for an ideal society in which humans can live a full life.

In 1516, Sir Thomas More coined the term utopia to denote a society better than the one he lived in - in the court and then the jail of Henry the Eighth in 16th-century England. This work reflected the concerns of classical political thought that strove to seek the best order of human life. Gandhi's search for a village republic was motivated by a sharp critique of Western industrial civilization, which focused on materiality and bodily well-being. This prevented self-knowledge and thus self-governance or Swaraj.

Authoritarians do not seek a society in which individuals can realize the good life. They leave society as it is, unjust and unhappy. They only want a society where rival perspectives do not enable people to dream of a world that is far, far better than the one they inhabit. Curbing of imagination and the banning of dissent,

even if society needs to be critiqued, distinguishes an authoritarian project from a utopia. True, both political projects result in a post-political society. But in political life, the consequences are often unintended. It is the intention that counts. So, let us set aside utopia and examine what authoritarianism does to a plural society.

In a plural society, humans are distinct in their particularity. Even though 'I am part of the 'we', I am distinct because I have different ideas of how our world should be organized. Therefore, some of us join political formations, others social movements, still others associations in civil society, and some rest content with expressing their opinions through social media, op-eds or letters to the editor. Each activity is fulfilling because, as Greek philosopher Aristotle had theorized, human beings are political animals.

Politics is not only about elections and ascending to power. It is about agreement and disagreement, and more importantly, about the institutionalization of processes that enable conversations between individuals, groups and the state. Unless I express my particularity and you express yours, we will not realize ourselves as humans who have thoughts, ideas, ideologies and who agree to resolve differences through reasoned public debate. This is what Aristotle sought, a society marked by not only disagreement but also deliberation on how to resolve disagreement.

Therefore, as eminent philosopher Hannah Arendt suggested in *The Human Condition*, attempts to subordinate plurality of ideas and action are against 'democracy'. This inevitably turns into an argument against the essentials of politics. Plurality manifests itself in the public realm of debate and discussion. Attempts to do away with plurality are

DEMOCRACY IS THE ONLY FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT PRIVILEGES THE NOTION OF A PUBLIC REALM WHERE CITIZENS CAN METAPHORICALLY COME TOGETHER TO THINK OF 'WHAT IS' AND 'WHAT SHOULD BE'. THE PROCESS OF PARTICIPATING IN A DISCUSSION IS WHAT ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHERS CALLED DOING POLITICS

tantamount to the abolition of the public realm itself. The most obvious escape from plurality is a one-man rule in its many varieties, from outright tyranny of one against all to benevolent despotism. The problem with these forms of government is not that they are cruel, but that they might work too well. Tyrants may be kind and mild in everything. What they have in common is banishment of citizens from the public sphere and the insistence that whereas people mind their business, only rulers should attend to public affairs. Escape from the frailty of human affairs into the solidity of quiet and order has much to recommend it, Arendt suggests, but it is an escape from politics: "The hallmark of all such escapes is the concept of rule, that is, the notion that men can lawfully and politically live together when some are entitled to command and the others forced to obey."

Democracy is the only form of government that privileges the notion of a public realm where citizens can metaphorically come together to think of 'what is' and 'what should be'. The process of participating in a discussion is what ancient Greek philosophers called doing politics. Think of how dismal and dreary a world without contestation will be. We can think of such a world in concentration camps, not in the rich plurality of India with its many traditions and varied philosophical doctrines, its colorful religious festivals and regional variety. We would never trade this messy but creative world for a world of order and stability. That world belongs to the graveyard.

(The author is a political scientist)



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Nearly 97,000 Indians held trying to enter illegally between Oct 2022 to Sept 2023: US border protection agency



Image for representation / CBP

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): A record 96,917 Indians were arrested while crossing illegally into the US between October 2022 and September 2023, according to the latest US Customs and Border Protection (UCBP) data, reports PTI.

Indians apprehended while crossing the US border unlawfully have reportedly witnessed a five-fold increase in the past years.

In 2019-20, 19,883 Indians were apprehended. In 2020-21, 30,662 Indians were arrested while in 2021-22 this number was 63,927, according to the data.

Of the 96,917 Indians arrested between October 2022 and September this year, 30,010 were caught on the Canadian border and 41,770 at the frontier with Mexico.

Those arrested are classified under four categories - Accompanied Minors (AM), Individuals in a Family Unit (FMUA), Single Adults, and Unaccompanied Children (UC).

Single adults make up the largest category. In fiscal year 2023, 84,000 Indian adults crossed into the US illegally. 730 unaccompanied minors were among the arrested people.

The US federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

Meanwhile, Senator James Lankford said on the Senate floor on Thursday that these people take about four flights including through countries like France to be able to get to Mexico, the closest airport, and then literally take a bus rented by the cartels up to the border to be dropped off for their last delivery.

"So they can say, 'I have fear in my country,' Lankford said.

"So far this year we've had 45,000 people from India that have crossed our southern border, paid the cartels, crossed into our country, and said they have fear in their country from India," Lankford said. Lankford reiterated what he's said many times, that the criminal cartels in Mexico are coaching migrants from all over the world on what to say and where to go in order to "game" the asylum process and get into the country while they await an asylum hearing. "Listen this doesn't make sense to just about everyone in the world. Just about everyone in the world has shifted on this except for us. We're literally inviting people from all over the world to exploit our system," he said in his remarks about America's broken asylum system and the areas that need to be addressed in policy. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Biden administration elevated hate crimes to national threat priority: FBI Director

NOVEMBER 01, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Biden Administration has elevated hate crimes to a national threat priority, a top US Government official has told lawmakers, stressing that the Jewish community faces nearly 60 per cent of all such religious-based assaults by every terrorist organization across the spectrum.

Speaking during a US Congressional hearing, FBI Director Christopher Wray told lawmakers that FBI is tackling the rise in hate crimes through a series of law enforcement efforts, including joint terrorism task forces, hate crime investigations, and intelligence sharing.

"We are tackling both through investigations and outreach and intelligence sharing investigations, both through all 56 joint terrorism task forces. And on the hate crime side, we've elevated hate crimes to a national threat priority. We've done lots of outreach with the Jewish community, both nationally with organizations," he said.

Wray said he has personally participated in any number of times and then each of the FBI field offices does as well.

"We've done active shooter training for those houses of worship, etc. But the



FBI Director Christopher Wray has created a domestic terrorism hate crimes fusion cell to try to get at offenses, hate based violent extremist offenses against the faith-based communities, which could be either domestic terrorism or hate crimes.

reality is that the Jewish community is uniquely targeted by pretty much every terrorist organization across the spectrum," he said.

"When you look at a group that makes up 2.4 per cent roughly of the American population, it should be jarring to everyone that that same population accounts for something like 60 per cent of all religious-based hate crimes. And so they need our help," Wray said in

response to a question.

The FBI, he said, has created a domestic terrorism hate crimes fusion cell to try to get at offenses, hate based violent extremist offenses against the faith-based communities, which could be either domestic terrorism or hate crimes.

"The idea was to bring the expertise of both together. That has in turn led to some of the first proactive hate crimes, cases including in particular, the one that I can think of is a disruption of an attempted bombing of a synagogue," he said.

"We have had a number of cases like that that we're doing, so we've also elevated hate crimes to a national threat priority. So, it's extensive outreach to faith-based communities. It's an extensive investigation. Just in the few years that I've been director, we've had quite a number of attacks or attempted attacks on synagogues that we have disrupted," he added.

"Attempted bombings of synagogues in Colorado and Nevada. Attempted shootings up of synagogues in California. Obviously, we had the Colleyville situation. I personally have been to the crime scene at Tree of Life, so it is a major problem. It's something we're actively engaged in," Wray said.

Joe Biden to meet Xi Jinping in San Francisco this month; want to move forward with China: WH

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.(TIP): US President Joe Biden would meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership Summit in San Francisco later this month, the White House has confirmed.

"The president is looking forward to it. And that, I think should answer your question," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Tuesday, October 31, at her daily news conference when asked about reports of a Biden-Xi meeting in San Francisco.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also been invited for the APEC Leadership summit by President Biden. India is most likely



Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters on Tuesday, October 31, at her daily news conference US President Joe Biden would meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership Summit in San Francisco later this month.

File photo/ White House

to be represented by a Cabinet-level minister.

"We've been talking about it. The President said he's looking forward to meeting -- to meeting with President Xi. And -- and so, not going to get into details about this meeting that's going to happen in November. It's going to be in San Francisco. It's going to be a constructive meeting," Jean-Pierre said.

"Look, what I'm saying is that we're aiming to have a constructive conversation, meeting between the leaders in San Francisco in November. So that's what I'm saying. That's what's going to happen in November. We're going to have constructive conversation in San Francisco," she said.

She said that the policy of the Biden Administration as to how to move forward with China hasn't changed.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Judge Chutkan Ignores Donald Trump's Pleas

NOV 3, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The judge in Donald Trump's election tampering case will push ahead with jury selection, despite requests from the former president's lawyers for her to postpone the trial, reports Newsweek.

The Washington D.C.-based federal judge, Tanya Chutkan, ruled on Thursday, November 2, that potential jurors will fill out a preliminary questionnaire on February 9, 2024, less than a month before Trump's trial is scheduled to begin, on March 4. The questionnaire will help assess if they have strong feelings about the former president that might prevent them from reaching a fair verdict.

In making her ruling, she explicitly warned that Trump can't share juror information on his campaign trial. This is to prevent Trump, who is already under a gag order in the case, from claiming that individual jurors are biased against him.

Jury selection for his election tampering case is due to begin in Washington D.C. in February. "The parties must ensure that anyone permitted access to sensitive juror information understands that he cannot publicly disclose the information, and no party may provide jurors' identifying information to any other entity (e.g., the defendant's campaign) that is not part of the defense team or Government team assisting with jury selection," Chutkan wrote. Her scheduling date follows several attempts by Trump's lawyers to have the case delayed. In October, Trump's legal team claimed presidential immunity for acts that occurred while he was president.



The Washington D.C.-based federal judge, Tanya Chutkan, ruled on Thursday, November 2 that Donald Trump's election tampering case will push ahead with jury selection, despite requests from the former president's lawyers for her to postpone the trial.

Photo / Wikipedia

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

UNGA votes overwhelmingly against US' sanctions on Cuba

US, ISRAEL WERE ONLY TWO COUNTRIES IN OPPOSITION WHILE 187 VOTES, INCLUDING THAT OF INDIA, WERE IN FAVOR

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): For the 31st year in a row, the world voted at the UN to condemn the blockade against Cuba.

The US and Israel were the only two countries in opposition while 187 votes, including that of India, were in favor. Ukraine was the only abstention.

The resolution was titled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

The UN General Assembly voiced concern that despite its resolutions dating back to 1992, "the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba is still in place", and voiced concern, about "the adverse effects of such measures on the Cuban



Photo for representation / UN

people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries".

Six decades of the embargo has cost Cuba trillions of dollars, Singapore's representative, who spoke on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said.

The representative of Azerbaijan, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that Cuba is denied access to markets, international aid and technology transfers, which creates serious obstacles to its socioeconomic development. The embargo is the main impediment to broader access to the Internet, people-to-people contacts and the development of cultural, sport and scientific relations.

This embargo runs counter to Cuba's continued efforts to realize sustainable development, he said.

CANADA TO ADMIT 5,00,000 IMMIGRANTS EACH YEAR; INDIANS TO BENEFIT MOST



Canada to admit 5,00,000 immigrants each year; Indians to benefit most.

Photo for representation

November 2, 2023

OTTAWA (TIP): Though Canada will admit 4,85,000 new immigrants in 2024 as in 2023, it plans to raise the numbers to 500,000 by 2025.

Unveiling immigration plans for 2024-26, Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, said on Wednesday that immigration levels would be capped at 5,00,000 from 2026.

As India is Canada's biggest source of immigration and students, Indians will be the biggest beneficiary of these levels because they are going to get the lion's share of 2,81,135 newcomers under the economic category and 1,14,000 under the family category.

Last year, over 1,18,000 Indians took up Canadian permanent residency (PR), accounting for a quarter of all 4,37,120 newcomers to Canada.

The new immigration targets will push up Canada's population each year by 1.3 per cent.

In fact, record immigration levels have helped the Canadian population cross the 40-million mark even as the country faces an acute housing shortage.

The Justin Trudeau-led government is sticking to high immigration levels despite opinion polls showing opposition to the plan because of the housing crunch.

"Canada will continue to welcome newcomers and ensure that they are supported in their new lives," Miller added.

He however, admitted that immigration levels were being capped at 5,00,000 because "we recognize that housing, infrastructure planning, and sustainable population growth need to be properly taken into account".

(Source: IANS)

Trump leads in home state of Nikki Haley: CNN poll



The Republican frontrunners Donald Trump and Nikki Haley

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former US president Donald Trump leads Indian-American politician Nikki Haley by more than 30 percentage points in her home state of South Carolina as they vie for the Republican Party's nomination for the 2024 presidential election, according to the latest opinion poll by CNN.

The 77-year-old former president, currently the front-runner among the Republican Party candidates, has the support of 53 per cent of its responders in South Carolina as opposed to 22 per cent who support Haley, who is the former governor of South Carolina.

Vivek Ramaswamy, the 38-year-old Indian-American, is trailing far behind with about one percentage point in the CNN polls of South Carolina, which is one of the early primary states.

The US presidential elections are scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024.

Trump's base of support in South Carolina is far more solid than his rivals' pool of core supporters.

An 82 per cent majority of his current backers say that they will definitely support him. (Read full story at

www.theindianpanorama.news)

Wait time for getting interview appointment for US visa in business and tourism category 37 days in Delhi India is number one priority for Washington for issuance of visas, says official



Photo for representation

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The waiting period for getting an interview appointment for a US visa in the B1 and the B2 categories (business and tourism) currently stands at 37 days in Delhi, according to official data.

The US State Department on its website has shared the estimated wait time to receive an interview appointment for visas at a US embassy or consulate. According to the data updated November 1 on the website, the current waiting period for getting an interview appointment for an American visa in the B1 and the B2 categories stands at 37 days in Delhi, 322 days in Mumbai, 126 days in Kolkata, 341 days in Chennai and 511 days in Hyderabad.

Visitor visas are non-immigrant visas for persons who want to enter the US temporarily for business (visa category B1), for tourism (visa category B2), or for a combination of both purposes (B1/B2).

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Scottish Parliament recognizes the Sikh Genocide of 1984 in India as "Anti-Sikh Violence"



Scottish Parliament recognizes the Sikh Genocide of 1984 in India as "Anti-Sikh Violence"

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): World Sikh parliament appreciated Kesri Lehar: UK and Kesri Lehar: Scotland's efforts to raise awareness about the atrocities committed by the Indian state against the Sikh community and to seek justice for the victims and their families.

We stand in solidarity with Kesri Lehar and the Sikh community in their quest for truth and accountability. We believe that the recognition by the Scottish Parliament is a significant step towards acknowledging the historical facts and the human rights violations that took place in 1984. We also support their call for other parliaments and institutions worldwide to recognize these events as the "Sikh Genocide", as they have been termed by many credible sources.

World Sikh Parliaments Speaker Bhai Joga Singh and co-convener Bhai Gurcharan Singh said that the Indian state has been trying to suppress the voices of the Sikh community and to deny their right to self-determination.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



Delhi wakes up to dense haze as air quality turns 'severe'

The air quality in several parts of Delhi reeled under the 'severe' category on Friday, November 3, morning with Mundka recording the highest Air Quality Index (498), as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

As the quality of air deteriorated, a thick haze blanketed the skyline of the national capital.

According to the CPCB, the AQI in the Lodhi Road area was recorded at 438, in Jahangirpuri at 491, in the RK Puram area and in IGI Airport (T3) at 486 and 473 respectively.

Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature, and colour.

The AQI from 0 to 100 is considered good, while from 100 to 200 it is moderate, from 200 to 300 it is poor, and from 300 to 400 it is said to be very poor and from 400 to 500 or above it is considered as severe, which affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

Mahua Moitra says experience at Ethics Committee meeting akin to 'Vastraharan'

KOLKATA (TIP)

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra accused the Chairman of Parliament's Ethics Committee of "sordid, unethical and prejudiced" conduct during the hearing in connection with the cash for query allegations against her.

In a strongly worded letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mahua Moitra likened Thursday's (NOV 2) ethics panel proceeding to "vastraharan" (disrobing).

"How shameful is it that I, as one of only 78 female members of Lok Sabha, are subjected to Vastraharan in the name of 'Ethics Committee' hearing by the Chairperson of the Committee?" Mahua Moitra said in the letter.

Mahua Moitra had stormed out of the Parliamentary panel's meeting during an enquiry on whether she accepted a Rs 2 crore bribe to pose questions in Parliament. During her walkout, she was joined by BSP's Danish Ali, who seconded her stand on the panel's cross-examination.

"The committee ought to designate itself under a name other than Ethics Committee as it has no ethics and morality left. Instead of asking questions pertinent to the subject, the Chairman exhibited a preconceived bias by maliciously and clearly in a defamatory way questioning me, so much so that 5 of 11 members present walked out and boycotted the proceedings in protest at his shameful conduct," Moitra's letter read.

Moitra alleged that the panel's Chairman Vinod Sonkar "stooped to a sordid line of questioning while reading from a script". She also alleged that the panel's head asked her "detailed and extremely personal questions about her private life".

"He (Chairman) continued even after being warned multiple times by other members of the Committee to refrain from this filthy line of questioning," Moitra said in her letter.

The Trinamool MP further alleged a breach of her privacy. She said that as a female MP, the cross-examination was no less than "humiliation".

"One of these was, for example, about who I speak to at night, how many times and asking for those call details," Moitra said in the letter.



MAHUA MOITRA ON BRIBERY CHARGES

Rebutting Darshan Hiranandani's affidavit to the Lok Sabha secretariat wherein the businessman admitted to using her credentials to pose questions in Parliament, Mahua Moitra, in her letter, said that Hiranandani did not provide any "evidence of cash". Earlier, Mahua Moitra questioned the credibility of Darshan Hiranandani's affidavit which he submitted before the Ethics Committee of Parliament and alleged that the Prime Minister's Office forced him to sign a white paper that "was leaked to the media".

Shortly after Mahua Moitra walked out of the parliamentary meeting on the cash-for-query matter, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the Trinamool MP had made her "own narrative" of the cross-examination session. Dubey, who had initiated the charges against Moitra, said he had enough evidence to establish that Moitra breached the protocols of Parliament.

