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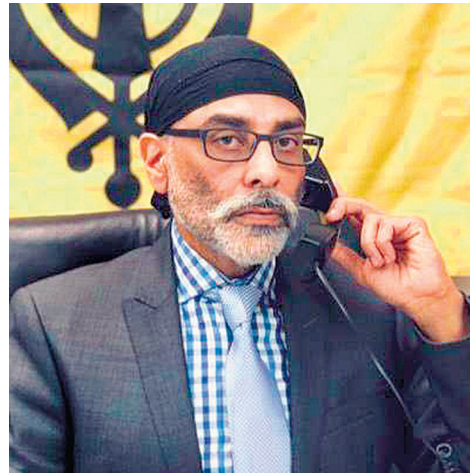
Will bring out a **SPECIAL** profusely illustrated **NEW YEAR EDITION** on Friday, December 29, 2023.

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## U.S. Says Indian Official Directed Assassination Plot of a Sikh Separatist Leader in New York

**Indian national agreed to assassination plot on being assured of withdrawal of criminal case against him in Gujarat**



Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, general counsel for Sikhs for Justice, which supports the secession of Punjab from India was the target of the foiled assassination plot  
File photo

northern Indian state of Punjab. And the man who would attempt to arrange his murder, prosecutors said, was an Indian national who had been hired by an official inside the Indian government.

But the plot failed: The man planning the assassination hired a hit man who was, in fact, working for the American government.

The scheme burst into public view on Wednesday, November 29, when federal prosecutors in Manhattan announced that they had charged the Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, with murder for hire and conspiracy to commit murder for hire. The allegations could complicate the delicate relations among Washington, Ottawa and New Delhi.

**CONTD ON PAGE 36**

### ISRAEL SAYS GAZA COMBAT HAS RESUMED; TALKS ARE SAID TO CONTINUE



Palestinians evacuate the wounded. File photo

DECEMBER 1, 2023

**TEL AVIV (TIP):** Israel's military said early Friday, December 1, it was resuming fighting because Hamas had violated the previously agreed-upon truce after a projectile was fired from Gaza in the final minutes of the ceasefire. International mediators said talks were continuing in the hopes of a breakthrough, reports the New York Times.

The deadline for the weeklong truce between Israel and Hamas expired 7 a.m. Friday local time. Diplomatic talks had come down to the wire with indications earlier in the night that the negotiations may have broken down. Hamas did not immediately comment.

Israel's military said on the social media site X early Friday that it had intercepted a projectile fired from Gaza, before the pause had expired. That episode could not be independently confirmed, and there was no immediate report of injuries. It is a developing story.

### Sikh organizations across the world condemn heckling of Indian envoy Taranjit Singh Sandhu at Gurdwara Nanak Darbar in Hicksville, New York



Taranjit Singh Sandhu addressing the Sangat at Gurdwara Nanak Darbar in Hicksville, New York on November 26, 2023 Photo : X / @SandhuTaranjits

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Sikh organizations across the world have condemned the recent incident of heckling of Indian Ambassador to the USA Taranjit Singh Sandhu at a gurdwara in New York by a small group of Khalistan sympathizers.

**CONTD ON PAGE 36**

### Ambassador Jaiswal bids farewell, promising to meet again - 'Phir Milenge'

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Consul General Randhir Jaiswal and Dr. Abha Jaiswal hosted a get together to bid farewell to friends and community at the Consulate on November 29.

Ambassador Jaiswal heaped praises on the Indian American community for their contribution to strengthening India in a number of ways. Their contribution to the growth of India and

**CONTD ON PAGE 7**



Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal said to the gathering that his wife Dr. Abha Jaiswal joined him in thanking them and that he looked forward to meeting them again

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**COMMENT**

# The Heckling of Indian Ambassador by Khalistani Protesters Deserves Condemnation

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The Sikh community witnessed a deplorable incident that struck a dissonant chord-heckling directed at Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the Indian Ambassador to the US, by some Khalistani individuals. Their accusations, tied to the assassination of Nijjar in Canada and alleged involvement in a conspiracy against Gurpatwant Pannu of Sikhs For Justice, unfolded in a religious shrine. Such actions, regardless of political motives, exhibit poor taste and fail to resonate within the Sikh community who have rightly condemned the hecklers.