Meanwhile, another member of Lok Sabha Ethics panel Aparajita Sarangi, who is BJP MP from Bhubaneswar, said, "When questions were raised about Hiranandani's affidavit, Mahua Moitra became furious. She was very aggressive, rude, defensive, and arrogant. Mahua Moitra used unparliamentary language in the Assembly."

Nitish blames Congress for INDIA bloc losing steam

PATNA (TIP)

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday, November 2, blamed the Congress' preoccupation with assembly polls in five states for the INDIA bloc's inability to build on the momentum it had gained in recent months.

Speaking at 'BJP Hatao Desh Bachao' rally organised by the Communist Party of India (CPI) in the state capital, Nitish said that Congress seems to be more busy with upcoming assembly polls in five states.

In a guarded language, JD(U) leader, who had played a key role in bringing non-BJP parties together to give a befitting answer to BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, said, "We have been talking to them, pushing them forward in 'INDIA' alliance. But of late there has not been much progress on that front." He, however, hastened to add that the constituents of the Opposition 'INDIA' bloc would meet again to decide the future course of action after the state polls.

"The constituents of 'INDIA' would sit again after the assembly elections to decide its future course of action," he added.

In February, Nitish had advised Congress not to rest on its laurels after the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' and use the momentum to ally with the opposition



parties at the national convention of CPI (ML).

The JD(U) leader lambasted the ruling BJP at the Centre for "trying to alter the country's history, to hide the fact that it had played no role in the struggle for independence".

It may be noted that recently, Nitish had created a flutter in political circles by telling former union minister and BJP MP Radha Mohan Singh from a dais that he (BJP leader) would remain his friend till he was alive.

"All the people present here are my friends. You will remain connected to me as long as I live," CM had remarked while addressing the first convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Motihari.

Furnish data of all electoral bonds in 2 weeks: SC to EC

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, November 2, reserved the pleas challenging the validity of Central government's electoral bond scheme, directing the Election Commission to provide within two weeks all data on donations that political parties received through the scheme till September 30 this year.

A five-judge constitution bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the electoral bonds scheme for funding political parties should not become a tool for "legitimation of quid pro quo" between power centres and people who are benefactors of that power, stressing the need for reducing the cash component in the electoral process.

After hearing for three days the pleas against the Centre's scheme introduced in 2017, the bench also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), among others.

During the hearing, the bench also said that at this stage, it will not ask the State Bank of India to reveal the identity of the donors, but it would like to know about the quantum of bonds subscribed.

A major contention of the petitioners was that the identity of the donors could never be known to the public.

Source: ENS

Now, devotees can take along langar ration to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur

Now, the devotees going to pay obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan will be able to take ration and other goods for langar (community food) from the Indian side.

Christened as "Langar Rasad Guru Nanak Dev Ji Hut", an exclusive store for ration has been opened at the Kartarpur corridor at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur.

On the first day today, the devotees purchased vegetables, pulses and handkerchiefs from this store. The Kartarpur corridor was constructed by India and Pakistan for visa-free access to Indian pilgrims from Dera Baba Nanak to Kartarpur in Pakistan's Narowal district where Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, had spent the last leg of his life.

Since the inauguration of the corridor in November 2019, the devotees, during the initial months, used to carry ration for langar along with them, but this practice was discouraged after the Pakistan Rangers raised objections over it with their Indian counterparts.

As the new store has opened after the intervention of the Centre, the devotees can now "officially" contribute in the langar of Gurdwara Kartarpur shrine kitchen.

Stop calling me 'My Lord' and I will give you half of my salary: SC judge to senior advocate

Supreme Court judge has voiced unhappiness at being repeatedly addressed as "My Lord" and "Your Lordships" by lawyers during judicial proceedings.

"How many times you will say 'My Lords'? If you stop saying this, then I will give you half of my salary," Justice P S Narasimha, who was sitting on the bench with senior presiding judge Justice A S Bopanna, told a senior lawyer during the hearing of a regular matter on Wednesday, November 1.

Lawyers, during arguments, invariably address judges as "My Lord" or "Your Lordships". Those opposed to the practice often call it a colonial-era relic and a sign of slavery.

"Why don't you use 'Sir' instead," Justice Narasimha said, adding otherwise, he will start counting as to how many times the senior lawyer uttered the expression "My Lords".

In 2006, the Bar Council of India had passed a resolution deciding no advocate will address judges as "My Lord" and "Your Lordship" but it was not followed in practice.

iPhone snooping alert to Opposition leaders: Apple joins CERT-In probe

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Apple on Thursday, November 2, joined the CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) — the government's nodal agency on cyber security — in connection with the probe into allegations of attempts to hack the iPhones of some Opposition leaders. The controversy erupted after some of the leaders who use Apple phones received warnings of "state-sponsored attacks" on their devices from the company.

The government, meanwhile, said the investigation is focused on "determining if the Apple products are secure and safe and can be trusted to protect the privacy of the consumers".

The IT Ministry had sent a notice to Apple, seeking an explanation on the alert sent to political leaders and a few mediapersons, warning them of "state-sponsored attackers who are remotely trying to compromise" their iPhones, said Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

"The government is determined to get to the bottom of this. Our investigation is focused on determining if the Apple products are secure and safe and can be trusted to protect the privacy of the consumers," Chandrasekhar told The Indian Express. "If Apple devices are safe... we want to know what those 'threat notification messages' were. We have asked them to explain. If their devices are secure and safe, they should be transparent and disclose the vulnerabilities to their consumers and the government," the minister said.

The MoS said Apple should join the



Several in Opposition, including Priyanka Chaturvedi, Mahua Moitra, Akhilesh Yadav, Mallikarjun Kharge, Asaduddin Owaisi and Sitaram Yechury have allege snooping after Apple phone alert. The government has rejected the charge.

investigation. "Since the threat notifications have gone to 150 countries, it's important that Apple joins the investigation and explain honestly and transparently," Chandrasekhar added.

On Wednesday, November 1, Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told The Indian Express that the CERT-In has started an investigation. Sources in the government said that an Apple team joined the investigation on Thursday.

Several political leaders, mainly from the Opposition, including Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, TMC's Mahua Moitra and AAP's Raghav Chadha, as well as a few journalists, claimed to have received a notification from Apple about "state-sponsored

attackers" remotely trying to compromise their iPhones. While Opposition MPs in the IT Standing Committee have sought a meeting of the panel to discuss the issue, CPIM MP John Brittas has written to the committee chairman Pratap Rao Jadhav, seeking a meeting. However, BJP's Nishikant Dubey, who is a member of the panel, pointed out that the committee does not discuss "day-to-day issues".

The CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team) had identified certain vulnerabilities in iPhone's operating system iOS and issued a formal advisory on October 27, just ahead of Apple launching its new products.

'Summons politically motivated': Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal skips ED questioning

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday skipped summons by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the now-scrapped excise policy and flew to poll-bound Madhya Pradesh to address a rally, alleging that the agency was acting at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to malign his image.

Kejriwal was summoned to appear before ED at its headquarters in connection with its money laundering probe in the excise policy. On April 16, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questioned Kejriwal in a parallel probe it is conducting into allegations of irregularities in the same policy.

But the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief wrote a letter to ED, saying that the summons were politically motivated and didn't clarify whether he was called as a witness or an accused, as the chief minister of Delhi or the AAP chief.

"It is apparent that the said summons was leaked to select BJP leaders to



malign my image and reputation and has been issued at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre," Kejriwal wrote in the two-page letter. "...please recall the said summons, which is to say the least, is vague and motivated and I am advised, unsustainable in law."

Kejriwal also wrote that the summons failed to do three things — clarify in what capacity he was being asked to come, as a witness or a subject in the investigation, provide reasons why he

was summoned, and specify whether he was called in his individual capacity or official role as CM or AAP convener — and called it a "fishing and roving" inquiry.

ED did not respond to Kejriwal's letter. In the afternoon, he flew to Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh, which goes to the polls on November 17, and addressed a road show.

"On the day of counting (December 3), I do not know whether I will be in jail or outside but wherever I will be everyone should say that Arvind Kejriwal had come to Singrauli and the people of Singrauli gave (AAP) a historic victory," Kejriwal said, flanked by Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and local AAP candidates.

Kejriwal's decision to skip the summons sparked a political controversy with the AAP calling it a "conspiracy" to keep the CM from campaigning in poll-bound states and the BJP alleging that he was "running away" from ED.

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 3, 2023, TO NOVEMBER 9, 2023

03 NOVEMBER

1917 Annapurna Maharana, a freedom fighter and advocate for women's rights, was born.

1933 Economist and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen was born in Birbhum district of West Bengal.



1948 The then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru gave his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

2000 Direct to home broadcasting service launched for all by the Government of India.

04 NOVEMBER



1936 Birth of eminent mathematician Shakuntala Devi.

1970 Famous Kathak dancer Pandit Shambhu Maharaj passed away.

1822 Formal launch of water supply scheme in Delhi.

1947 Major Somnath Sharma of Budgaon, Kashmir received the first Paramveer Chakra. However, he was given this honor posthumously.



1954 The Institute of Himalayan Mountaineering was established in Darjeeling.

1984 OB Aggarwal became world champion of amateur snooker.

1997 In Siachen base camp, the army off-signal gave the highest STD in the world. Booth set up.

1845 The famous revolutionary of India, Vasudev Balwant Phadke was born.

05 NOVEMBER

1556 In the second battle of Panipat, the Mughal ruler Akbar defeated Hemu.

1920 Indian Red Cross Society was established.

1961 India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visited New York.

2001 India and Russia rejected the Taliban's participation in the Afghan government.

1870 The great freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das was born.



06 NOVEMBER

1763 The British army defeated Meerkasim and captured Patna.

1913 Mahatma Gandhi led 'The Great March' against apartheid policies in South Africa.

1998 India's proposal for ceasefire in Siachen rejected

1943 During the Second World War, Japan handed over Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

1962 National Defense Council was established.

2000 Jyoti Basu stepped down after being Chief Minister of West Bengal for 23 consecutive years.



07 NOVEMBER

1858 Bipin Chandra Pal, the great revolutionary who fought against the British, was born.



1862 Bahadur Shah II, the last ruler of the Mughal Sultanate, died in Rangoon.

1876 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song Vande Mataram in a village called Kantal Pada in Bengal.

1888 Renowned scientist Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman was born.

2006 India and ASEAN agreed to create a fund for the development of science and technology.

2008 The famous poet Rahman Rahi of Kashmir was conferred with the Jnanpith Award.

1711 The ship of the Dutch East India Company sank all of the 300 crew.

1978 Indira Gandhi was re-elected to the Indian Parliament.

08 NOVEMBER



1661 Guru Har Rai Ji – 7th Sikh Guru, died.

2008 India's first unmanned space mission Chandrayaan-1 reached the lunar orbit.

2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation and 500,1000 notes were discontinued. After that, new 2000 notes were issued.

1999 Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar set a world record by sharing 331 runs in a one-day cricket match.

1627 The Mughal ruler Jahangir died.

1920 India's famous Kathak dancer Sitara Devi was born.

09 NOVEMBER

1236 The Mughal ruler Ruknuddin Firoz Shah was assassinated.



1270 The great saint Namdev was born.

1947 Junagadh state merged into India.

1960 First Indian Air Force Chief Subroto Mukherjee died.

2000 Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and made a new state.

Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison announces surprise resignation

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

SUFFOLK, NY (TIP): Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison, who helped the department finally crack the infamous Gilgo Beach serial killings case, suddenly announced Thursday night that he is stepping down after nearly two years on the job.

Harrison, a former NYPD chief of department, told officers he will inform Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone on Friday about his decision to resign, the message states.

"Serving as the Suffolk County Police commissioner for the past two years was

not only a privilege but one of the greatest highlights of my law enforcement career and that is because of you," Harrison said in the memo.

"It has been an honor to be part of this organization and work with so many talented individuals," he also said. "Each day, I have been impressed by stories of heroism, bravery, and dedication to the residents of this county. To say I appreciate and admire each one of you, is an understatement."

Harrison told staff Thursday, November 2, he was stepping down.

Harrison took the job in January 2022

and vowed his police force would work tirelessly to capture a suspect in the Gilgo Beach murders, which had gone unsolved for over a decade. He created a special joint task force dedicated to cold-case killings.

In July, Rex Heuermann was arrested near his Manhattan office and charged with the murders of three women in the case.

Harrison took the commissioner job after leaving his post as chief of department at the NYPD. He joined the Big Apple police force in 1991.

Harrison lauded the efforts of the



Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison

Photo Credit / Suffolk County Police

Suffolk department Thursday, November 2, and noted, "I leave knowing Suffolk County is in good hands."

Avoid a surprise next year; review tax withholding now before time runs out

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): With 2023 rapidly coming to a close, the Internal Revenue Service today encouraged taxpayers to review their

tax withholding as soon as possible to avoid a potential surprise when they file their tax return next year.

Although it's best for taxpayers to verify withholding early in the year, an adjustment made in the final weeks of 2023 could still help to avoid an unexpected result, such as a big refund or a balance due, when filing taxes next year.

With only a few weeks left in the year, the IRS encouraged people who haven't checked their withholding recently to do it soon so they can make any withholding adjustments needed. The IRS has several ways to help.

TAX WITHHOLDING ESTIMATOR

The Tax Withholding Estimator, also available in Spanish, can help taxpayers determine if they have too much income tax withheld and how to adjust tax withholding. In other cases, it can help taxpayers see that they should withhold more or make an estimated tax payment to avoid a tax bill when they file their 2023 tax return.

The tool offers workers, retirees, self-employed individuals and other taxpayers a simple-to-use, mobile-friendly way to calculate the correct amount of income tax they should have withheld from wages and pension payments based on their complete set of facts and circumstances.

TAXPAYER OPTIONS TO PAY AS THEY GO

Taxes are generally paid throughout the year. Employers typically withhold income tax from their employees' salary and pay it to the IRS on the employee's behalf. However, about 70% of taxpayers withhold too much every year resulting



in a refund.

The IRS reminds individuals earning income that's not subject to withholding, such as income from rental properties, gig economy

work or self-employment, to consider making quarterly estimated tax payments to avoid a balance due or penalties when filing.

Taxpayers may send estimated tax payments with Form 1040-ES by mail, or pay online, by phone or from their mobile device using the IRS2Go app. Taxpayers may also make estimated tax payments through their Online Account, where they can also see their payment histories and other tax records. To create an Online Account, go to [IRS.gov/account](https://www.irs.gov/account).

OTHER ITEMS MAY AFFECT 2023 TAXES

Common and unforeseen life events can be a trigger to make withholding adjustments. They include:

Life changes such as marriage or childbirth - Getting married or having a child are just a couple of life events that can affect a taxpayer's refund or how much they owe.

JOB LOSS - IRS Publication 4128, Tax Impact of Job Loss explains how this unfortunate circumstance can create new tax issues, such as receiving unemployment compensation.

DISASTERS SUCH AS WILDFIRES AND HURRICANES - Special tax law provisions may help taxpayers and businesses recover financially from the impact of a disaster, especially when the federal government declares their location a major disaster area.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that a refund is not guaranteed. Proper withholding adjustments help people boost take-home pay rather than be over-withheld and get it back as a tax refund.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

NYC CARE IS A HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF ONES' IMMIGRATION STATUS OR ABILITY TO PAY



NOVEMBER 3, 2023

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals' NYC Care program today announced the launch of a city-wide public awareness campaign to encourage eligible New Yorkers to enroll in the program and access the primary, preventive, and specialty care needed to lead longer, healthier lives. The campaign consists of a combination of multilingual advertisements, media partnerships, marketing strategies and earned media opportunities, available in the languages most commonly spoken by NYC Care-eligible New Yorkers: English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese/Mandarin, and Bengali. The campaign uses audio and video from the newly released 'Doctor Public Service Announcement' video series, along with static graphics featuring updated messages designed to build trust and highlight the ease with which one can apply for the program. The placements include out-of-home, print and digital newspapers in community and ethnic media, television, radio, Google search/display and social media. The placements will run through December, coinciding with efforts across the Health System to ensure that New Yorkers are aware of the range of health care options available to them during the open enrollment period. The launch of the campaign continues the steady growth in membership since NYC Care exceeded its goal of reaching 100,000 members in February, 2022. Enrollment in NYC Care

increased 5.4% from 113,178 members in Fiscal Year 2022 to 119,234 in Fiscal Year 2023, and is up 352% from its first year in 2019.

"Keeping New Yorkers healthy starts with keeping them informed, and I am thrilled to announce the launch of the city-wide public awareness campaign which sends the unified message across different forms of media that healthcare is a right, regardless of your immigration status, ability to pay, language, or how long you have lived in New York City. You can access world-class health care available through NYC Health + Hospitals," said Jonathan Jiménez, MD, MPH, Executive Director of NYC Care from NYC Health + Hospitals. "Since NYC Care launched in 2019, the NYC Care team has worked tirelessly to consistently put out messaging that encourages New Yorkers to seek the care that they are entitled to. Eligible New Yorkers can call 646-NYC-CARE (646-692-2273) to connect with the 24/7 NYC Care hotline, visit our NYC Care community-based organization partners across the city, or visit [NYCCare.NYC](https://www.nycare.nyc.gov) to learn more about the program."

"The launch of the NYC Care public awareness campaign will ensure New York City's diverse immigrant communities are informed about the resources to live healthier lives," said Manuel Castro, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. "The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is proud to support these efforts, most recently by highlighting NYC Care in our immigrant media roundtable on digital equity for immigrant New Yorkers. I encourage eligible New Yorkers to reach out to NYC Care and learn more." (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IN NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, one of the major religious festivals in Hinduism is also observed in Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Diwali means "row of lights" in Sanskrit, with a symbolism of the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. The festival will be celebrated in November at various locations in New York City.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum (brooklynkids.org) and The South Street Seaport Museum will independently partner with The Culture Tree (theculturetree.com) to celebrate the Festival at their respective locations.

THE BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Brooklyn Children's Museum offers an afternoon of family-friendly activities on Thursday, November 9. The celebration occurs during the Museum's Amazon Free Hours from 2-5 pm, which continues to take place every Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

Through a puppet show presented by The Culture Tree, children will learn the history of Diwali, teaching them the meaning of devotion, love, kindness, and valor. Other activities include story time with author Navina Chhabria, a mithai (Indian sweets) making workshop by Anu Sehgal, and lantern-making in the Museum's ColorLab art studio.

Through these activities, children will learn about Diwali, one of India's biggest and most important festivals of the year.

RSVP

The Museum is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on November 9, and admission is free during Amazon Free Hours, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. The Diwali celebration takes place from 2-5 pm. To attend the event, RSVP at brooklynkids.org/events/diwali-at-bcm.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Learn more at brooklynkids.org.

SEAPORT MUSEUM

The Festival of lights will be celebrated at the South Street Seaport Museum (southstreetseaportmuseum.org) and on Seaport Square on November 10, 2023!

From 3-5pm, come aboard the Seaport Museum's 1885 tall ship Wavertree, where you can make your own decoration inspired by the marigold garlands of Diwali, signifying good fortune and faith in the divine, with a maritime twist. Continue the Seaport Museum's festivities on Pier 16, where you can decorate your own "diya lamp"-or, in this case, a candle-and then set it



Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM)

Photo Credit / BCM



South Street Seaport Museum

Photo Credit / Seaport Museum

afloat in a specially prepared pool to symbolize prosperity in the new year.

In addition to these free all-ages activities and access to the 1885 tall ship Wavertree, the Seaport Museum is offering free general admission to all current exhibitions on view in the introduction gallery space at 12 Fulton Street. Free timed tickets for a tour of the 1908 lightship Ambrose are also available.

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration is encouraged but walk ups will be accommodated as possible. Register at southstreetseaportmuseum.org/diwali.

EXTENDED CELEBRATION

From 3-6pm, the celebration expands when The Culture Tree will host an outdoor dance workshop and performances of the garba and dandiya raas, along with traditional rangoli art activities on Seaport Square on Pier 17. You can also indulge in traditional Indian food available for purchase and enjoy a live DJ and a Diwali-themed photo booth.

PRE-REGISTRATION

Advance pre-registration for these activities is available separately at theseaport.nyc.

EXTEND YOUR VISIT

Looking to visit earlier in the day on November 10? You are welcome to explore the Seaport Museum from 11am-3pm and take advantage of Pay What You Wish General Admission Museum tickets at seaportmuseum.org/general-admission.

THE SEAPORT MUSEUM

Learn more at southstreetseaportmuseum.org

THE CULTURE TREE

Learn more about Culture Tree's multiple Diwali Celebrations in NYC at theculturetree.com.

FLUSHING TOWN HALL

Flushing Town Hall (flushingtownhall.org) is joining the global Diwali celebrations by hosting its 9th Annual Diwali Festival on Sunday November 19th, featuring Kathak dance, Bhangra music, delicious Indian food, art for audiences of all ages and family-friendly activities. The event runs from 12:00 to 4:00 PM at Flushing Town Hall, located at 137-35 Northern Boulevard, Flushing, Queens, New York City.

The fun-filled afternoon features a performance by Kathak classical dancer Abha Roy, her Srijan Dance Company (srijandance.wordpress.com/srijan-dance-center), and special guests, as well as a lively Bhangra dance party with DJ Rekha (djrekha.com) spinning Bollywood-inspired tunes that combine Punjabi music with hip-hop. Guests can also enjoy delicious Indian food and learn new recipes with Chef Nupur Arora and Queens Curry Kitchen (queenscurrykitchen.com), and they can explore beautiful rangoli designs with artist Anju Gupta and Hindi calligraphy, henna hand painting, diya decorating, and more.

Watch the video - youtu.be/pLtyomsBK6U

"FESTIVALS LIKE THIS SHOW WHAT FLUSHING TOWN HALL IS ALL ABOUT: BRINGING GLOBAL CULTURE AND MUSIC TO OUR GLOBAL AUDIENCES," SAYS FLUSHING TOWN HALL EXECUTIVE & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ELLEN KODADEK.

"THE EVENTS AT FLUSHING TOWN HALL CELEBRATING THE FESTIVALS OF THE MULTI-CULTURAL POPULATION OF QUEENS ARE A GREAT OCCASION FOR PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS TO COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE EACH OTHER'S CULTURES," SAID MUKUND PADMANABHAN OF GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION. "THESE EVENTS ARE ENTERTAINING AND INFORMATIVE, AND ALSO PROMOTE CO-EXISTENCE AND PEACE, AND ARE VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH GURU KRUPA FOUNDATION VALUES."

TICKETS

For Tickets to attend the event, visit ci.ovationtix.com/35689/performance/11335863

FLUSHING TOWN HALL

Learn more at flushingtownhall.org.

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



(left) Abha Roy, (right) DJ Rekha



Photo Credit / Flushing Town Hall

HILLARY CLINTON CHATS WITH PATTI LUPONE

BY MABEL PAIS



Photo Credit / symphonyspace.org

Hillary Clinton, host of the podcast 'You and Me Both' does her candid, in-depth and sometimes hilarious conversations with people she finds fascinating. Next week she sits down with Broadway legend, TV and screen actor Patti LuPone. This takes place on the stage of the Symphony Space's Peter Jay Sharp Theatre for a wide-ranging conversation before a live, in-person audience, Thursday, November 9, at 7pm ET. The podcast is hosted by writer and comedian

Amber Ruffin.

The event will be accessible worldwide via livestream, and will be recorded for 'You and Me Both with Hillary Clinton' (iheart.com/podcast/1119-you-and-me-both-with-hill-71671764/). This episode of 'You and Me Both with Hillary Clinton' recorded at Symphony Space will be available for listening beginning November 14. "You and Me Both with Hillary Clinton" is distributed by iHeartPodcasts and is available now on the iHeartRadio app and everywhere podcasts are heard.

HILLARY CLINTON

Hillary Rodham Clinton has spent over five decades in public service as an advocate, attorney, First Lady, U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of State, and presidential candidate. In 2000, she made history as the first First Lady elected to the United States Senate, and the first woman elected to statewide office in New York. In 2007, she began her first historic campaign for president, winning 18 million votes and becoming the first woman to ever win a presidential primary or caucus state. And in 2016, she made history again by becoming the first woman nominated for president by a major U.S. political party. She won the national popular vote, earning the support of nearly 66 million Americans. Learn more at hillaryclinton.com.

PATTI LUPONE

Patti LuPone is a three-time Tony Award winner for her performances as Joanne in Marianne Elliott's recent production of 'Company,' Madame Rose in the 2008 revival of 'Gypsy' and the title role in the original Broadway production of 'Evita.' Besides her Tony wins she has had several stage and film award nominations for her performances. She recently received critical acclaim for her performance opposite Joaquin Phoenix in Ari Aster's latest film 'Beau is Afraid.' She is a founding member of both the Drama Division of The Juilliard School and John Houseman's 'The Acting Company' and the author of the New York Times best-seller 'Patti LuPone: A Memoir.' Learn more at pattilupone.net.

AMBER RUFFIN

In 2023, Ruffin teamed up with iHeartMedia and Will Ferrell's Big Money Players podcast network to launch 'The Amber & Lacey, Lacey & Amber Show!', which she co-hosts with her sister. Ruffin is now writing a revival of The Wiz that tours America beginning fall of 2023 and lands on Broadway spring of 2024.

Learn more @amberruffin.com.

Symphony Space

Learn more at symphonyspace.org.

iHeart Media

Learn more at iHeartMedia.com.

FILM & MUSIC FESTIVAL INVITES YOU TO 24TH EDITION

BY MABEL PAIS

The 24th Annual **SOUND UNSEEN Film + Music Festival** returns to Minneapolis, November 8-12, with another dynamic collection of music films and music events in venues all around the city, including The Parkway Theater, Trylon Cinema, The Main Cinema, Bryant Lake Bowl, The Green Room and VFW Uptown.

SOUND UNSEEN 2023 FILM LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT ● Parkway Theater ● Wednesday, November 8, 2023



'Let The Canary Sing,' Opening Night film

Photo Credit / soundunseen.com

LET THE CANARY SING

Directed by Alison Ellwood, USA, 2023

Chronicling Cyndi Lauper's meteoric ascent to stardom and her profound impact on generations through her music, ever-evolving punk style, unwavering feminism, and tireless advocacy. The film takes the audience on an engaging exploration of the world of a renowned and pioneering artist who has left an unparalleled impact on the music industry. The film features interviews with some of Cyndi's closest friends and family members, including Boy George, Billy Porter, and Patti LaBelle.

CLOSING NIGHT ● Parkway Theater ● Sunday, November 12, 2023

PETER DOHERTY: STRANGER IN MY OWN SKIN - North American Premiere

Directed by Katia de Vidas, USA, 2023

A portrait of musician and artist Peter Doherty (The Libertines, Babyshambles) as he tries to pursue his career while battling addiction. Torn between the needs of his inner life and the demands of the outside world, he dares to face all the demons to overcome this misunderstood disease.

CENTERPIECE ● Friday, November 10, 2023

ART DEALERS - Midwest Premiere

Directed by Roy Power & Adam Weiner USA, 2023, Documentary

Co-Directors Roy Power & Adam Weiner attending!

Depicting a stunning 3-show run in 2022 New York City, this unique hybrid-genre concert film set against 5 years of documentary footage that explores the struggle, frustrations, and humor of living a working-class "art life" in modern America. **ART DEALERS** follows eccentric rock n roll performance artist Adam Weiner, aka Low Cut Connie, and his band and crew as they attempt to mount a concert production of their new 'Art Dealers' album for a 3 night run in Covid-era New York City.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

KAREN CARPENTER: STARVING FOR PERFECTION - Minnesota Premiere

Directed by Randy Martin, USA, 2022

WE ARE FUGAZI FROM WASHINGTON D.C. - Midwest Premiere

Directed by Joe Gross, Joseph Pattisall, & Jeff Krulik, USA, 2023

SCREAM OF MY BLOOD: A GOGOL BORDELLO STORY - Midwest Premiere

Directed by Nate Pommer & Eric Weinrib, USA, 2023

Co-Directors Nate Pommer, Eric Weinreb, Producer Beverly Chase & Subject/Gogol Bordello Frontman Eugene Hutz attending!

FESTIVAL ANNIVERSARY SCREENINGS

VELVET GOLDMINE - 25th Anniversary

Directed by Todd Haynes, USA/UK, 1998, Fiction

THE PUNK SINGER - 10th Anniversary

Directed by Sini Anderson, USA, 2013, Documentary
Director Sini Anderson attending!

SKATEBOARD: THE MOVIE - 45th Anniversary / New Restoration

Directed by George Gage, USA, 1978, Fiction

TRAINSPOTTING - SPECIAL SCREENING

Directed by Danny Boyle, UK, 1996

For the complete film lineup and schedule, visit soundunseen.com.

TICKETS

Tickets for the Festival can be purchased at soundunseen.com.

SOUND UNSEEN

Sound Unseen, founded in 1999, is a cultural organization dedicated to the role of film and music as a conduit of powerful ideas and diverse viewpoints. Its mission is to foster a greater appreciation of cinema, to bridge cultures, create and expand community, provide cultural exchange, networking opportunities and educational outreach through regular interaction with great films, filmmakers, musicians, and artists.

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



Hrithik, Deepika finally wrap Siddharth Anand's 'Fighter' shoot

Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone have joined forces for the very first time for 'Fighter'. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, the movie is one of the most-anticipated projects of next year. Now the makers of the film took to social media and announced the final schedule wrap of 'Fighter'.

On November 1, Siddharth Anand took to Instagram to announce the completion of the 'Fighter' shoot. Sharing a picture of a camera, he captioned, "And it's a film shoot wrap on #FIGHTER (sic)."

Hrithik Roshan also took to his Instagram handle to repost the picture.

Earlier in October, a BTS picture of the cast of 'Fighter', from Italy, surfaced on social media. Actor Afreen Khan took to Instagram on October 3 to share a behind-the-scenes photo of Deepika and Hrithik along with Siddharth and his wife Mamta Anand, choreographer Bosco Martis and others. In the photo, they seem to be taking a coffee break in between their shots. The selfie was clicked by Hrithik Roshan.

Hrithik Roshan will be seen playing an Air Force officer for the first time in 'Fighter'. Deepika Padukone is also expected to have some high-octane action sequences in the film. The film also stars Anil Kapoor in a pivotal role. Directed by Siddharth Anand, 'Fighter' is set to release on January 25, 2024.

Dunki teaser: SRK brings comedy and drama to immigrant dreams

On Shah Rukh Khan's 58th birthday on Thursday, November 2, the teaser for his third film of the year after the blockbusters Pathaan and Jawan, Dunki, was unveiled. The eagerly-awaited Dunki teaser gave the best look yet the at film that marks the first collaboration between Shah Rukh and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani. Dunki also features Taapsee Pannu in the lead role alongside Shah Rukh. Vicky Kaushal also features in the film.

Dunki is backed by Red Chillies Entertainment, Rajkumar Hirani Films and Jio Studios. Dunki will hit theatres in India on December 22. Dunki will clash with Prashant Neel's Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire at the box office. The film stars Prabhas in the lead.

Last year, Shah Rukh Khan had spoken about the title of his upcoming film Dunki, and explained how it actually meant donkey. As he attended the Red Sea International Film Festival in Saudi Arabia in December 2022, Shah Rukh spoke about Dunki during an interview with Deadline.

The actor had said, "In English, my film would be called Donkey, it is Donkey. But the way a part of the country pronounces donkey in India, it is 'dunki'. The Punjabis say it (donkey) like dunki... How much to tell you about the story... It is a film directed by one of the most brilliant filmmakers we have had in our country, Mr Raju Hirani. It is written by a very fantastic writer, Abhijat Joshi. It is a story of people, who want to come back home... when you finally get the calling."



The actor had further said about Dunki, "It is a comic film. His (Rajkumar Hirani) films are always a mix of comedy and a lot of emotions about the country. So, it is a big journey film, and the film goes through different areas around the world and finally comes back home to India."

Shah Rukh Khan has had the most successful year of his career in 2023. He started the year with Siddharth Anand's Pathaan, also starring Deepika Padukone and John

Abraham, and recently had the biggest hit of the year with Atlee's Jawan, which also starred Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara and Deepika. SRK's films in 2023 have grossed over Rs 2100 crore worldwide and it remains to be seen if Dunki can match up to the success of Pathaan and Jawan.

Rajkumar Hirani, who has made films like 3 Idiots, PK, and the Munna Bhai series, has never had a flop at the box office. The film marks his return to direction after 2018's Sanju, which was also a blockbuster.



Bobby reveals how Salman helped him get movies during his struggling days

On the second episode of Karan Johar's popular chat show 'Koffee with Karan Season 8', actor Bobby Deol talked about superstar Salman Khan's relationship with the 'He-Man' of Bollywood Dharmendra.

Bobby graced the 'Koffee' couch with his brother Sunny Deol.

During a conversation with KJo, Bobby said, "Salman has always been there. He is completely in love with my dad. The bond they share is just amazing, he has so much respect for him. He has this obsessive love for my dad and my family. He is one guy who has got no insecurity."

Bobby also revealed how Salman helped him during the period when he was struggling and how 'Race 3' happened to him.

Bobby shared, "One day Salman told me 'When my career was struggling I climbed on your brother (Sunny Deol) and Sanjay Dutt's back and moved forward, So I told him 'Mamu

(what Salman and I call each other), let me climb on your back'. So then he remembered that and then after a couple of years after that I got a phone call from him and he said Mamu will you be willing to take your shift off? Then I said Mamu I would do anything, so that's how I got 'Race'."

Bobby also spoke about how Red Chillies Entertainment has always given him 'good stuff.' He said, "I had to work hard. It doesn't mean things will happen easily. Like Class of 83 is a subject, I always wanted to do those kind of subjects, but I never used to get them. When I got that, I think I have a relationship with Red Chillies. It started with Class of 83 and now Aryan's show. And then I did Love Hostel. They have always given me good stuff." (Sic)

On the work front, Bobby will next be seen in the film Animal. Helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Animal also stars Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna and Anil Kapoor.



Sophie Turner seen cosyng up to British heir in Paris

Sophie Turner, 27, was spotted kissing an English heir in Paris on Saturday, amid her divorce from Joe Jonas, 34, reported by the UK Sun.

The 'Game of Thrones' actress was spotted in an affectionate moment with Peregrine 'Perry' John Dickinson Pearson, a 29-year-old who holds the title of heir to the 4th Viscount Cowdray, a region in Sussex.

The outlet published a photo that allegedly shows the pair locking lips on the street, but their faces are not clear in the image. An eyewitness told the outlet that they saw them at the Gare du Nord railway station, where they seemed to be in a good mood.

"They arrived together at the chauffeur pickup location outside of the station. It looked like they might have both come on the Eurostar from London," the report says. "He then took his hat off and leaned in to give her a big kiss. After the kiss, they parted ways."

The woman in the photo wore a red baseball cap, black sunglasses, a long black coat, patent leather loafers and a teal Louis Vuitton bag. He was dressed in gray jeans, Adidas sneakers, a black peacoat, a brown scarf, and sunglasses.

Meg Ryan returns to Rom-Coms after 14 years

Meg Ryan is making her long-awaited rom-com comeback with the upcoming film *What Happens Later* alongside David Duchovny, and fans finally got a first look at the 61-year-old reclaiming her throne when the trailer hit their inboxes.

In true rom-com fashion, the movie starts with the perfect meet-cute between exes Willa (Meg) and William (David), who find themselves snowed in at a regional airport—their first encounter since their breakup 20 plus years ago.

And when only their flights are indefinitely delayed Willa and William once again find themselves facing the same issues as when they dated decades prior. As the night goes on, the two rediscover that Willa is still independent with no ties holding her down, stating that kids just "wasn't in the cards" for her, while William is navigating how to maintain relationships with his ex-wife and daughter. Of course, the "what ifs" start trickling in, sparking the age-old thought of what could have been between the former flames.

The trailer also includes nods to the loyal romance fans, like when William goes to plug in his phone and unplugs a movie poster that reads: "Rom Com coming this summer. Fall in love with love again."

And although it's been quite a bit since we've been sleepless in Seattle, *What Happens Later* officially marks 14 years since Meg's last rom-com in 2009, *Serious Moonlight*, also starring Kristen Bell and Timothy Hutton.

But despite her time away the You've



Got Mail star—who also co-wrote and directed the upcoming movie—still knows how to tug at our heartstrings.

"Sometimes there's a question of: Will they be together? Will they not be together?" Meg teased to *Entertainment Weekly* Aug. 29. "For that reason, *What Happens Later* sort of evolves the rom-com genre just a little bit. It's also about old people, and it's still romantic and sexy." And perhaps the film's leading man was brought to Meg by the fate of the universe, as David's portrayal of her love interest was exactly what the *When Harry Met Sally* actress was looking for.

"My character, Willa, is a magical

thinker and David's character, Bill, is a catastrophic thinker," Meg continued to the outlet. "These rom-coms really work when the two characters are somehow opposites and yet have a rhythm of intellect and humor and dialogue and banter that sort of indicates their compatibility."