The act of heckling within a religious setting not only violates the sanctity of the shrine but also contradicts the principles of respect and harmony deeply ingrained in Sikh values. Instead of garnering support or sympathy for their cause, these Khalistani hecklers inadvertently caused harm. Their actions alienated potential supporters and detracted from the credibility of their aspirations for an independent Khalistan.

It is crucial for any movement or cause to win hearts and minds within its community. However, the recent conduct of the Khalistani hecklers exemplifies a counterproductive approach. Rather than fostering solidarity and unity, their actions sowed seeds of discord and disapproval among the Sikh populace.

Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu's family history bears testament to their invaluable contributions to the Sikh community. His father, Sardar Bishan Singh Samundri, remains revered as a distinguished educationist and the founding Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University, a beacon of academic excellence in India. Additionally, his grandfather, Sardar Teja Singh Samundri, played a pivotal role in the Gurudwara Reform movement, earning recognition with the naming of Teja Singh Samundri Hall within the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar.

The legacy of such remarkable individuals deserves utmost reverence and admiration. Criticism and dissent can be expressed in civil and respectful ways without resorting to demeaning or vilifying the heroes and their families who have significantly contributed to the Sikh community's growth and stature.

It's paramount for those advocating the

Khalistan cause to understand that their actions reflect upon the movement as a whole. By engaging in disrespectful behavior, they not only tarnish their image but also undermine the credibility and legitimacy of their objectives.

Respect for differing opinions and adherence to ethical conduct form the bedrock of any movement's success. Therefore, the recent incident serves as a cautionary tale, emphasizing the importance of upholding decorum, dignity, and respect in pursuing one's beliefs and aspirations.

The Sikh community, known for its rich history and strong values, should prioritize unity and inclusivity. While advocating for political demands, it's imperative to avoid actions that divide or disparage the community's esteemed figures.

The actions of the Khalistani hecklers, while driven by political fervor, have detracted from their cause. Respect, decorum, and reverence for Sikh heroes and their families are essential tenets that must be upheld, fostering unity rather than division within the community. It's time for introspection and a recalibration of strategies to garner genuine support and respect for the Khalistan cause.

**GUEST COMMENT**

## A lot at stake: On India and the impact of the indictment by the U.S. Department of Justice

### India's reputation as a principled power is at stake after the indictment

The impact of the 15-page indictment filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against an Indian national, believed to be directed by an Indian government official for attempting an assassination plot against U.S.-based Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is likely to be felt in more than just the U.S. and India. The indictment is based on details of communications between the accused, an illicit drugs and arms dealer, Nikhil Gupta, with a serving senior Indian government intelligence officer, who is identified but unnamed, as well as with two men in the U.S., who were allegedly engaged to kill Mr. Pannun. The twist in the tale, unreported on so far in the U.S., or Canada, is that the two U.S.-based men were working for U.S. law enforcement, making it clear that American agents have been following the investigation since at least May. There have been meetings between the U.S. President Joseph Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - other senior

officials have met too - since then. The allegations raise troubling questions about how much was shared between the two countries, and whether the Modi government, which had been outraged by similar allegations made by Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, has been less than honest about what it knows. If the government had knowingly authorized the targeting of Sikh separatists who are on India's UAPA terrorist designation list, then that implies a dramatic change in Indian policy, which it should be more upfront about. If top officials had no inkling about the "plots", and as the Ministry of External Affairs has stated this is not "government policy", it is also a matter of grave incompetence and 'rogue' officers. If, however, the U.S.'s and Canada's allegations are unfounded, and Indian officials are not linked to the plots, then the government needs to furnish evidence. In any case, the management of public messaging in the matter, especially India's reaction to Canada versus the U.S., appears

inconsistent.