She added, "So, it's just been really fun to see David embrace this guy who I don't think is anything really like David. Whereas the Willa thing I can really relate to. To see him dive into every single scene in the fullest way, he's funny, and he's smart, and he's dear, and irresistible." *Source: Eonline.com*

Ben Affleck bumps his luxury car after chatting with ex-wife Jennifer Garner

Hollywood star Ben Affleck has bumped his luxury Mercedes-Benz into a car on a recent outing. He was involved in the accident after he was caught on camera chatting with his former wife Jennifer Garner.

The 51-year-old Oscar-winning actor was spotted out and about in Santa Monica, California.

In pictures making their rounds online, it could be seen that he accidentally backed his Mercedes-Benz into a white car, which was parked behind his luxury vehicle, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

Shortly before the incident, Affleck was spotted having a sweet interaction with Jennifer.

In the photos, they were captured having a seemingly fun conversation while they were attending a Halloween celebration at their children's school.

At one point, Affleck was pictured placing one of his hands on Garner's arm as they talked to each other. In the meantime, she was seen looking at him and frowned. She later let out a smile as she looked in another direction.

For the day out, the 'Argo' actor looked clean in an ivory ribbed top that came with a high neck design, unbuttoned long-sleeved beige blazer with two big pockets and a pair of long blue pants.

He completed the look with a pair of colorful Nike sneakers with white laces and a wedding ring. Throughout the outing, he was carrying a cup of coffee.

In the meantime, Garner opted to wear an all-black ensemble. The actress of 'The Adam Project' donned a long-sleeved Moncler sweater under a matching insulated vest that came with a zipper.

She covered her eyes with a pair of matching sunglasses. She let loose her shoulder-length hair and parted it in the middle. Similar to Ben, she was holding a glass of drink in one of her hands.

Affleck and Garner tied the knot in 2005 before separating in 2015. Their divorce was finalised in 2018. The former couple share three children, 17-year-old Violet Anne, 14-year-old Seraphina Rose and 11-year-old Samuel. Later on, he married singer Jennifer Lopez in July 2022.



Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah says attack on Israel 100% Palestinian, was needed to refocus attention on Palestinians' plight

GAZA (TIP): Hassan Nasrallah, head of the pro-Iranian militia group Hezbollah, said the October 7 attack on Israel from Gaza was a "100% Palestinian operation" and that his group was not involved in it. But, in his first public speech since the attack, the Hezbollah leader accused the world of ignoring the plight of the Palestinian people and said a 'big event' was needed to refocus attention.

"This glorious, blessed, large-scale operation was 100% Palestinian in terms of decision and execution. They kept it secret from even their fellow resistance factions. The secrecy was a lynchpin to the success of this operation, unlike what is assumed by many. That kind of confidentiality and secrecy adopted by al-kasam was a requirement, it doesn't anger us here," Nasrallah said.

He said a big event was needed to bring everyone's attention to what was happening in the region, and accused all major international organizations of ignoring the Palestinian cause.

"No one is moving a finger, UN, EU, League of Arab States, OIS, none is doing anything. All that is happening in Palestine is totally forgotten. The whole world has turned a blind eye to them.

"The policies of the enemy are more oppressive. Therefore there is the need for a big event to shake this oppressive



occupier with their backers in Washington and London, and to reopen peace and humanitarian issues in front of the whole world," he said.

The speech was eagerly awaited to see if Hezbollah would open a second front against Israel.

The political-military group, with strong connections to Iran and based in Lebanon, is believed to have between 100,000 to 130,000 rockets aimed at Israel.

The secretary general of Hezbollah is considered by many to be the single most powerful individual in Lebanon with as many as 100,000 fighters at his disposal.

Meanwhile, Israeli military spokesman Lt Col Richard Hecht said the Israel

Defense Forces are "deployed and ready" in the north, adding "we are in a defensive posture".

"We're saying to the Lebanese people - don't sacrifice your future for Hamas."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned Hezbollah it faces counter-strikes of "unimaginable" magnitude that will cause devastation in Lebanon.

On the Palestinian fighters, Nasrallah said they were heroes.

"We are entitled to take pride in them.. we can be certain that they are rewarded in paradise...They are alive...they are now alive in God's paradise," he said.

Hezbollah, like Hamas, has been

designated a terrorist organization by the United States and other countries.

Nasrallah joined Hezbollah in 1982 after the Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon.

Rising through the organisation, he replaced Hezbollah's leader Abbas al Musawi in 1992 after the latter and members of his family were assassinated in an Israeli airstrike.

In a number of interviews, Nasrallah has repeatedly refused to recognise the state of Israel, stating that he considers its existence to be unlawful and unjust.

In a month-long war in 2006, Israel Defence Forces were surprised by the quality of Hezbollah's personnel and weapons as they used so-called "swarming" tactics to eliminate Israeli positions.

With financial support from Iran, Hezbollah has transitioned from a guerrilla outfit into something resembling a conventional army, with drones and rockets that can hit all parts of Israel, it claims. Since Hamas's surprise attack on Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's subsequent bombing campaign and invasion of Gaza, fears have risen across the Middle East that Hezbollah will open a second front against Israel on its northern border, sparking a broader war.

(With inputs from agencies)

Blinken says Israel has 'right' and 'obligation' to defend itself

TEL AVIV (TIP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated on November 3 that Israel has the right and obligation to defend itself as it continues to pummel the Gaza Strip with an air and ground assault.

"Israel has not only the right but the obligation to defend itself... to make sure that this October 7 never happens again," Blinken told journalists as he met Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv.

Israel launched a massive retaliatory assault against Gaza's Hamas rulers after its fighters carried out the October 7 attack which Israeli officials say killed 1,400 people.

More than 9,200 people have been killed in Gaza, the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory said.

Soon after Blinken's arrival, he held separate meetings with Herzog and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Blinken, who is on his second tour to the Middle East since the war erupted, urged Israel to protect civilians who are caught in the crossfire and to "bring assistance to those who so desperately need it".

Prior to his arrival in Israel, Blinken said he would seek "concrete steps" from

Israel to ensure harm to Palestinian civilians is reduced.

"We will be talking about concrete steps that can and should be taken to minimise harm to men, women and children in Gaza," Blinken had told reporters before departing for Israel.

"This is something that the United States is committed to."

"When I see a Palestinian child -- a boy, a girl -- pulled from the rubble of a collapsed building, that hits me in the gut as much as seeing a child in Israel or anywhere else," Blinken said.

"So this is something that we have an obligation to respond to, and we will."

US President Joe Biden has promised full support and ramped-up military aid to Israel for its campaign in Gaza, but in a visible shift of tone has also voiced empathy for Palestinian suffering which has stoked anger in parts of the world.

"I think we need a pause," Biden said on Thursday at a campaign event.

US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby later clarified what such a pause would entail.

"A humanitarian pause... is temporary, localised and focused, focused on a particular objective or objectives, humanitarian aid in, people out," Kirby told reporters. (AFP)

Palestinian journalist killed in Gaza bombing



GAZA (TIP): A journalist working for the Palestinian Authority's television channel was killed on November 2 in an Israeli strike on Gaza, his network reported, as war rages between Israel and Hamas. "Our colleague Mohammed Abu Hatab fell as a martyr along with members of his family in an Israeli bombardment against his home in Khan Yunis" in the south of the territory, broadcaster Palestine TV station said.

Medical sources at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis said at least 11 people were killed in the strike.

Since Israel began bombarding the Gaza Strip in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attacks, hundreds of Palestinian journalists have had to flee south from Gaza City and work in fear for their lives in appalling conditions as Israeli air raids pound the territory.

The Palestinian journalists' union says

that 27 of its members have been killed in the territory since October 7.

Media representatives in Gaza, including AFP, used to work from offices in Gaza City.

But intense Israeli bombardments, which destroyed many buildings, forced news organisations to send their teams to the south, even as Israeli strikes hit targets across the entire territory.

The conflict raged for a 27th day Thursday after the October 7 attacks when Hamas militants stormed the border, killing 1,400 people and kidnapping more than 240, Israeli officials say.

Since then, Israel has relentlessly pounded the Palestinian territory and sent in ground troops, with the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza saying 9,061 people have been killed, including 3,760 children. (AFP)

'No income, no life': Jerusalem's Old City suffers as war rages

JERUSALEM'S (TIP): The once bustling streets of Jerusalem's Old City have fallen eerily quiet, with the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas keeping away tourists and their much-needed cash.

In the maze-like warren of shopping streets that surrounds the city's holy sites, most businesses remained shuttered, nearly four weeks into the war.

The few remaining shopkeepers brave enough to open their stores wait day after day for tourists who have yet to return.

"There is no tourism industry any more," said Marwan Attieh, 48, a third-generation tour guide and souvenir shop owner.

"We have families, we have children... (There is) no business, no income, no revenue, no life. How can you spend money, if you don't have money?"

The walled Old City in annexed east Jerusalem is home to some of the holiest sites for Christians, Jews and Muslims and has drawn pilgrims and travellers for centuries.

Yet Jerusalem's lucrative tourism sector has all but collapsed since October 7, when Hamas militants from Gaza stormed across the border in an attack that killed at least 1,400 people, according to Israeli officials.

Following the onslaught, Israel has struck back hard at the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip with a relentless bombing campaign that has killed more than 9,000 people, mainly civilians,



according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where most Christians believe Jesus was crucified and buried, stood largely empty on Thursday, other than the occasional priest stirring in its cavernous halls.

"Before, this place was really alive, full of people praying and offering their problems to God and in general very spiritual," said Pietro Mazzocco, a 31-year-old Italian seminary student studying in Jerusalem.

"And now it's completely empty, as you can see here. There are no people."

While many flights to Israel have been suspended and tour packages cancelled, a few tourists managed to reach the largely deserted Old City.

Rachid, a 24-year-old French tourist, refused to cancel his trip to Israel, saying he wanted to see the situation on the

ground with his own eyes.

He arrived earlier this week via the land border from Jordan, following lengthy interrogation sessions by Israeli authorities.

"It's a bit weird, nobody is in the streets," he told AFP, adding that he had been stopped several times by Israeli police since arriving.

"People are afraid on both sides," he shrugged. "People are sensitive. They don't know who I am or where I'm from."

Outside of the tourism bubble, daily life has also taken a hit.

Attendances at Friday prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque are down, while checkpoints and patrols in occupied east Jerusalem have been beefed up.

Many residents of the mostly Palestinian-populated Old City are afraid to leave their homes, citing harassment and physical violence by Israeli security forces. (AFP)

TWELVE DEAD AS STORM CIARAN BATTERS WESTERN EUROPE

MONTEMURLO (TIP): At least 12 people were killed as Storm Ciaran battered Western Europe with record winds of up to 200 kilometres per hour, causing travel mayhem with closed ports and flight and rail disruptions.

At least five people died in Tuscany, Italian authorities announced on November 3, reporting record rainfall and the declaration of a state of emergency.

Tuscany governor Eugenio Giani said the five dead included an 85-year-old man who was found drowned on the ground floor of his house in Montemurlo, northwest of Florence.

"What happened tonight in Tuscany has a name: climate change," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Florence mayor Dario Nardella said the "situation is critical" in the city, as the level of the Arno River continued to rise.

Trees felled by gale-force winds caused most of the deaths in Europe. In the Belgian city of Ghent, a five-year-old Ukrainian boy and a 64-year-old woman were killed by falling branches.

Falling trees had earlier killed a lorry driver in his vehicle in northern France's Aisne region, and French authorities also reported the death of a man who fell from his balcony in the port city of Le Havre.

A man in the Dutch town of Venray, a woman in central Madrid and a person in Germany also died.

Some 1.2 million French homes lost electricity as the storm lashed the northwest coast. Almost 700,000 remained without power on Thursday evening, according to network manager Enedis.

French President Emmanuel Macron was due to visit the storm-battered region of Brittany on Friday, the Elysee presidential palace said.

The storm interrupted rail, air and maritime traffic in Belgium where the port of Antwerp was closed and flights from Brussels were disrupted.

The wind gusts in the western Brittany region were "exceptional" and "many absolute records have been broken", national weather service Météo-France said on X.

The prefect for the local department said gusts as high as 207 km/h (129 mph) were recorded at Pointe du Raz on the tip of the northwest coast, while the port city of Brest saw winds hit 156 km/h.

In southern England, hundreds of schools were closed as large waves powered by winds of 135 km/h crashed along the coastline.

On the Channel Island of Jersey, residents had to be evacuated to hotels overnight as gusts of up to 164 km/h damaged homes, according to local media. (AFP)

Iran limiting jailed Nobel winner's medical care over hijab refusal: family

PARIS (TIP): Iranian prison authorities have blocked 2023 Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi's hospital transfer for urgently needed care over her refusal to wear the compulsory hijab, her family has said.

Veteran rights activist Mohammadi, 51, who is currently being held in Tehran's Evin prison, was awarded the prize in October "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran".

Her selection came in the wake of months-long protests across Iran triggered by the September 2022 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22, who had been arrested for allegedly flouting the Islamic Republic's strict dress rules for women.

Mohammadi has subsequently announced she would not under any circumstances wear a hijab, the head covering that has been obligatory for women in public spaces since shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

Prison authorities in response have refused to transfer Mohammadi, who



suffers from heart and lung conditions to a hospital outside Evin, her family said in a statement, warning her health and life were at risk.

"Two days and nights, a group of women in Evin protested in the prison yard to send Narges Mohammadi to the heart hospital," they wrote on her official Instagram account late on Wednesday.

"The prison warden announced that, according to the orders of the higher authorities, sending her to the heart hospital without a headscarf was prohibited, and her transfer was cancelled," the family said.

On Monday, a medical team came to the women's wing of Evin to examine Mohammadi and carry out an echocardiogram scan after "the prison even refused to transfer Narges to the infirmary" without a headscarf, the statement added.

It said the scan showed two veins with severe blockages and high lung pressure, with a coronary angiogram and lung scan urgently needed.

"She is willing to risk her life by not wearing the 'forced hijab', even for medical treatment," the family said.

In a message expressing gratitude for the prize, read by her daughter and posted on the Nobel website late Tuesday, Mohammadi described the compulsory hijab as a "means of control and repression imposed on society and on which the continuation and survival of this authoritarian religious regime depends".

Earlier this week, Mohammadi also expressed outrage over what she described as the "murder" of 17-year-old Armita Garawand. (AFP)

BOMB BLAST NEAR POLICE PATROL KILLS 5 IN PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR (TIP) : A bomb blast near a police patrol killed at least five people and injured 21 others in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on November 3 in the latest attack on security personnel in the country.

The bomb exploded close to the police patrol in Dera Ismail Khan city, the Dawn newspaper quoted police official Mohammad Adnan as saying.

Rescue official Aizaz Mehmood said five people were killed and another 21 suffered wounds.

It is not known if any of the police personnel were among the victims.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities in recent months, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan after the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November last year.

On October 31, a policeman was killed after unknown militants opened fire on a police camp in Dera Ismail Khan. The same day, two soldiers were killed in an IED blast in the South Waziristan district.

In July, as many as 12 soldiers of the Pakistan Army were killed in separate military operations in the Zhob and Sui areas of Balochistan. (PTI)

1.65 LAKH AFGHANS LEFT PAKISTAN SINCE DEPORTATION ORDER: OFFICIALS

ISLAMABAD (TIP): At least 1,65,000 Afghans living in Pakistan without valid documents have left the country since the government ordered all illegal foreigners to leave or face forcible expulsion, officials said.

The government earlier last month set November 1 as the deadline for the immigrants living illegally to leave voluntarily and many Afghans started going back to their homeland after the announcement.

Millions of Afghans have been living in Pakistan for decades. Around 6,00,000 entered Pakistan after the Taliban government seized power in August 2021. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch said that the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan for individuals currently in Pakistan in violation of immigration laws, came into effect on Wednesday, which applies to individuals who have overstayed their visas or do not possess valid documents for their continued stay in Pakistan. (PTI)

Myanmar military says lost control of strategic border town

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar's military has lost control of a strategic town on the Chinese border following days of clashes with ethnic armed groups, in what analysts say is the biggest military challenge it has faced since seizing power.

Fighting has raged on November 3 across northern Shan state, with an alliance of ethnic groups claiming to have seized four towns, blocked trade routes to China and captured dozens of military outposts.

The remoteness of the rugged, jungle-clad region -- home to pipelines that supply oil and gas to China -- and patchy communications make it difficult to verify casualty numbers in the fighting, which the United Nations fears have displaced thousands.

Government, administrative organisations and security forces were "no longer present" in the trade hub of Chinshwehaw, which borders China's Yunnan province, junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said in a statement late Wednesday.

More than a quarter of Myanmar's \$1.8 billion border trade with China passed through Chinshwehaw between April and September, junta-controlled media reported in September, citing the commerce ministry.

The Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Arakan Army (AA) said on Thursday they also had control over the towns of Hpaung Seng, Hsenwi, and Kyukok.

Clashes were ongoing in Kunlong and Hsenwi, the statement said, without giving details on casualties.

China called on Thursday for an



"immediate" ceasefire in northern Shan state -- home to a planned billion-dollar rail link in its Belt and Road infrastructure project.

A resident of Hsenwi, around 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Chinshwehaw, told AFP on Thursday that some junta troops remained in the town.

Internet access was patchy and thousands of people had arrived in the town seeking safety, the resident said, asking for anonymity for security reasons.

The price of rice and some commodities brought in from southern Myanmar had more than doubled at some shops in Muse, a trade hub north of Hsenwi on the China border, a resident in Muse told AFP.

There was no fighting in or around the town, they said, also asking to remain anonymous for security reasons.

Clashes have taken place at 10 locations across Shan state over the past six days, the junta spokesman said, without giving details on casualties.

He accused the three armed groups of "blowing up power stations, blowing up bridges, destroying transportation routes", without providing details.

Thousands displaced

"The military hasn't faced this level of lightning offensive since the coup," independent analyst David Mathieson told AFP.

"It was a stunning military and intelligence failure that illustrates how stretched the Myanmar army really is."

Myanmar's borderlands are home to more than a dozen ethnic armed groups, some of which have fought the military for decades over autonomy and control of lucrative resources.

Some have trained and equipped newer "People's Defence Forces" that have sprung up since the 2021 coup and the military's bloody crackdown on dissent.

The three armed groups say the military has suffered dozens killed, wounded and captured since Friday.

Analysts say both sides likely inflate or deflate casualty figures. (AFP)

Lahore is one of the most polluted cities in the world even as government imposes 'smog emergency'

LAHORE (TIP): Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, was one of the most polluted major cities across the world for the second consecutive day on November 2, according to a global air quality monitoring platform.

The Punjab caretaker government on Wednesday imposed a "smog emergency" in the province with 127 million population to control the hazardous air quality as the iqair.com platform said Lahore remained the second most polluted city in the world.

The government's decision came in light of the Lahore High Court's order to immediately impose a "smog emergency" in the city due to the constantly hazardous air quality index.

The government said the environment department would seal industrial units with reopening only possible through a court order.

The government said district



administration will take strict actions to prevent stubble burning and black smoke from any chimney of brick kilns as well as factories and all brick kilns must transfer to zigzag technology.

"Every smoke-emitting vehicle will be impounded and will be released only after attaining a proper fitness certificate," it said, adding that special

anti-smog squads consisting of district and highway police will patrol day and night to stop stubble burning.

On Wednesday, Lahore High Court Justice Shahid Karim chided the Lahore commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa for his failure to control the pollution.

"Smog is not my personal problem but it is a matter of concern for the lives of our children. You are the custodian of Lahore city. See what you have done to it... you should be ashamed of Lahore's condition," the judge observed.

Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had earlier briefed caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar about the main reason for the spread of smog in Lahore as the burning of residues of crops in India's Punjab state.

Kakar assured the Punjab government of taking up the issue of the smog with India at the diplomatic level. (PTI)



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Make your hair super silky

You know silky hair when you see it: shiny, healthy, and free of tangles. But if you, like me, put your hair through the ringer, styling it with hot tools, using tons of product, and coloring it regularly, silkiness seems only but a dream. Luckily, with the right products, you can improve the look and feel of our hair in just a few weeks—especially since silky hair relies on the health and condition of the cuticle (the outside layer).

The surface of your hair is kind of like shingles on a roof. When all of those shingles lay downward and smooth from roots to ends, that's when your hair looks and feels smooth and shiny—not knotty and tangled; it's also when it reflects the most light.

Be mindful when shampooing

When shampooing, the tendency is to pile your hair on top of your head, and wash the entire length of your strands. This technique not only creates tangles, but also dries out the ends of the hair, which already lack moisture—especially of those with curly hair.

With naturally straight hair, oil from the scalp can go from roots to ends very quickly because gravity will pull it down. But with curly hair, the oil has to travel around the coiled shaft, so the oil doesn't get there as quickly. What this means is that people with curly hair don't need to shampoo their hair as often. And, when it is time to wash, consider swapping out your reg shampoo with a cleansing conditioner to keep from stripping your hair of its necessary natural oils.

Comb when wet, brush when dry

Most people are not delicate enough when brushing, which can prevent your hair from looking its best. If you're raking through wet



hair with a paddle brush, that detangling noise that you're used to hearing is actually the sound of your hair ripping. Instead of smoothing the cuticle, this action is causing damage to the outside layer. A gentler way to detangle hair? Using a comb when it's wet (or a brush designed for use on wet hair), and only using a brush when your hair is dry. Work through the knots and tangles by starting at the ends before moving to the middle and roots, rather than working from roots to ends, which could worsen the problem.

Use a T-shirt to dry your hair

Somewhere along the way, we wrongly learned to "rough dry" hair by rubbing a towel back and forth against it. This action creates friction, which fluffs up the cuticle. And when the cuticles are fluffed up, they catch on one another, cause knots and breakage, and

result in frizz. The number one key to having smooth hair is no friction. When someone's hair gets super tangly, it's usually because the cuticle is open. The tighter the cuticle, the more resistant it is to opening, and the smoother the hair is overall. So, switch out your fluffy friction-causing towel for a smoother cotton T-shirt. And instead of rubbing your head, wrap the ends in the shirt and squeeze all the water out, working it down to the ends.

Sleep on silk pillowcases

If you're currently using a cotton pillowcase, that very well might be the cause of your frizzy or tangled hair. Makes sense if you think about it: a silky smooth pillowcase leads to silky smooth strands. Cotton absorbs all the moisture from your strands, while silk or satin maintains the oils necessary for nourished hair.



Things you need to do for healthy skin at any age

As you get older, your diet, lifestyle and hormones take a toll on your skin. Wrinkles, loss of elasticity, dark circles and blemishes can be a shock when you look in the mirror. Therefore, you need to give your skin a little more care in your 50s than you did in your 20s or 30s. Here are some useful tips to ensure glowing, vibrant skin after 50.

Balance the hormones

The hormones in our body act like messengers. With ageing, these hormones become unbalanced and we can see the changes following menopause. Due to this, women experience dry skin or oily skin and even adult acne. When these hormones are well-balanced, we feel and look energetic, healthy and vibrant. As we age, it is important to know the interplay between hormone, health and beauty. There are superfoods like berries, walnut, avocado and turmeric when combined with proper diet and a healthy regime can give us glowing skin.

High insulin is bad

High levels of insulin can increase wrinkling of the skin. Our body gets an excess of insulin when we indulge in sugary foods like bakery items, packed juices, and other sweet items. If you go for sugar-laden eats, it's not only bad for the waistline, you are also likely to have a dull complexion and damaged skin. The high level of insulin manifests as excess hair growth and dark patches on the neck and body folds. Try to avoid sugar in your diet.

Prefer more probiotics foods

Reach out for foods that are high in antioxidants as well as probiotics, which are naturally occurring and good-for-your-gut bacteria. Probiotics help in creating a healthy gut, so less toxins are absorbed into the bloodstream. Toxins obstruct the absorption of important vitamins, minerals and nutrients in our body. Consuming probiotics will promote better moisture absorption and help in delaying the signs of aging. Lactic acid helps reduce wrinkles and tighten pores.



FOOD CORNER

Rogan Josh

Ingredients

1 Kg Meat, 1 Cup Mustard/refined oil, 3 tsp Red chili powder, 3 tsp Fennel powder, 2 tsp Ginger powder, 2 tsp Cumin powder, 3 tsp Brown cardamom powder, 1 tsp Asafoetida, 4 Pieces Green cardamom, 2 Cinnamon sticks, 2 Bay leaves, 2 Cloves, 1/3 tsp Saffron (optional), 1 Cup Curd, A pinch of Salt.

Method

- Wash the meat properly. Heat oil in a pressure cooker.
- Put cinnamon, bay leaves, green cardamom, cloves, a teaspoon of salt, asafoetida, and meat together.
- Fry meat till it turns brown. Once browned, pour a cup of water. Add the red chili powder and saffron into the meat. Keep stirring for about a minute.
- Mix the curd nicely in the mixer and pour it into the pressure cooker. Keep on stirring till you get a reddish tinge.
- Add 2 cups of water, fennel powder, ginger powder, and pressure cook for 2 minutes.
- Check if the meat is tender. Peel and grind green and brown cardamom and add to the meat dish.
- Finally sprinkle cumin powder and simmer for a minute and serve.



Trying to lose weight? These mini meals can help in portion control

When trying to lose weight, many people tend to skip meal(s) thinking that will help them in their journey. However, this is not what helps in weight loss. As per Anjali Mukerjee, a nutritionist, eating frequent and small meals throughout the day help achieve the goal.

While people follow different diets and hacks like intermittent fasting and calorie counting, experts believe that portion control is one of the most popular and effective ways to keep your weight in check. Defined as “the process of making sure that the amount of food you eat for each meal is not too large, especially when you are trying to lose weight,” portion control can help you with your weight loss journey.

As per Anjali, studies have shown that eating frequent mini-meals spread throughout the day prevents the metabolism from slowing down, reduces hunger pangs, optimally fuels your body, and has a positive impact on cholesterol and insulin levels.

Stressing the importance of portion control, Anjali wrote, “In the world of nutrition, it is a known fact that you should burn more calories than you consume to lose weight and fat. And how can one achieve this? By portion control and optimal meal frequency.”

“Portion size is a key driver of energy intake and also impacts the weight of a person. Therefore, measuring and controlling the portion size has become very crucial to control (and not gain) weight,” Dr Garima Goyal, a nutritionist, told indianexpress.com previously.

Anjali suggested a few easy mini meals options that one can try and include in their diet routine when they are trying to lose weight.

- 1 cup soya milk with almonds.
- Half a sandwich made with 1 slice of whole wheat bread with either of the following fillings—shredded chicken, cucumber, tomato with chutney or paneer.



- 1 bowl of moong sprouts with salad.
- A handful of peanuts with chana in a ratio of 1:1.
- Substitute your rotis with wheat bran rotis and reduce the number of rotis to half of your regular intake.
- 1 toast with 2 egg whites omelette or one full egg omelette.
- One fruit either an apple, orange, sweet lime, 20 cherries, or 1 bowl of watermelon.
- A bowl of dal or curd with salad.

Source: Indian Express

Simple blood test can help diagnose bipolar disorder accurately: Study

Researchers have developed a simple blood test that in combination with an online psychiatric assessment provides an improved diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

The team at the University of Cambridge in the UK found that the blood test on its own would diagnose up to 30 per cent of patients with bipolar disorder, but it was effective when combined with a digital mental health assessment.

Incorporating biomarker testing could help physicians differentiate between major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder, which have overlapping symptoms but require different pharmacological treatments.

Although the blood test was still a proof of concept, the study published in the journal JAMA Psychiatry found that it could be an effective complement to existing psychiatric diagnosis and can help researchers understand the biological origins of mental health conditions.



Bipolar disorder affects approximately one per cent of the population – as many as 80 million people worldwide – but for nearly 40 per cent of patients, it is misdiagnosed as major depressive disorder.

“People with bipolar disorder will experience periods of low mood and periods of very high mood or mania,” said study first author Jakub Tomasik, from Cambridge’s Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology.

“But patients will often only see a

doctor when they are experiencing low mood, which is why bipolar disorder frequently gets misdiagnosed as major depressive disorder,” Tomasik said.

The most effective way to get an accurate diagnosis of bipolar disorder was a full psychiatric assessment. However, patients often face long waits to get these assessments, and they take time to carry out.

“Psychiatric assessments are highly effective, but the ability to diagnose bipolar disorder with a simple blood test could ensure that patients get the right treatment the first time and alleviate some of the pressures on medical professionals,” said Tomasik.

The researchers used samples and data from the Delta study, conducted in the UK between 2018 and 2020, to identify bipolar disorder in patients who had received a diagnosis of major depressive disorder within the previous five years and had current depressive symptoms. Source: PTI



Whole genome sequencing personalising TB therapy: Expert

A new technique that uses whole genome sequencing can help personalise drug therapy in tuberculosis (TB) patients and ensure complete treatment for the disease, according to a biotechnologist. Anirvan Chatterjee, founder & CEO of HaystackAnalytics, a start-up incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, noted that the method provides a means for conclusively ascertaining drug resistance in a TB patient. Complete treatment of TB patients is significant as being a transmissible disease; TB presents the risk of spreading and evolving into a superior drug-resistant version of itself. Caused by the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB), TB is an infectious disease that spreads through the medium of air when people with lung TB cough, sneeze, or spit. The symptoms include prolonged cough, chest pain, weakness or fatigue and fever.

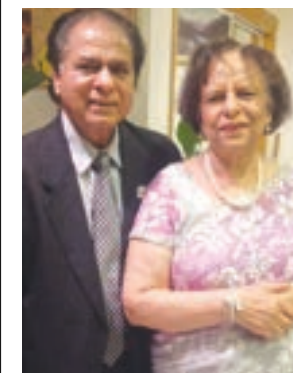
“Currently every TB patient undergoes a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) as the primary screening for confirmation of TB and detection of resistance to 1 or few drugs. If found resistant, the patient is advised more tests to get the complete drug-resistance profile,” Chatterjee told PTI in an interview. NAAT is a molecular test that detects the DNA of the TB-causing bacteria in a patient’s sputum or other respiratory sample. Leveraging whole genome sequencing (WGS), a method for analysing entire genomes, on a TB positive patient’s sample can eliminate this need for multiple tests and provide a comprehensive drug resistance profile against all the drugs currently prescribed by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to Chatterjee. “In case a WGS report is available for a TB patient, the therapy can be fully personalised while adhering to the drug combinations determined by the WHO,” he said.

The WGS testing process involves sequencing the entire DNA of the TB-causing bacteria in the patient’s sample. Then, by analysing data from about 4.5 million data points on the genome using bioinformatics and machine learning technologies, the resistance of the bacteria to any of the 18 antibiotics is ascertained in under two weeks once the sample has reached the lab. “For the report, we analyse the (bacterial) strain type, depth of sequencing, coverage of the genome, drug resistance mutations which have been validated to be associated with in-vitro resistance, phylogenetic association with global strains,” said Chatterjee, who was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford, UK, when he developed this technology. Source: PTI

PAGE

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Microsoft releases major Windows 11 update with new features

Microsoft has started rolling out major updates to its Windows 11 PC operating system with new features.

The main change in the updates (known as Windows 11, version 23H2) includes the change of name from Microsoft Teams to Chat.

"Chat is now Microsoft Teams (free) and is pinned by default to the taskbar," VP of programme management for Windows servicing and delivery, John Cable, said in a blogpost.

"When you click to launch Microsoft Teams, you will discover a mini communication experience that makes it possible to chat, call, meet, and create a space for community groups to come together, organize, and share ideas in just a click or two," he added.

The Windows 11 2023 update also brings some improvements to app management. System components in Windows 11 now have a 'system' label and are segregated into a new section in settings.

The Microsoft Store, Game Bar, Phone Link, and Tips apps are all included, and it appears that Microsoft is getting ready to let Windows 11 customers remove these system components at some time.

"This update continues the annual Windows 11 feature update cadence, with new feature updates released in the second half of the calendar year. This updated version resets the 24 months of support for Home and Pro editions and 36 months of support for Enterprise and Education editions," Microsoft said.

Moreover, the tech giant noted that the select features and enhancements initially shipped disabled by default in version 22H2 would be shipped on by default in version 23H2, including Copilot in Windows.

Source: IANS

Webb's pictures show Crab Nebula in new light 1000 years after the star exploded

Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope has recently captured unprecedented images of the Crab Nebula, a supernova remnant located 6,500 light-years away from Earth that was first recorded by Japanese and Chinese astronomers nearly 1,000 years ago. The new images reveal exquisite details that are helping scientists unravel the nebula's complex history.

The Crab Nebula is the aftermath of a supernova explosion recorded by 11th-century astronomers in 1054 CE.

Since then, it has been a subject of continuous study as scientists strive to understand the conditions, behavior, and after-effects of supernovae. The Crab Nebula, being relatively close, serves as an ideal example for this research.

A team led by Tea Temim at Princeton University used Webb's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) to delve into the origins of the Crab Nebula.

"Webb's sensitivity and spatial resolution allow us to accurately determine the composition of the ejected material, particularly the content of iron and nickel, which may reveal what type of explosion produced the Crab Nebula," explained Temim.

Elon Musk plans XWire to take on news distribution platforms

Elon Musk is reportedly planning to launch his news distribution service called XWire which will rival existing platforms for disseminating company PR news and press releases.

In an all-hands meeting with employees addressed by both Musk and X CEO Linda Yaccarino, the news wire initiative was discussed, reports Bloomberg.

"The duo also referenced ambitions to create a news wire service called XWire, which would rival Cision's PR Newswire," the report mentioned.

Musk and Yaccarino did not divulge much on how X would better compete with platforms that distribute company news and press releases.

As Instagram Threads was moving away from news, X would double up on news and even incentivise journalists posting original content and asked users to become citizen journalists.

Betting big on making X Corp a trusted news platform, Musk said last week that the platform was an "open source news" and whatever was relevant in legacy media was already available on X.

"When fake news spreads on CNN, MSNBC, or in The New York Times or Washington Post, they get the final say and can double down on their false narrative," the X user posted.

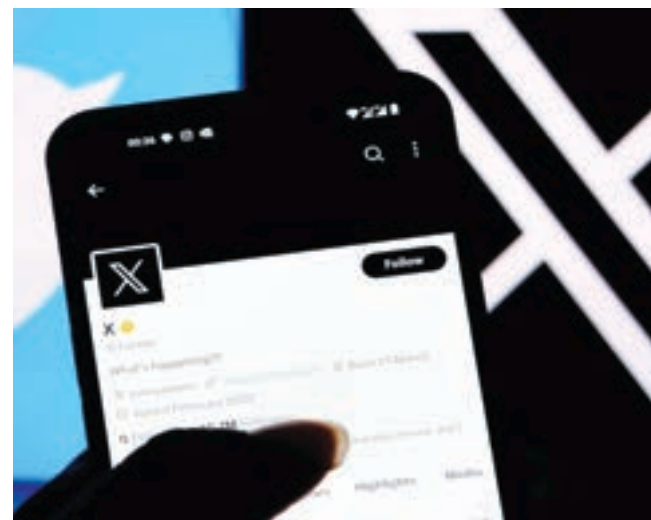
Musk said "yes," adding that X was an open source news platform. "That is the right way to think about it. Anything relevant in legacy media is reposted here anyway," he added.

Musk last month encouraged people to do citizen journalism on X.

"Please encourage more citizen journalism! You can do live video easily from your phone. More on-the-ground reporting from regular citizens will change the world," he said.

In August, Musk invited journalists to publish directly on X and earn a higher income.

The company has also set its sights on competitors



like YouTube and LinkedIn in terms of both video and hiring with @XHiring account.

X's value falls to \$19 billion, lower than Elon Musk's \$20 billion estimate and \$44 billion that he paid for it

Elon Musk's X, formerly known as Twitter, has seen its value drastically fall under the tech mogul – by over half of what he paid last year, as per a Bloomberg report. Musk shelled out a hefty \$44 billion for the social media site in 2022. Now, restricted stock units awarded to employees value the company at just \$19 billion or \$45/share.

It can be noted that while buying the company, Musk had tried to tune down the price tag citing market conditions, but Twitter executives sued and held the Tesla chief to his initial word. As per an internal email in March, Musk himself had said the company was worth \$20 billion. However, this figure too is a whole \$1 billion lower than the assessed value.

ChatGPT Plus subscribers can upload, analyse files in latest beta

ChatGPT Plus members can now upload and analyse files in the latest beta, along with using modes like Browse with Bing without manually switching, allowing the chatbot to decide when to use them. In its new beta for ChatGPT Plus members, Sam Altman-run OpenAI has added more useful features.

"With the new update, you can upload an image and ask to modify it. All in one prompt, 30 seconds. Goodbye Photoshop," posted one ChatGPT Plus subscriber on X.

Users will not have to select modes like Browse with Bing from the GPT-4 dropdown, reports The Verge.

The chatbot isn't limited to only text files, according to the report.