Whatever the factors behind the government's responses thus far, it is significant that it has now instituted a high-level inquiry committee to look into the U.S.'s allegations. Much hinges on its outcome. To begin with, India's U.S. ties could be impacted by what transpires, as White House expects India's full cooperation. India too, must ask the U.S., which is rightly placing such emphasis on the plot, why it is not keen on extraditing to India a man facing terror charges. Second, the U.S. and Canadian allegations will directly impact India's ties with all "Five Eyes" intelligence partner countries, which must not be overshadowed by this one case. Finally, it is India's reputation as a consistent and credible power - one which has earned respect worldwide for its sagacity and principled approach on such issues in the past - that hangs in the balance, and New Delhi must judge its next steps in the case extremely wisely.

(The Hindu)

# FIA Celebrates Consul General Randhir Jaiswal's impact on the Indian American community with a Magnificent Farewell



NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), in collaboration with the Indian American community of NY, NJ, and CT, organized an exquisite farewell reception to honor the esteemed Consul General of India, Randhir Jaiswal, on November 20th, 2023. The magnificent banquet hall at Moghul Restaurant in Edison, New Jersey, buzzed with anticipation as distinguished guests gathered to bid a fond adieu to the Honorable Consul General.

Ambassador Jaiswal, who will now serve as the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been a beloved figure in the diplomatic community and the vast Indian American diaspora in the Tri-State area. His diplomatic career, spanning over two decades, has seen him serve in various esteemed positions in Portugal, Cuba, South Africa, and New York.

The evening commenced with a grand entrance, accompanied by a resounding fanfare and regal processions for the Hon. Consul General Randhir Jaiswal while the FIA associates gallantly displayed flags crafted as a tribute to the Consul General as he gracefully traversed the aisle along with his wife, Abha Jaiswal, and other dignitaries, thus fashioning an indelible and extraordinary moment.

The gathering was graced by an exceptional lineup of speakers, starting with Vice Presidents Saurin Parikh and Smita Miki Patel, who warmly extended their heartfelt welcome to all in attendance. Srujal Parikh, the Board Secretary of the FIA Board of Trustees, added a touch of reverence as he introduced the esteemed guests of honor, Sam Joshi Mayor of Edison, and Hemant Marathe, Mayor of West Windsor, and expressed gratitude for their presence.



Both mayors expressed their admiration for the consulate's extraordinary efforts during the pandemic. Edison's Mayor Sam Joshi, who worked closely with the consulate during the Vande Bharat mission, also regarded CG Jaiswal not only as a diplomat but also as a friend. He recalled a time when a fire destroyed a building in Edison, primarily affecting Indian-origin residents. The Mayor sought assistance from CG Jaiswal for their passports and other needs, and help was graciously provided. "On behalf of all of Edison, thank you so much," the Mayor expressed as he read a special proclamation that acknowledged CG Jaiswal's time, dedication, and exceptional leadership in supporting the citizens of Edison.

The host committee, represented by Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parekh and Padma Shri HR Shah, expressed their admiration for the consulate's work under Consul General Randhir Jaiswal's leadership. According to Dr. Parikh, "Jaiswalji was an exceptional person for exceptional times", during the Covid crisis and India's 75th independence year. Having witnessed the last 23 Consuls General working in the region, he could attest to the fact that Mr. Jaiswal broke the record with events every other day and appreciated Jaiswalji's calm, cool demeanor and his ability to make people feel important.

Deputy Consul General Jeph praised the Consular team for their hard work under the leadership of CG Jaiswal. He also mentioned that community engagement was the departing diplomat's top priority with respect to the consulate's accessibility and availability to the Indian community 24/7 for passport and visa assistance.