"This full-model version of GPT can directly chat about PDFs. You can also chat with data files and other document types," posted another ChatGPT Plus member on Threads.

"No longer requires selecting a model. It automatically chooses to start a web browser, run Python code or use DALL-E to generate images based on the description's requirements within a conversation," the user added.

ChatGPT Plus was available for \$20 a month, and subscribers get general access to ChatGPT, even during peak times, faster response times and priority access to new features and improvements.

Meanwhile, Microsoft-backed OpenAI has formally



launched its internet-browsing feature to generative AI chatbot ChatGPT.

Browse with Bing was now out of Beta and was officially available to all Plus and Enterprise subscribers.

"Browsing, which we re-launched a few weeks ago, is moving out of beta. Plus and Enterprise users no longer need to switch the beta toggle to use browse, and are able to choose Browse with Bing from the GPT-4 model selector," the company said in an update this month.

OpenAI has also integrated DALL-E 3 with ChatGPT, allowing it to respond to user requests with images.

Adani buys remaining 51% stake in Quintillion Business Media

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group has acquired the remaining 51% stake in Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd to take full control of the Raghav Bahl-curated digital business news platform for an undisclosed amount.

Adani Enterprises Ltd, the ports-to-energy conglomerate's flagship firm, in a stock exchange filing, said its subsidiary AMG Media Networks Ltd "has executed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of remaining 51% stake in QBML", the firm which operates the business and financial news digital media platform BQ Prime.

AMG Media had previously bought a 49% stake in Quintillion Business Media Ltd (QBML) for Rs 47.84 crore.

BQ Prime was earlier known as Bloomberg Quint, a former joint venture between US-based financial news agency Bloomberg Media and Bahl's Quintillion Media. Bloomberg exited that agreement in March last year.

"The SPA records the terms of the agreement and inter-se rights and obligations and other connected matters in respect of the acquisition of remaining 51% equity shares of QBML by AMNL from Quintillion Media Ltd (QML)," Adani said.

Govt allows direct overseas listing of Indian companies

In a significant move, the government has permitted Indian companies to list on foreign exchanges, subject to certain conditions. The corporate affairs ministry has notified the relevant section under the companies law in this regard.

Currently, overseas listings by local listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020 (29 of 2020), the Central Government hereby appoints the 30th day of October 2023 as the date on which the provisions of Section 5 of the said Act shall come into force," the ministry said in a notification on October 30.

The rules for direct overseas listing of Indian companies are yet to be notified.

On October 13, a senior government official said the ministry was looking at various aspects, including the possible eligibility criteria, to prepare the rules for the direct overseas listing of companies.

Fed keeps rates unchanged, Powell hedges on possible end of tightening campaign

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday as policymakers struggled to determine whether financial conditions may be tight enough already to control inflation, or whether an economy that continues to outperform expectations may need still more restraint.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the situation remained something of a riddle, with U.S. central bank officials willing to raise rates again if progress on inflation stalls, wary that a rise in market-based interest rates may begin to weigh on the economy in a significant way, and trying not to disrupt, any more than necessary, an ongoing dynamic of steady job and wage growth.

In a press conference after the end of a two-day policy meeting, Powell said the better course of action for now, given the uncertainties, was to maintain the Fed's benchmark overnight interest rate in the current 5.25%-5.50% range, and see how job and price data evolve between now and the next policy meeting in December.

Roughly 20 months into the Fed's aggressive tightening of monetary policy, Powell said it remained unclear whether overall financial conditions were yet restrictive enough to tame inflation that he still considers to be far above the central bank's 2% target.

"We're not confident that we haven't, we're not confident that we have" reached that sufficiently restrictive plateau, Powell told reporters. "Inflation has been coming down, but it's still running well above our 2% target ... A few months of good data are only the beginning of what it will take to build



Fed Chair Jerome Powell

confidence." Annual inflation, based on the Fed's preferred measure, was 3.4% in September for the third month in a row. Excluding volatile food and energy costs, it was 3.7%, little changed from August.

Asked if the Fed maintained a bias towards hiking rates versus keeping policy on hold, Powell responded "that's the question we're asking. Should we hike more?"

But the Fed chief also acknowledged that a recent market-driven rise in Treasury bond yields, home mortgage rates and other financing costs could have their own impact on the economy as long as they persist, and Fed officials will be watching those effects closely as they consider whether to hike the central bank's policy rate again.

"These higher Treasury yields are showing through to higher borrowing costs for households and businesses. Those higher costs are going to weigh on economic activity to the extent this tightening persists," Powell said, taking

particular note of 30-year fixed-rate home mortgages that are nearing 8%, close to a 25-year high.

Powell's comments elaborated on a policy decision and statement that, while leaving the Fed's benchmark rate unchanged for the second consecutive meeting, also took stock of what he called the "outsized" 4.9% annual pace of U.S. economic growth in the July-September period after a surge of consumer spending.

"Economic activity expanded at a strong pace in the third quarter," the U.S. central bank said in its statement after policymakers unanimously agreed to leave rates unchanged. The language marked an upgrade to the "solid pace" of activity the Fed saw as of its September meeting.

U.S. stocks climbed after the release of the policy statement and closed higher on the day, while the U.S. dollar pared gains and ended flat against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields fell and traders of short-term U.S. interest rates added to bets the Fed was done raising its policy rate and would start cutting rates by June of next year.

"The statement leans to the dovish side," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Spartan Capital Securities. "The fact that they left rates unchanged for the second time in a row suggests the Fed might leave rates unchanged in December. And if they do, that means the Fed is done."

Though markets think the Fed's rate-hiking campaign may be finished, data pointing to a stronger-than-expected economy and labor market have kept the prospect of another hike on the table.

Source: Reuters

Disney to buy remaining 33% stake in Hulu from Comcast

NEW YORK (TIP)

Walt Disney on Wednesday, November 1, formally began the process of buying Comcast's one-third stake in Hulu, a deal that will give Disney full ownership of the streaming service and freedom to incorporate it into the Disney streaming service.

NBCUniversal parent Comcast agreed in 2019 to sell its stake to Disney, which controls the service. Under terms of that agreement, either NBCU or Disney could initiate the transaction as soon as Nov. 1 - a timetable that was accelerated from the initial date of January 2024.

The Burbank, California-based entertainment conglomerate gained a controlling interest in Hulu as part of its \$71 billion acquisition of 21st Century Fox's film and television assets. The transaction gave the studio a competitive



leg up in the streaming wars.

Under the terms of the arrangement, Disney expects it will pay NBCU about \$8.61 billion by Dec. 1 for. This represents NBCU's percentage of the \$27.5 billion guaranteed floor value for Hulu set in 2019, minus the anticipated outstanding capital call contributions payable by NBCU to Disney.

Hulu's equity fair value will be

assessed as of Sept. 30, 2023, under agreed terms. If the value is determined to be greater than the guaranteed floor value, Disney will pay NBCU the difference, Disney said.

Bankers representing each party will assess Hulu's fair market value, according to regulatory filings.

While the timing of the appraisal process is uncertain, Disney anticipates it to be completed in 2024.

In remarks at a Goldman Sachs conference this fall, Comcast CEO Brian Roberts called Hulu a "scarce kingmaker asset" that is "way more valuable today" than when the deal was initially struck.

Hulu had 48.3 million subscribers at the end of Disney's third quarter, compared with 28 million paid subscribers for Comcast's Peacock streaming service at the end of Comcast's third quarter. Source: Reuters



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says finances are always a big concern and this week too it will be a topic for you to consider. Consider both long-term and short-term financial goals and use the opportunity to review your budget. Try to find new ways to save your money and invest it wisely. Also, explore possibilities to earn more money. If you need help, it is advisable to seek advice from financial experts as they can give you good advice on how to manage your money better. In matters of the heart, this week may provide a chance to strengthen existing relationships or foster new ones. If you're already in a relationship, try talking openly and honestly with your partner. Having deep and meaningful conversations can strengthen your relationship and help you understand each other better. If some unexpected problems arise, handling them with patience and understanding will make your relationship even better. It is important to grow and become a better person for a happy life. This week, take some time to do things that make you feel good. Think about your life and set new goals.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week is a time to think about your finances. Take a proactive approach to managing your finances by looking at your budget, finding ways to save, and setting reasonable financial goals. Think about new ways to invest or review the strategies you already have. If you're considering making a big purchase, now is a good time to think about whether the purchase is really necessary. In matters of the heart, this week may bring you closer to people you care about. Spend quality time with your loved ones and talk to them openly and honestly. If you're single, be prepared to meet new people and go to social events. During this time you may meet someone special. It is important to take care of yourself and create a good balance in your daily routine. Be sure to schedule time for exercise and relaxation this week. Your physical health can affect your mental and emotional state, so do things that make you feel good. Taking small steps to take care of yourself every day can help reduce stress and be more productive.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this is also a good time to consider your finances. Keep track of investment properties and investment lists from various resources. Use the energy of this time to build a secure financial future. If you are looking for love, this week can give you a chance to meet new

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly Horoscope by Chirag Daruwalla, son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOVEMBER 6 TO 12, 2023

people and form special relationships. Be ready to buy new puris and buy the puris of your choice. Again and again, we can meet in Miami Kolkata through this medium. Have faith that love can come into your life at the right time and the right person can be found anywhere, anytime. With determination and a positive attitude, you can make this week truly amazing. Make use of the opportunities that come your way. This week, a big step toward happiness and a fulfilled life, a slogan. Try to get better at the things you want to improve on. You could join a new class, read self-help books, or focus on your mental and physical health. If you work on becoming a better person, your life will be happier and more balanced.

CANCER



Ganesha says take a look at your budget, figure out your important expenses, and set a plan to reach your portfolio financial goals. If you are stuck, make smart investments and talk to a financial advisor to secure your future. Love and affection may be an important part of your week. If you're in a committed place, focus on having a last-minute open conversation with your crush. Share your feelings and strengthen your interpersonal relationships. If you're looking for love, you may meet new people or get closer to someone you already know. Coming out into the open afresh. In the coming week, the balance between your personal life, business, finance, and love is the key to equity life. Manage your personal assets, and protect your finances wisely. Take care of your relationship to create a happy and stable life. Try to learn and gain more knowledge through classrooms, offline workshops, and hardware. Apart from this, this week you can also talk to people who can give you good advice and help you grow as a person.

LEO



Ganesha says pay attention to your finances so that you don't have to face questions about your current financial situation. It may be volatile but try to improve your savings for a better tomorrow. It's also important to get financial guidance whenever you need it, so you don't waste time trying to improve the stability in your life. Our profession aims to help you improve your finances to a great extent. If you're on the cycle, plan a special date night or do something nice in their capital to show that you value their kitty. Have in-depth conversations to better understand each other's uniqueness and perspective. If you are single, this is a good time to explore new opportunities and be ready to meet new people. Be open-minded and ready to connect with new people at any social or offline event. In the coming week, remember that you may face some challenges and stories. But if you stay positive, try and stay strong, you can overcome any force. Stay focused, make smart choices, and take advantage of opportunities that come your way.

VIRGO



Ganesha says take some time to focus on your financial situation and identify an area where you can make a small change. You will be helped in gaining control over your finances. Consider exploring new opportunities or additional projects that can increase your income. Remember, small steps taken today can lead to significant financial benefits in the future. When it comes to matters of the heart, this week holds the potential for surprising new connections and strong stable bonds. If you're in the market for a committed date, try to foster open communication and foster romantic distance. If you are looking for love, keep your heart and mind open because you may meet someone special with whom you can have a good relationship. Trust your desire and be patient, as real conversations often take time to develop. As the week progresses, it is important to strike a balance between family, personal life, business, finance, and love. By investing time and energy in each area, you can build a mineral life. Find the last moments for your loved ones, take advantage of opportunities in your professional field, take advantage of your finances, and even make time for love.

LIBRA



Ganesha says you should also make sure to consider what skills you can get better at, look for professional growth opportunities, and spend time making good connections. Doing all this will not only help you in your current job but will also open doors to new and exciting opportunities. Take some time to focus on your finances this week to keep your financial situation secure. Check if you owe someone a debt and have a good plan to get it back. Read this article to learn more about where you spend your money and see which areas you can save on. Also, try to put some money into savings or investments for the future. Love is one of the most important principles in life, so take time this week to strengthen your choices. To keep your love alive, plan a romantic date or do something special for your Bengali. Talk to each other, the Internet about what they should do, and the principle of scientific support and understanding. Dependence on your family, business, and finances is very important in a new week. To have a happy and wonderful life, one needs attractive looks as a person. Focus on the new learning happening this week or better focus on what you already know.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says you can also think about earning more money or talking to trusted advisors to improve your finance management. Setting financial goals and tracking your progress helps you stay on the right financial track. In matters of the heart, this week may strengthen your present or bring the

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE NOVEMBER 6 TO 12 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 6 : Ganesha says today, the universe unveils a tapestry of creativity and inspiration. As the celestial bodies dance in harmonious patterns, you're encouraged to delve deep into your innermost passions. This isn't just about fleeting hobbies; it's about the core of what makes your spirit sing. Perhaps you've been sidelining a project or idea, thinking it's not the right time. Today, the cosmos whispers that the time is now. Embrace this wave of energy, and you might just stumble upon talents and passions you never knew lay dormant within you. Reflect on your aspirations, and let the universe guide you towards your true calling.

NOVEMBER 7 : Ganesha says balance is the keyword for today. The celestial energies are weaving a narrative of harmony, urging you to find equilibrium in all aspects of your life. Whether it's work-life balance, reconciling past disagreements, or simply finding inner peace, today is the day to address it. The universe is in a forgiving mood, making it a perfect time to mend fences and build bridges. Approach conversations with empathy, and you'll find that even the most challenging discussions can lead to fruitful resolutions.

NOVEMBER 8 : Ganesha says a day of transformation awaits you. The cosmic forces are in a state of flux, emphasising growth, evolution, and metamorphosis. While challenges might rear their heads, they come bearing gifts of wisdom and experience. Instead of viewing them as obstacles, see them as teachers guiding you towards a higher version of yourself. Every setback, every hurdle is a lesson in disguise. Embrace these teachings, and you'll find that by day's end, you've evolved in ways you hadn't imagined.

NOVEMBER 9 : Ganesha says love is in the air,



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

and it's not just about romantic love. Today, the stars shine a spotlight on all forms of love - be it familial, platonic, or self-love. It's a day to wear your heart on your sleeve, to express, to connect, and to cherish. If there's someone you've been meaning to reach out to, now's the time. The universe is in a generous mood, amplifying every gesture of love and kindness tenfold.

NOVEMBER 10 : Ganesha says introspection is the theme of the day. The celestial energies are urging you to take a step back from the hustle and bustle and embark on an inward journey. This isn't about isolation but about self-discovery. Dive deep into your psyche, explore your dreams, fears, and aspirations. Today, the universe grants you clarity, helping you decipher the messages your inner self has been trying to convey. It's a day of epiphanies, of revelations, and most importantly, of understanding oneself.

NOVEMBER 11 : Ganesha says action and ambition drive today's energies. The cosmos is

pulsating with a dynamic force, pushing you to chase your dreams with renewed vigor. Every goal, every aspiration is within reach, provided you're willing to take that leap. Fear might try to hold you back, but remember, it's just an illusion. Use it as a stepping stone, channel it as motivation, and let it propel you towards your destiny. The universe is cheering you on, reminding you that you're capable of greatness.

NOVEMBER 12 : Ganesha says today, the stars urge you to embrace gratitude. As you navigate through the day, take moments to pause and reflect on your journey. Every experience, every encounter has shaped you, and today is the day to acknowledge and appreciate these blessings. The universe reminds you that even in moments of despair, there's always a silver lining. Seek it out, embrace it, and let it illuminate your path forward.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 30

opportunity for a new romantic involvement. Express your love and appreciation for your friend through small talk, nice conversations, or planning a special partnership. If you're looking for love, be prepared for newfound stamina, and you may meet someone special. Try to build real relationships for a perfect romantic life. As you move through this week, remember to take care of your family, personal life, relationships, finances, and love. Building strong relationships with your loved ones will make for a supportive and songwriting family. In your business profile, aim to take advantage of development opportunities and donations to achieve your goal. The most important thing is to focus on yourself and work towards your tasks in life.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says to check your budget and consider what you spend and what you save. If you've been thinking about making changes to your finances or investments, now might be the right time to start. Consult a financial expert, know your priorities, and make smart choices. This week, it is important to strike a balance between meeting your current needs and securing your future financial stability. This week may bring a new company or strengthen your financial position. If you are alone then this is a good time to meet new people. Have fun at a social event without telling anyone and be ready for new trends. If you are in a choice, try to keep the love alive. Plan a release date or plan a surprise. Talk to Frank about any issue. This week you may get a chance to find balance in different aspects of your life. Meeting

deadlines with your family, staying focused and strong in your business, making smart choices about your finances, and continuing the process of your love proposal. By following these principles, you can expect a happy week that will pave the way for a brighter future.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says be careful about your finances this week. Take a look at what you spend and make a plan for your finances. There's really no need to invest or try to save more when it comes to investing or saving more. Also, stay abreast of what changes are happening in the industry as these may affect your finances. Remember, even small steps toward financial stability can help you in the long run. In love life, this week can be a good time to strengthen your relationship. If you're flirtatious or single in any way, be open to new teens and honest about your feelings. Have good conversations and try to understand what the people you care about want. If you're looking for love, consider meeting new people or making new connections. The last part of your feelings comes to you naturally dear. Try to make the most of this week, stay positive, and be flexible. See role models as opportunities to learn and grow. If you need help, talk to friends, family, or counsellors. It will help you to assess any problems coming your way to move forward in your personal and work life.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says if you want a new job, this is the time to try for it. Opportunities arise, allowing you to hone your skills and expertise. Talking about finances can bring

stability and balance. This is a good time to review your financial approvals, budgets, and investments. Take some time to think about your financial goals and any changes needed for a successful future. Whether you are looking for love or are already in love, love will play an important role in your life this week. If you're looking for love, keep an open heart and mind. Love will come into your life when you least expect it. Taking proactive steps to meet new people and make new connections. As we head into the week, there's a promising mix of personal growth, adventure progression, financial stability, and love in the air. Take time to counsel yourself. Use this time for professional development, financial planning, and creating meaningful collaborations in both your personal and professional lives.

PISCES



Ganesha says information about other sources of income or investing in private ones that match your long-term financial implementation. This week is good for making smart choices with your money, which can lead to financial security and prosperity in the future. If you are already in a choice, this week can give you a chance to make your love and relationship even stronger. Benefits of Good Vibes Tour and Quality Time Together. French it out, take a good look at your metropolis, and create something you love for yourself. This week is a time of personal growth, progress in business, financial stability, and love. If you stay expert, on track, and ready for new opportunities, you can make the most of the days ahead. Life is fickle, but with determination and a positive attitude, you can persevere this week. As the week progresses, be confident in your ability to handle any challenges that come your way.

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Ahoi Ashtami is an auspicious festival of Hindus. This is widely celebrated in North India by Hindu women. The fast is observed for the good health and longevity of children. Ahoi Ashtami is also known as Ahoi Aathe. The festival of Ahoi Ashtami is celebrated on Ashtami Tithi, eighth day of Krishna Paksha in the month of Kartik.

This year, Ahoi Aathe fast will be observed on November 5, 2023.

Just like Karwa Chauth the celebrations of Ahoi Ashtami is very widespread in the whole of northern India. This day is dedicated to worshipping Goddess Ahoi or Ahoi Mata. Ahoi ashtami vrat is observed only by Mothers, as the vrat is kept for the long life and well being of their children and also to be blessed with more children.

Rituals during Ahoi Ashtami

On Ahoi Ashtami, the mother of boy observes a strict fast all through the day for their child's well-being. They spend the day even without drinking a drop of water. The fast is broken after sighting the stars, during twilight. In some places, the observer of the Ahoi Ashtami fast break their fast after sighting the moon, however it might be difficult as the moon rises late on the Ahoi Ashtami night.

Women get up early and take a bath. Following this they take a 'sankalp' that is a pledge to keep the fast for the whole day for their children's well-being. The preparations for the puja are done before the sunset.

Women draw the image of Ahoi Mata on a wall. The image drawn should have 'Ashtha Koshtak' or eight corners. Along with other images, the picture of 'Sei' (hedgehog with its children) is drawn close to Goddess Ahoi. If the image cannot be drawn then the wallpaper of Ahoi Ashtami can also be used. The image also depicts the seven sons with the daughter-in-laws as mentioned in the Ahoi Ashtami katha.

The place of worship is cleaned and an 'Alpana' is drawn. An earthen pot known as 'karwa' is filled with water and covered with a lid and kept near the place of worship. The nozzle of this karwa is blocked with a special grass known as 'Sarai Seenka'. This shoot of grass is also offered to Ahoi Mata during the puja rituals.

The actual puja of Ahoi Ashtami is performed during sandhya time, that is, just after sunset. All the women in the family get together for the puja. After the rituals the women listen to the Ahoi Mata vrat katha. In some communities the devotees use Ahoi made from silver. This silver form is known as 'Syau' and is worshipped with milk, roli and akshata during the puja. After the puja, this 'Syau' is woven in a thread with two silver pearls and worn by women around their neck.

Special food offerings are prepared that includes puri, halwa and pua. 8 of all these are offered to the Goddess and then given to some elderly lady or even a Brahmin. The puja is terminated by performing the 'Ahoi Mata aarti' at the end.

Significance of Ahoi Ashtami

Ahoi Ashtami fast is undertaken by mothers of boys for the long life and happiness of their sons. They worship Goddess Ahoi on this day with full devotion and fervour. On this day women observe a fast for their sons. The time for sighting the stars and moonrise can be seen in the Ahoi Ashtami Puja timings in the Hindu panchang.

It is believed that women who face miscarriage or have problems in conceiving should perform the Ahoi Ashtami puja and vrat to get blessed with a baby boy. For this reason, it is also known as 'Krishnashtami'. This day is therefore significant for childless couples. On this occasion, couples take a holy dip in the 'Radha Kunda' at Mathura. Devotees from all over the country come and throng the place during this time.

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat Katha

According to the story of Ahoi Ashtami, long time ago, a moneylender lived in a city. He had seven sons. Once, when only seven days were left for Diwali, the family was engaged in cleaning the house. For renovation of their house, the moneylender's wife went to collect mud from an open pit mine near the river. Unaware that a hedgehog has build its den in the mine, the moneylender's wife started digging for mud. While doing so, her hoe hit a hedgehog cub killing it instantly.

Seeing this, the moneylender's wife felt very sad. Heartbroken she returned to her home. A few days after

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat



Important information

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat 2023

Sunday, 05 November 2023

Evening time to see the stars : 05:58 PM Approx.

Ashtami Tithi Begins : 05 November 2023 at 00:59 AM

Ashtami Tithi ends : 06 November 2023 at 03:18 AM

due to the curse of the hedgehog mother, the woman's eldest son died, then the second son died, and likewise the third child was no more and in one year all their seven sons died.

Due to the death of all her children, the woman started living very sad. One day, while crying, she told her sad story to one of her elderly neighbours and confessed that she did not commit the sin on purpose and that the cub was killed unknowingly and that it was after the incident her seven sons died. On hearing this, the old lady comforted her and said that half of her sin has been redeemed by her repentance.

The woman also suggested that, on the day of Mata Ahoi Ashtami, with recourse to Goddess Bhagwati, by drawing a picture of hedgehog and its cubs, worshipping them and apologizing for her act, she will be benefited. The woman also said that doing so, by the grace of God, all her sins will be cleansed.

The moneylender's wife obeyed the old woman and worshipped Mother Ahoi. Fasting on the eighth day of the Krishna Paksha of Kartik month, she started doing this regularly every year and with time, she got seven sons. It is since then the tradition of Ahoi Ashtami vrat has started.

Ahoi Mata Puja

The best time to perform Puja is during Sandhya (evening) time just after sunset. During Puja Ahoi Mata is worshipped with all rituals.

Usually women perform Ahoi Ashtami Puja along with the other female members of the family. During Puja women narrate the story of Ahoi Mata. There are several versions of Ahoi Ashtami legend but most of them describe how female devotee of Ahoi Mata got blessed by seven sons even after getting cursed for accidentally killing the offsprings of Sei. Sei is also worshipped along with Ahoi Mata and seven grass shoots along with Halwa is offered to Sei.

In some communities, for the occasion of Ahoi Ashtami, Ahoi of silver is also made. Silver Ahoi is known as Syau and worshipped with Akshata, Roli and the milk during the Puja. Later it is worn in the neck as a pendant with the help of a thread along with two

silver pearls.

Aarti of Ahoi Ashtami is performed at the end of the Puja.

Stars or Moon worship

Women either give Argha to the stars or the moon depending on the family tradition before breaking the fast. The time when the stars get visible in the sky and the time of moonrise on Ahoi Ashtami can be checked at Ahoi Ashtami Puja Timings.

Both Karwa and Kalash are used for giving Argha to the stars or the moon after the Puja. The water of big Kalash is used during the morning bath of Roop Chaudas which is also known as Narak Chaturdashi.

Association with Krishnashtami

Women who have difficulties in conceiving, have miscarriage or don't have a boy child also perform Puja on the day of Ahoi Ashtami.

In this context, the day of Ahoi Ashtami is known as Krishnashtami. This day is very significant for those couples who don't have any children. On the very same day couples take dip in the Radha Kunda at Mathura, perform Puja and make offering of the Kushmanda. Devotees from far-flung places throng to Radha Kunda to take a holy dip in the sacred pond during Arunodaya i.e. just before the sunrise.

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

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

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

Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 3, 2023, TO NOVEMBER 9, 2023

3rd November

1668 Bhai Dharam Singh was born in Hastnapur to father Sant Ram and Matta Sabho. He was among the first five members to be initiated into the Khalsa order. He was the second one to answer Guru Gobind Singh call and offered his head to the Guru. He remained in the company of his great Master when he went to Nanded where he breathed his last in 1708.

1753 Meer Mannu fell from his horse during an attack. As his foot was stuck in the saddle's stirrup, he was dragged to death. Subsequently, his wife Mihalani sought help of Abdali.



1834 Raja Sangat Singh of Jind passed away.

1988 The hearing began in the case of General Vaidya's murder. On Aug. 10th, 1985, Harjinder Singh "Jinda" and Sukhdev Singh "Sukha", gunned down General Vaidya after his retirement from the Indian army. General Vaidya was the Chief of the Indian Army who ordered the attack on the holiest of the holy shrines at Amritsar and elsewhere in Punjab during 1984 operations. On Oct. 9, 1992, Sukhdev Singh "Sukha" and Harjinder Singh "Jinda" were hanged until death in Puna Jail.

4th November



1469 Prakash Utsav, Patshahi first, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. In a world rife with falsehood, sunk in superstitions and plagued by all kinds of inequities and inequalities, Guru Nanak rang in the gospel of truth, universal love and brotherhood. The Founder Guru of the Sikhs and one of the greatest and saintliest of saviours, he redeemed the soul of a moribund society that had experienced a total eclipse, if not annihilation, of all abiding human values. The condition of the contemporary society has been vividly described by the First Master in the well-known words

Guru Nanak was born in a Bedi family at Talwandi (Nankana Sahib), near Lahore, in 1469. At an early age he learnt Sanskrit, Persian and the prevalent form of Gurmukhi. He was a precocious child with a pronounced penchant for religion. His father, Mehta

Kalu, made vain efforts to woo him to a mundane mode of life. Accordingly, he was got employed in a Government store of the Nawab of Sultanpur where he served for 13 years.

It was in 1499 that the day of destiny of ecstatic communion with God came. While taking his daily bath in the rivulet Bain that flows near Sultanpur, Nanak had his illumination through a soul-stirring vision of Almighty God. It was here that the Guru delivered his great sermon in the memorable words: "There is no Hindu, there is no Musalman". The spiritual enlightenment enjoined on him a mission to the propagation of which he consecrated his entire life. He set out on his great Udasi's (Missionary journeys) to deliver God's message to sinning and suffering humanity.

He toured the whole of India and many foreign countries, preaching the gospel of true religion and rooting out ignorance and evil. The great Guru undertook five major missionary journeys in this behalf.

1763 Sikh forces attacked and defeated Ahmad Shah's Jahan Khan at Wazirabad.

1982 Akali Dal organized morcha in Delhi during the 9th Asian Games. Haryana police harassed Sikhs on their way to Delhi. No rank, status, or position mattered. All Sikhs were thoroughly harassed and made to feel foreigners in their own home.

5th November

1840 Maharaja Khadak Singh, the first Prince designate of Maharaja Ranjit Singh died of slow poisoning. He was administered doses of white lead in wine at the instance of Dhian Singh. The Dogra brothers had hatched a conspiracy to kill all the eligible princes of the Maharaja.



1920 Khalsa College was handed over to a Panthic College Committee.

1978 Killing of Sikhs took place in Delhi. The Delhi police fired at a Sikh protest procession and killed four Sikhs including the President of the Akali Party's Delhi unit, Jathedar Awtar Singh Kohli, Sardar Mohinder Singh, and Sardar Gobind Singh. The police sieged three Sikh shrines of Delhi. Entrance to the Sikh shrines was banned after a period of 200 years. The curfew around the Sikh shrines was not lifted until November 7 when a secret Akali meeting decided to send a band of the senior-most Akali Ministers of the Punjab to violate the curfew orders.

6th November

1573 Sri Guru Ramdas Ji personally conducted the ground breaking for Sri Amritsar Sarovar.

1840 Naunihal Singh, son of Maharaja Kharak Singh, was killed by Dogras in Lahore.



1908 The first Sikh Missionary School (Khalsa Parcharak Vidyala) was established at Taran Taran.

7th November



1675 Guru Tegh Bahadur was presented to Aurangzeb, after his arrest near Roper on July 12. Aurangzeb did all in his power to coax Guru Tegh Bahadur to embrace Islam. He offered him wealth, women, power, and reign. The Guru did not accept any one of them. He asked the Emperor for the Royal justice. He opposed the Emperor's policy of forced conversion. He said that the Emperor's coercive plan to proselytization was against God's laws. The Emperor was not in a mood to accept defeat. When the dialogue broke down he sentenced the Guru and his companions to death by torture. In the next three days, all the companions of the Guru were brutally tortured to death in front of the Guru's eyes. Bhai Mati Das was sawed into two pieces from head to lions. Bhai Dayal Das was thrown into a cauldron of boiling water and Bhai Sati Das was hacked to pieces, limb by limb.

8th November

1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur was arrested and taken to Delhi. The acceptance of Guruship by Guru Tegh Bahadur without obtaining the approval of the imperial government at Delhi was considered an affront to Aurangzeb. He deputed Alam Khan Rohilla to take the Guru into custody, and bring him to his presence. Alam Khan and his escort showed themselves up in Dhamdhan when Guru Sahib was in the deep forest on a hunting expedition. Guru Tegh Bahadur and his entourage were rounded up and taken to Delhi. This is the only time Guru Sahib met Aurangzeb. Aurangzeb asked Guru Sahib to show miracles or be ready to be put to death. Guru Sahib refused the first option as display of miracles is discouraged in Sikhism and considered arrogance while competing with God. As a result Aurangzeb ordered the execution of Guru Sahib. But the intervention of Raja Ram Singh, son of Raja Jai Singh, made Aurangzeb to relent, and order instead the detention of Guru Sahib and his entourage under his care. They were released on December 16, 1665.

1899 "Khalsa Samachar", a weekly punjabi newsletter, was started by Vir Singh.

9th November

1821 Maharaja Ranjit Singh invaded Mankera, territory annexed and Nawab Haji Ahmad Khan given some jagir elsewhere. All his territories of Bannu, Tonk, Liya and Kundian came under Sikh occupation.

1840 Sher Singh proclaimed the successor.

1840 Rani Chand Kaur, mother of Nau Nihal Singh, announced the pregnancy of Gilwani, wife of prince Nau Nihal Singh.





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contd from page 1

Antony Blinken and Llyod...

The exact dates of his trips to these countries have not been announced. In New Delhi, the US delegation will participate in the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

"The delegation will meet with Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar, Minister of Defense Rajnath Singh, and other senior Indian officials to discuss both bilateral and global concerns and developments in the Indo-Pacific," Miller said.

Blinken is leaving for Tel Aviv on Thursday.

"In Israel, Blinken will reiterate US support for Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism consistent with international humanitarian law and discuss efforts to safeguard US citizens in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, work to secure the immediate release of hostages, increase the pace and volume of humanitarian assistance entering Gaza for distribution to Palestinian civilians, and prevent the conflict from spreading," Miller said.

In Jordan, he will underscore the importance of protecting civilian lives and their shared commitment to facilitating the increased, sustained delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza, the resumption of essential services, and ensuring that Palestinians are not forcibly displaced outside of Gaza.

"He will also discuss urgent mechanisms to stem violence, calm rhetoric, reduce regional tensions, and reaffirm the US commitment to working with partners to set the conditions necessary for a durable and sustainable peace in the Middle East, to include the establishment of a Palestinian state," Miller said.

Blinken will then lead US delegations to Tokyo, Seoul, and New Delhi to advance collaborative efforts to support a free and open Indo-Pacific region that is prosperous, secure, connected, and resilient.

In Tokyo, he will participate in the second G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting of 2023, where G7 foreign ministers will build on the commitments made by leaders at the G7 Hiroshima Summit. Secretary Blinken will also thank Japan for its successful G7 presidency.

Blinken will also have bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko to discuss bilateral priorities, including supporting Ukraine's economic recovery and energy needs and strengthening their cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Miller said.

Blinken will then travel to Seoul to meet with President Yoon Suk Yeol, Foreign Minister Park Jin, and National Security Advisor Cho Tae-yong.

"The Secretary will discuss ways the United States and the ROK can respond to global challenges, including Russia's war against Ukraine and Russia's growing military cooperation with the DPRK, as well as instability in the Middle East. They will also discuss mutual efforts to support bilateral investment and economic security," he

said.

"In Tokyo and in Seoul, the Secretary will underscore the United States' ironclad commitment to the defense of Japan and ROK and reaffirm the importance of robust and sustained trilateral engagement following the historic Camp David Summit in August," Miller said. (Source: PTI)

Angelina Jolie slams world...

critiquing the role of world leaders in their inability to stop the war.

She wrote: "This is the deliberate bombing of a trapped population who have nowhere to flee. Gaza has been an open-air prison for nearly two decades and is fast becoming a mass grave."

She added: "40 per cent of those killed are innocent children. Whole families are being murdered. While the world watches and with the active support of many governments, millions of Palestinian civilians - children, women, families - are being collectively punished and dehumanized, all while being deprived food, medicine and humanitarian aid against international law. By refusing to demand a humanitarian ceasefire and blocking the UN Security Council from imposing one on both parties, world leaders are complicit in these crimes." (Source: IANS)

India defends abstention in...

120 votes in favor, 14 including the U.S. and U.K. against, and 45 abstentions, including India. In its explanation of vote (EoV),

France also objected to the omission of references to the October 7 attacks as well as the hostages taken, but in a break from its western allies, voted for the resolution saying "nothing can justify the suffering of civilians. All victims deserve our compassion, all lives are equal and there is no hierarchy between them".

The resolution adopted had condemned "all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians, including all acts of terrorism and indiscriminate attacks, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction", without specifically referring to the terror attacks by Hamas earlier this month that left more than 1,400 Israelis dead and 229 taken hostage. In three weeks of retaliatory strikes by Israeli Defense Forces, the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza has estimated that at least 7,700 Palestinians have been killed, around half of which are children.

In the EoV delivered by India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojana Patel, India had called for condemnation of the attacks and for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages.

"Terrorism is a malignancy and knows no borders, nationality, or race. The world should not buy into any justification of terror acts," Ms. Patel said, before addressing the death toll from the IDF bombardment of Gaza.

"Casualties in the ongoing conflict in Gaza are a telling, serious, and continuing concern. Civilians, especially women and children are paying with their lives," Ms. Patel said, referring to

the aid efforts to help Palestinians who have been evacuated from North Gaza to the south, which India is also a part of.

Significantly, in its own EoV, India did not name Hamas directly either. India had however backed an earlier amendment proposed by Canada to add a paragraph that would "unequivocally reject and condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas that took place in Israel starting on 7 October 2023", and call for hostages to be released. The amendment was not approved as only 88 countries, less than the two-thirds required, voted for it.

India's vote, that differed from a previous vote in favor of a UNGA resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza in 2018 and other similar votes in the past, was criticized by Opposition parties who accused the government of "refusing to take a stand".

"This is a humanitarian issue, not a political one," said All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, pointing out that India's abstention stood "alone" and apart from the position of countries in the "Global South, in South Asia & in BRICS", all of whom had voted for the resolution.