An exciting highlight of the reception was the video presentation by FIA President Mr. Kenny Desai and Executive Vice President Dr. Avinash Gupta. The host committee was composed of prominent community figures such as Anil Bansal, Dr. Avinash Gupta, Kenny Desai, Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Padma Shri Dr. H.R. Shah, and Sunil Bagaria. Other supporters who attended the event included Dr. Mukul Raval, Mohamad Farouqi, Dinesh Goswami, Girish Soni, Deepak Shah, Mukul Thakar, Dr. Tejas Deliwala, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, and Paresh Suthar were briefly introduced and called upon the stage for photo opportunities.

The esteemed Honorable Consul General was invited to the stage, where the host committee presented him with a well-deserved memento, symbolizing their gratitude for his exceptional leadership. Following this, the team of supporters included Dr. Mukul Raval, Mohamad Farouqi, Dinesh Goswami, Girish Soni, Deepak Shah, Mukul Thakar, Dr. Tejas Deliwala, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, and Paresh Suthar who also expressed their gratitude by bestowing their appreciation upon him with a bouquet of flowers.

During his speech, Hon. Consul General Jaiswal expressed his gratitude to the Indian community for their support and assistance over the past three years. He described the relationship between the Consulate and the people it serves as "very healthy" and praised the achievements of the Indian American community and the second generation. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Consulate has been open every day of the week since May 2020, which

is a unique feat compared to other consulates around the world.

Shri Jaiswal shared some of the highlights during his tenure, such as the raising of the Indian flag at Times Square, people staying up until 2 am to listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telecast speech and the 8,000 individuals who gathered at the White House to welcome PM Modi during his state visit to Washington. He believes that these accomplishments speak volumes about the community's achievements and recognition.

Deputy Consul General Jeph praised the Consular team for their hard work under the leadership of CG Jaiswal. He also mentioned that community engagement was the departing diplomat's top priority.



Ankur Vaidya, the chairman of FIA, shared an inspiring narrative of Mr. Jaiswal's journey, from his early days as an IFS officer to his appointment as the Consul General of India as he recognized his dedication and unwavering commitment to serving Mother India. Mr. Vaidya also praised the Consul General for championing the diaspora and acknowledged Abha Jaiswal for her unwavering support. He recalled how the CG had facilitated millions of dollars in aid sent by organizations from the US. He also commended the CG and his team for their efforts to make the Consulate more accessible and inviting to the public. The Chairman concluded by wishing CG Jaiswal a bright future and success ahead by saying, "May your career shine to bring India and US closer together".

The event was organized in collaboration with GANA, BJANA, Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce, ICS of NJ, World Vegan Vision, MOCAAPI, Siddhivinayak Temple USA, United States Hindu Alliance, Vihar Foundation, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan USA, and Mana American Telugu Association. Alok Kumar, representing the Bihar Foundation and BJANA, delivered a heartfelt speech on behalf of the supporters.

In an earnest conclusion, FIA Treasurer Priti Patel extended a vote of thanks to the entire Indian American community, along with the host committee, executive committee, and supporters. Her words of appreciation resonated with the audience, acknowledging their unwavering support and dedication to fostering a strong and vibrant Indian diaspora. The evening concluded on a high note with heartfelt speeches, music, and a celebration of Mr. Jaiswal's remarkable legacy.

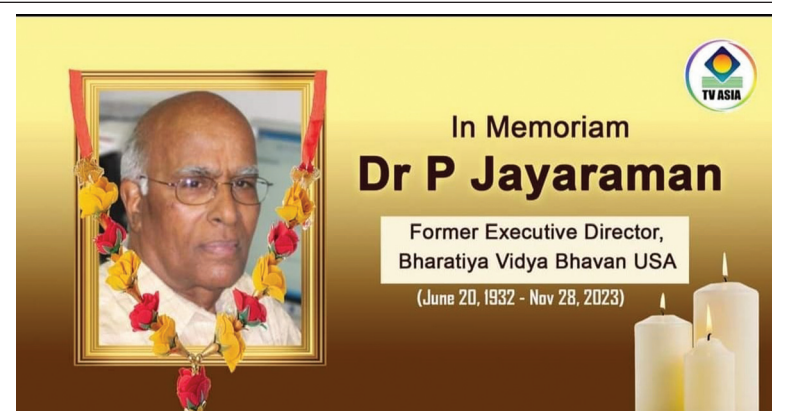
## Dr P. Jayaraman, former executive director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA passes away

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP)** Dr P. Jayaraman, former executive director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA passed away on Tuesday, November 28 in New York.