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind", said Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra quoting Mahatma Gandhi. "To refuse to take a stand and watch in silence as every law of humanity is pulverized goes against everything our country has stood for throughout its life as a nation," she wrote in a social media post. The Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s Sitaram Yechury and CPI's D. Raja issued a joint statement, saying that India's abstention "negates its long-standing support to the Palestinian cause", accusing the government of following a foreign policy "shaped by being a subordinate ally of U.S. imperialism"

Government sources said however that India had stressed its "consistent stand on Palestine", saying in the EoV that India supports a negotiated two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine issue and the establishment of a sovereign, independent, and viable State of Palestine, urging the parties to de-escalate the violence, and return to direct peace negotiations. (Source: The Hindu)

F.B.I. Raids Home of Eric...

university in Washington, D.C., that also has ties to the country and to Mr. Adams.

According to the search warrant, investigators were also focused on whether the mayor's campaign kicked back benefits to the construction company's officials and employees, and to Turkish officials.

The agents seized three iPhones and two laptop computers, along with papers and other evidence, including something agents identified as "manila folder labeled Eric Adams," seven "contribution card binders" and other materials, according to the documents.

There was no indication that the investigation was targeting the mayor, and he is not accused of wrongdoing. Yet the raid apparently prompted him to



abruptly cancel several meetings scheduled for Thursday morning in Washington, D.C., where he planned to speak with White House officials and members of Congress about the migrant crisis.

Instead, he hurriedly returned to New York "to deal with a matter," a spokesman for the mayor said.

"The mayor heard of an issue related to the campaign and takes these issues seriously, so wanted to get back to New York as quickly as possible," Fabien Levy, the deputy mayor for communications, said in a statement Thursday evening. "He plans to return to D.C. and reschedule these meetings as soon as he can."

The warrant suggested that some of the foreign campaign contributions were made as part of a straw donor scheme, where donations are made in the names of people who did not actually give money. Investigators sought evidence to support potential charges that included the theft of federal funds and conspiracy to steal federal funds, wire fraud and wire fraud conspiracy, as well as campaign contributions by foreign nationals and conspiracy to make such contributions.

Mr. Adams has boasted of his ties to Turkey, most recently during a flag-raising he hosted for the country in Lower Manhattan last week. The mayor said that there were probably no other mayors in New York City history who had visited Turkey as frequently as he has.

"I think I'm on my sixth or seventh visit," he said. At least one of those visits happened while he was Brooklyn borough president, when the government of Turkey underwrote the excursion, The Daily News reported.

Ms. Suggs, who could not be reached for comment, is an essential cog in Mr. Adams's fund-raising machine, which has already raised more than \$2.5 million for his 2025 re-election campaign.

A person with knowledge of the raid said agents from one of the public corruption squads in the F.B.I.'s New York office questioned Ms. Suggs during the search of her home.

An F.B.I. spokesman confirmed that "we are at that location carrying out law enforcement action," referring to Ms. Suggs's home in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. (With inputs from agencies)

Margao: The cultural capital of Goa

Being the commercial and cultural capital of Goa, Margao, also known as Madgaon, is the largest city of Goa by population. Margao is the centre of administration for the Salcete as well as the district of South Goa. Since the construction of the Madgao Railway Station, Margao has become a focal point for travellers as everyone who wishes to arrive in Goa by train has to enter through Margao.

The origin of Madgaon's name has various stories. Some say that it is derived from Sanskrit word Mathagram which would mean village towards the east and some say that Mathagram was the name due to the Vaishnavite Matha (cloister) located in the area. But a clear picture to the former name of Matha Gram was due to the Nine Mathas in the town. Raiders, however, destroyed these Mathas along with the Damodar Temple where the Holy Spirit Church now stands. The whole of Margao is a repository for the stories and history of Goa.

With structures like the Braganza House, Fernandes House and Sat Burnzam House that are nearly as old as the town itself, there is history in every old nook and corner of Margao. The Goa Chitra Museum will introduce you to the authentic traditions and culture of Goa. The Rachol Fort will transport you back in time to the battles between Vijayanagara and Bijapur Sultans. The Municipal Gardens are the pitstop for every traveller's Imagination before continuing the journey into the festivities of the Sao Joao feast of St. John the Baptist Church.

With all such heritage to keep its travellers indulged, Margao has earned its place as the Cultural capital of Goa. The shopping scene in Margao offers everything from local street markets to signature shopping malls. There are many restaurants and cafe's that satisfy your hunger pangs, such as the Cinnamon, Pepper's, Martin's, Mircho-Go that serve multiple cuisines. The nightlife in Margao, however, is dull compared to North Goa as there are no pubs or bars that stay open until late in the night.

Church of the Holy Spirit

Margao's whitewashed main church was first built in 1565, on the site of an important Hindu temple. Before demolition started on the temple, local Hindus managed to rescue the statue of the god Damodara, to whom the building was dedicated. It was secretly moved to a new site in the village of Zambaulim, around 30km southeast, where there is still a large temple today.

However, the new church didn't last long and was burned to the ground by Muslim raiders the same year it was built. It was soon replaced and a seminary was established, but both were subsequently destroyed, again by Muslim forces, after which the seminary

was moved to Rachol, to the northeast.

The present church, built in 1675, remains in use as a parish church and is finely decorated inside. The impressive reredos (ornamental screen) is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, rising from ground level to the high ceiling, made more distinguished by the gilded and carved archway that stands in front of it. The church doors are usually unlocked throughout the day, and access is via the side entrance on the northern side.

Municipal Library

On the west side of the canary-yellow Secretariat Building, you'll find respite from the sun in the prim Municipal Library, which houses some good books about Goa. Don't miss the library's newspaper reading room, in which you're required to collect your newspaper at the counter and then sit in the seat designated only for readers of that particular paper – it's popular enough that it's often full.

Secretariat Building

At the southern end of the Municipal Gardens, this grand building houses the Municipal Library.

Sat Burnzam Ghor

The most famous of the traditional old Portuguese mansions in Largo de Igrejas is the grand 1790 Sat Burnzam Ghor. Originally, as its name suggests, there were seven of the distinctive high-peaked gables, of which only three remain, though it remains an impressive edifice. It's currently not open to the public. Built by Sebastiao da Silva, private secretary to the viceroy, it sports an especially beautiful private chapel, dedicated to St Anna, and noteworthy for being the first private chapel in which a Goan family was permitted to privately perform Mass.

Mount Church

Located about 500m southeast of Sat Burnzam Ghor and a fair climb up Monte Hill, Margao's only hill, Mount Church is a simple whitewashed building, faced by a similarly diminutive cross. A detour up here is worth it for the view, all the way out to Colva.

Largo de Igreja

Largo de Igreja, the area around the Church of the Holy Spirit, features a number of traditional old Portuguese mansions, in various states of decay or repair. The most famous is the grand 1790 Sat Burnzam Ghor.

GOMANT VIDYA NIKETAN

This is yet another living legacy near the town center on Faria Road. In the year 1910, when Portugal became a republic, it marked the end of religious discrimination in Goa. The residents of Margao used the newfound liberty to establish Gomant Vidya Niketan. It started off as a humble library known as



Saraswat Brahman Samaj 1912 and then diversified. The library continues on the ground floor with an amphitheater upstairs. It grew to its peak as an epicenter of all cultural activities (primarily Konkani and Marathi language) for later half of the 20th century, hosting various talks, exhibitions and classical music concerts. Though Ravindra Bhavan, given its size and modern amenities, is now the new address for most of the large scale events in Margao, Gomant Vidya Niketan continues to enthrall its audience with regular performances and events of national significance. Housed in a multi-storeyed this site, right at the northern end of Market bus terminal, it now also hosts private events such as weddings and receptions.

MARUTI MANDIR

Maruti is another name for Lord Hanuman, the legendary God from the Hindu epic Ramayana. Also known as Mahavira or the mighty warrior, this

Vayuputra (the son of God of Wind) is believed to the symbol of strength and energy. Lord Maruti was blessed that his followers will be safe from the wrath of Mangal and Shani, the personification of planetary powers of Mars and Saturn. Hence, Tuesdays and Saturdays are observed as special days for the worship of this deity. Millions follow him as the 'one who removes fears'. Built in the last century, this Maruti Mandir stands out in Margao's backyard. From the Market bus terminal, walk 10-15 minutes southwest towards Pedwada and watch a saffron flag emerge in the sky atop the colorful temple's spire. Cross the railway track on Margao-Benaulim Road and turn left to enter the two-storey elevated premises. Observe how the temple's arches and pillars are painted in signature Goan style with its colors in contrast to those of the walls. The elevated entrance, bright orange structural pillars, and the long ventilated hall is unique. The main carved wooden door, the ceiling and the pillars inside are decorated artfully.

History This Week

NOV 03 - NOV 09

NOVEMBER 3

November 3, 1918 - Part of the German fleet mutinied at Kiel in the closing days of World War I.



November 3, 1948 - Dewey Defeats Truman banner headline appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

NOVEMBER 4



November 4, 1922 - King Tut's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter after several years of searching. The child-King Tutankhamen became pharaoh at age nine and died around 1352 B.C. at age 19. The tomb was found mostly intact, containing numerous priceless items now exhibited in Egypt's National Museum in Cairo.

November 4, 1942 - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle.

November 4, 1956 - Soviet Russian troops moved in to crush an uprising in Hungary.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

November 4, 1995 - Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Birthday - American humorist Will Rogers (1879-1935) was born in Oologah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). "All I know is what I read in the newspapers," he once joked. He was killed in an airplane crash with aviator Wiley Post near Point Barrow, Alaska.

Birthday - Famed TV journalist Walter Cronkite (1916-2009) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was a leading correspondent for United Press International during World War II. From 1962 to 1981, he was the anchorman of the CBS Evening News and was widely regarded as America's most trusted journalist.

NOVEMBER 5

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the New York Weekly Journal was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling New York's royal governor.



November 5, 1911 - Aviator C.P. Snow completed the first transcontinental flight across America, landing at Pasadena, California. He had taken off from Sheepshead Bay, New York, on September 17th and flew a distance of 3,417 miles.

NOVEMBER 6

November 6, 1917 - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

November 6, 1962 - The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.

Birthday - American conductor John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was born in Washington, D.C. Best known for his rousing marches including The Stars and Stripes Forever, Semper Fidelis, and El Capitan.

Birthday - Polish composer, pianist and patriot, Ignace Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka, Podolia, Poland.



Birthday - Inventor of the game of basketball, James Naismith (1861-1939) was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.

NOVEMBER 7

November 7, 1917 - Russian Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky in Petrograd. The Council of People's Commissars was then established as the new government of Russia, with Nikolai Lenin as chairman, Leon Trotsky as foreign commissar and Josef Stalin as commissar of nationalities. This event was celebrated each year in the former USSR with parades, massive military displays and public appearances by top Soviet leaders.



November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 7, 1962 - Richard Nixon told news reporters in Los Angeles "...just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Nixon's statement came the day after he lost the election for California governor to incumbent Edmund G. Brown. In 1968, Nixon re-entered politics and won the presidency, defeating Hubert H. Humphrey. Re-elected in 1972, he resigned in 1974 during impeachment proceedings resulting from the Watergate scandal.

November 7, 1967 - Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

November 7, 1989 - The East German government resigned after pro-democracy protests.

November 7, 1989 - L. Douglas Wilder

became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

November 7, 1990 - Mary Robinson became Ireland's first female president.

Birthday - Polish chemist Marie Curie (1867-1934) was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 1903, she and her husband received the Nobel Prize for physics for their discovery of the element Radium.

Birthday - Christian evangelist Billy Graham was born near Charlotte, North Carolina, November 7, 1918. After his conversion at a revival meeting at age 16, he embarked on a career of preaching and has become known worldwide.

NOVEMBER 8

November 8, 1923 - Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch took place in the Buergerbraukeller in Munich. Hitler, Goering and armed Nazis attempted, but ultimately failed, to forcibly seize power and overthrow democracy in Germany.

November 8, 1939 - An assassination attempt on Hitler failed at the Buergerbraukeller in Munich. A bomb exploded soon after Hitler had exited following a speech commemorating the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch. Seven others were killed.

November 8, 1942 - Operation Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa, began as 400,000 soldiers under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed at Morocco and Algeria.



Birthday - Astronomer and mathematician Edmund Halley (1656-1742) was born in London. He sighted the Great Comet of 1682 (now named Halley's Comet) and foretold its reappearance in 1758. Halley's Comet appears once each generation with the average time between appearances being 76 years. It is expected to be visible again in 2061.

NOVEMBER 9



November 9, 1918 - German Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated his throne in the closing days of World War I and fled to Holland. In Germany, Philip Scheidemann, a Socialist leader, then proclaimed a democratic Republic and became its first Chancellor.

November 9-10, 1938 - Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) occurred in Germany as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalized Jewish shops and homes.



I am still not fully fit, four kilos down after dengue: Shubman Gill

After crafting a run-a-ball 92 against Sri Lanka, Indian opener Shubman Gill on Thursday, November 2, said he has not yet regained full fitness after a bout dengue which forced him to sit out of first two World Cup matches.

Gill's knock along with fifties by Virat Kohli (88) and Shreyas Iyer (82) fired India to 357 for 8 and eventually to a crushing 302-run win over the Lankans and to the tournament semifinals.

"Not in full fitness. I am four kilos down from dengue in terms of mass and muscle weight," said Gill during the post-match presentation.

Gill said he was looking to bat in a compact manner without sacrificing his intent to put pressure on the Lankan outfit.

"The odd ball was seaming and I hit the balls in my areas. You couldn't get into a shell. I looked to put pressure on the bowlers. I felt in the previous matches I got starts except the last one.

"We thought about rotating the strike today. I honestly don't think it was a 400 wicket. We batted well to get 350," said Gill.

Gill praised Indian pacers and Shreyas for their outstanding effort. "The way they were bowling, we were anticipating wickets. Siraj is always fired up. They were sensational. They have made the job easier for us. Shreyas was the key today. He batted superbly," he added.

Maxwell falls off golf cart, to miss England clash

Australia batter Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the World Cup clash against England on November 4 after he fell off a golf cart, resulting in a concussion and facial bruising.

Cricket.com.au reported that Maxwell was riding on the back of a golf cart after a round on Monday when he fell off. The all-rounder is a key member of the Australian team as he shares spin duties with Adam Zampa while also playing a vital role in the middle order with the bat. He had smashed the fastest hundred in World Cup history—off 40 balls against the Netherlands—in Delhi last week.

This is Maxwell's second freak injury in less than a year. Last November, he broke his leg at a birthday party in Melbourne and as per the report, he is yet to recover fully from that.

The players were enjoying a round of golf having got a week's break between the New Zealand and England game.

ICC WORLD CUP

India crush Sri Lanka by 302 runs to enter World Cup semi-finals

MUMBAI (TIP)

Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj intimidated and scarred an under-prepared Sri Lanka with a fast bowling exhibition for the ages as India demolished the islanders by a record 302 runs to enter the World Cup semifinals here on Thursday, November 2.

On a Wankhede track that looked placid, India piled on a mammoth 357 for 8 in 50 overs.

Sri Lanka crumbled under lights for a paltry 55 in 19.4 overs to ensure an eighth semi-final appearance for India at the global event. This was India's biggest victory by margin of runs in the 48-year history of the tournament.

With 14 points from seven games, Rohit Sharma's army will like to finish with an all-win record as they now face South Africa in Kolkata on November 5 and the Netherlands in Bengaluru on November 12.

Shami (5/18 in 5 overs) took his second five-wicket haul in this edition and with 45 scalps, became India's highest wicket-taker in World Cup history.

Siraj (3/16 in 7 overs) was equally incisive and Jasprit Bumrah (1/8 in 5 overs) formidable as ever in a picture-perfect bowling performance.

As the Indian juggernaut rolls on, every performance seems like a dream played on a loop.

Exactly 45 days ago, Siraj had dismantled the Sri Lankans for 50 in the Asia Cup final and it seemed that the effect of that game has stayed in the minds of the Lankans, who became the second team after Bangladesh to get eliminated from the 10-team event.

It was fascinating to see how the same 22 yards looked so different when the two teams batted.

While Virat Kohli (88 off 94 balls) missed out on a world record-equalling 49th ODI hundred with the maestro Sachin Tendulkar himself in attendance, batting seemed like the easiest job on the planet.

Shubman Gill (92 off 92 balls) and Shreyas Iyer (82 off 56 balls) pulverised the opposition even as they missed out on personal landmarks. But the capacity Wankhede crowd wouldn't have believed what came in next.

On that placid track, the ball started jaggling around as Siraj and Shami didn't give any Lankan batters any respite during the 19 odd overs that they bowled.

If Siraj came wide off the crease and delivered unplayable in-cutters, Shami bowled from close to the stumps and got the ball to move away enough that either it kissed the outside edge of the bat or there was loud thwack of the stumps.



Hitting the right areas is an oft-repeated statement but doing it day in and day out and getting those wrists into the business with perfect seam position creating doubts in batters' minds, Shami has etched his name in the history books.

On Thursday, November 2, Shami and Siraj showed quality of pitch doesn't matter, quality of players do.

Kohli enjoyed a 189-run second wicket stand with his heir apparent Gill, who looked a million dollars during his run-a-ball 92.

After a mini-slump, it was Iyer, who feasted against a mediocre bowling attack on a placid track, to get some form back before the match against South Africa at Eden Gardens, which will be played on a spicier track.

Starting briskly with a flurry of sixes, Iyer's innings was instrumental in taking India past 350 after they lost both Gill and Kohli in quick succession. His innings featured six sixes and three fours.

Dilshan Madushanka (5/80 in 10 overs), who bowled a peach of a delivery to get skipper Rohit Sharma (4) first up, also denied all three Indian batters what would have been deserving hundreds. He used the slower cutters and bouncers to good effect during his

second and third spells.

Kohli and Gill weathered the storm adequately well to get through the initial overs and piled up a mountain of runs to put India on top. In the sixth over, Dushmantha Chameera almost had Kohli's wicket but could not hold on to a return catch on his follow-through which saw the ball popping out. Beginning with a risk-free approach, Kohli and Gill stitched India's highest-ever partnership in this World Cup for any wicket, putting on 189 runs from just 179 balls for the second wicket.

Kohli looked primed to equal the legendary Tendulkar's tally of most ODI centuries but met with a soft end, lobbing a straight catch to cover after a masterful 88 from 94 balls which included 11 fours. The ball stopped on him as he was committed on the drive but it hit the upper part of the blade to balloon up.

Gill started slowly but produced a compelling knock that brought him close to his first century of the tournament. His first runs came off the ninth ball that he faced, but there was no stopping the fluent batter once he pulled Madushanka with command for a four to mid-wicket and followed up with a fabulous backfoot punch on the next delivery. *Source: PTI*



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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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.