Dr Jayaraman was a strong supporter and devotee of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan USA in New York, the world-famous institute of Indian culture,

education, music, and the arts. He organized and helped host many landmark events associated with Bhavan USA. Bhavan's Chairman & Directors offered their deepest condolences and prayed for the departed soul. "May God give his family, friends and well-wishers strength to bear this irreparable loss. God bless his soul and we will miss him! May he rest in peace!"



# First Indian-origin lawmaker in Australia's Parliament Dave Sharma wins Senate seat



Dave Sharma returns to politics with winning a seat in the Australian Senate

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

**CANBERRA (TIP)** : Dave Sharma, who became the first Indian-origin lawmaker in Australia's Parliament in 2019, will return to politics after his victory in the New South Wales Liberal Senate race.

Sharma, 47, will replace ex-foreign minister Marise Payne, who has retired from the Senate, the local media reported.

Sharma, who represented the Sydney seat of Wentworth until his defeat at the 2022 election, beat former New South Wales (NSW) minister Andrew

Constance, a frontrunner backed by Opposition leader Peter Dutton.

In a vote by the New South Wales Liberal Party members, Sharma defeated Constance 251-206 in the final ballot on Sunday, November 26, the media reported.

Sharma, who served as Australia's ambassador to Israel from 2013 to 2017, was backed by the moderates within the party.

Asserting that taking over from former Senator Payne was a privilege, Sharma said, "I would like to thank the party members for the opportunity to hold the

Albanese government to account in the Senate over its many missteps and wrong decisions, and to fight for the many households across NSW struggling to deal with Labor's cost-of-living crisis."

"The opportunity to serve in the Senate will allow me to fight for our nation's national security interests in a time of greater global turmoil," he was quoted as saying in the report.

Congratulating him on securing the NSW Senate position, Opposition leader Dutton said Sharma's entry to the Senate would come at a crucial time.

## Indian student charged with family members' triple murder



Om Brahmhatt is charged for allegedly murdering his grandparents and uncle inside a New Jersey condominium

Photo for representation only

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**TRENTON, NJ (TIP)**: A 23-year-old Indian student has been arrested and charged for allegedly murdering his grandparents and uncle inside a New Jersey condominium, police and US media reports said.

Om Brahmhatt is accused of shooting Dilipkumar Brahmhatt, 72; Bindu Brahmhatt, 72; and Yashkumar Brahmhatt, 38, the South Plainfield

Police Department and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

Officers responded to the home on Coppola Drive off New Durham Road in South Plainfield around 9 am on Monday, November 27, after a neighbor reported hearing shots fired at the Traditions condo complex, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office said in a press release.

After arriving, officers found three people - two men and a woman - had suffered gunshot wounds.

Married couple Dilipkumar and Bindu Brahmhatt were found shot to death in the second-floor apartment, police said. Their son, Yashkumar Brahmhatt, was also found to have suffered multiple gunshot wounds. He was taken to the hospital, where he died.

A suspect was taken into custody for questioning at the scene and later charged. Om was charged with three counts of first-degree murder and second-degree weapon possession. Om, hailing from Gujarat, resided with the victims and was found at the residence

when authorities arrived at the scene.

Om had just moved to New Jersey within the past couple of months, sources said, and had been living at the condo, NBC New York reported.

He was taken to the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Centre pending a pre-trial detention hearing; it wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney and a listed number for him couldn't be found.

According to the complaint, the crime was committed with a handgun Om says he purchased online. Om had a seemingly calm demeanor during Tuesday's court appearance. Police say he was the one who called 911 that morning and when asked about who did it, officials say Om stated, "It might be me".

It was not clear what led up to the shooting. A neighbor told NBC New York that it wasn't the first time police had been called to the condo.

"I didn't really know them, I just know one time the police were there for a domestic violence call," said neighbor Jim Short, who lives upstairs from the

unit where the three people were found dead. "Can happen anywhere but it is really creepy, it's right downstairs."

The Traditions apartment complex, home to many young families who emigrated from India, is equipped with dozens of security cameras that neighbors hoped could help police.

"There's cameras all over and there are cameras coming in and out of the complex and every building has cameras outside and inside the breezeway. So hopefully that can help," said another neighbor, Victor Orozco.

An investigation led by the South Plainfield Police Department is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding the shooting is asked to call town police or the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

An investigation by South Plainfield Detective Thomas Rutter and Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Detective Javier Morillo determined that there was no threat to the public and this was not a random act of violence, according to the prosecutor's office.

(Source: PTI)

## 13-year-old Indian-origin yoga prodigy, Ishwar Sharma, wins gold in Europe

NOVEMBER 25, 2023

**LONDON (TIP)**: A 13-year-old Indian-origin yoga prodigy from south-east England with several awards under his belt has added another gold medal to his tally at the European Yoga Sports Championship in Sweden.

**Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up yoga when he was three after seeing his father practice daily and went on to win several World Yoga Championships.**

Last weekend, he bagged the Europe Cup 2023 in the Boys 12-14 category when he competed in the European competition organized by the International Yoga Sports Federation in collaboration with Swedish Yoga Sports Federation in Malmo.



Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up yoga when he was three after seeing his father practice daily and went on to win several World Yoga Championships.

"Ishwar is passionate about spreading the message of yoga, especially for special needs children," his family said in a statement, with reference to his autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Sharma, who led daily yoga classes for 40 children across 14 countries during the coronavirus lockdown, was honored by then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with the Points of Light award.

"You have brought the joy of yoga to hundreds of children globally during lockdown. I was particularly inspired to hear how you have helped children with special needs enjoy the activity you enjoy and excel at," Johnson said in a personal letter to Sharma at the time in June 2021.

He has won five world championships and British Citizen Youth Award at the House of Lords for his contribution to yoga. Along with his father, Vishwanath, Ishwar runs IYoga Solutions to spread the word about Yoga and its many benefits in the UK.

# First Indian American elected Ash Kalra named chair of California Assembly Judiciary Committee

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

PARMINDER AUJLA

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** : Ash Kalra, the first Indian American elected to the California State Assembly, has been appointed Chair of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary by Speaker Robert Rivas.

"At a time when California must be vigilant in protecting civil rights, fostering a just legal system, and ensuring everyday consumers are protected, it is an honor to serve as Chair of Judiciary Committee," Kalra stated after his appointment on Nov 22.

"Having served on this committee for the past seven years under Chairs Stone and Maienschein, I am grateful for their leadership and ready to hit the ground running," he added. "I am thankful to Speaker Robert Rivas for his confidence and this opportunity to further serve the people of California."

"The justice system is foundational to keeping Californians safe and holding offenders accountable. I'm confident



Assemblymember Kalra will fight for the rights of the people who matter most, while ensuring the system itself is just," Rivas said.

The Assembly Committee on Judiciary's primary jurisdictions include family law, product liability, tort liability, Civil Code, and Evidence Code (excluding criminal procedure).

Kalra had most recently served as Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for the past five

years.

He was first elected in 2016, becoming the first Indian American to serve in the California Legislature in state history, and was re-elected to his fourth term in 2022.

In the State Assembly, he has authored successful legislation promoting secure and peaceful communities for all residents, including protecting and preserving civil rights and civil liberties, and has dedicated his tenure in public service to equity and social justice issues, according to his website.

Kalra represents California's 25th Assembly District, which encompasses the majority of San José, including downtown and open space areas in southeast Santa Clara County.

Kalra has a law degree from Georgetown University and was a Deputy Public Defender for Santa Clara County for 11 years. As a public defender, he represented indigent clients in both felony and misdemeanor matters.

## Indian American business owner Shivinder Singh running for Yorba Linda City Council



Shivinder Singh, currently serving as the Chair Pro Tem of The Yorba Linda Planning Commission, is running for City Council in Yorba Linda

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

PARMINDER AUJLA

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** : Indian American business owner Shivinder Singh is running for City Council in Yorba Linda in northeastern Orange County, California vowing to prioritize preservation of Yorba Linda's unique identity and empowering residents.

Shivinder Singh, currently serving as the Chair Pro Tem of The Yorba Linda Planning Commission, brings decades of proven leadership and community activism to ensure Yorba Linda remains the "Land of Gracious Living," according to his campaign website.

Singh's platform prioritizes the protection of local control, property rights, equestrian rights, parental rights, public safety, economic growth, transparency, accountability, and the promotion of community engagement through education and empowerment, it said. "He will work tirelessly to unite the residents and preserve Yorba Linda's heritage and safeguard Yorba Linda's exceptional quality of life!"

A licensed Electrical Engineer with over 25 years of public service, a master's degree in computer & electrical engineering, and certification in Project Management, he has a background in business and technology including artificial intelligence, active transportation and intelligent transportation systems.

Singh's core values revolve around family, faith, education, and liberty, firmly believing in the transformative power of education and emphasizing the importance of family and faith, his campaign states, according to his campaign.

Singh is also a successful business owner and CEO for over 23 years. He serves as an appointed delegate from the 40th Congressional District. Dedicated to community service, Shivinder has held diverse roles.

In the City of Brea, he served as the President and Secretary of a Homeowners Association and held a position on the Traffic Committee for four years. Singh served as Traffic Commissioner in the City and is currently contributing to the Community as a Planning Commissioner for the past three years.

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

## Indian American Democratic Lawmaker Raja Krishnamoorthi featured as Foreign Policy 'Mastermind'



Foreign Policy magazine has portrayed Indian American Democratic lawmaker Raja Krishnamoorthi and Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher as 'The Masterminds' of Washington's getting tough on China Policy.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** : The prestigious Foreign Policy magazine has portrayed Indian American Democratic lawmaker Raja Krishnamoorthi and Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher as 'The Masterminds' of Washington's getting tough on China Policy.

Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi, are the chair and ranking member of "what is basically the hottest ticket in Washington" - the House of Representatives' China Committee, as the magazine put it. The Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, which is its full name, is focused exclusively on how to map out a new era of US competition with China.

Describing the new era of US competition with China as "the most significant strategic shift in American foreign policy in decades," Foreign Policy said "Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi are in the driver's seat" insofar as Congress' role in the action.

Since the committee was first formed in January, Gallagher and Krishnamoorthi have held numerous high-profile hearings, issued a slew of reports, toured the country, and sent a flurry of letters to private companies and top Biden administration officials for their work, the magazine noted.

The House China Committee has no lawmaking authority, but it can conduct investigations and lengthy research projects, issue subpoenas, issue policy recommendations, and send all of its work into other House committees with authority over major budget and legislative issues, such as the House Armed Services Committee, Ways and Means Committee, or Finance Committee.

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

## Indian American man found lifeless in a planter in Los Angeles



Satish Dharmarajan's body was found in a planter in Los Angeles County

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** An investigation is on into the death of a 39-year-old Indian American man whose body was found in a planter in Los Angeles County. The coroner's office has identified the man as Satish Dharmarajan. No further details are available at present.

A formal pronouncement of Dharmarajan's death was made on Nov. 25 at 9:37 am. Dharmarajan, who was born on March 6, 1984, was found lifeless in a planter. The manner and cause of death have not yet been determined, according to media reports.

"It's with great sorrow we inform you that Saji (39), son of Dharmarjan and Saraswathi, and brother of Sarita Kumar (@12404604343), brother-in-law to Anil Kumar (past KCS president), and uncle to Sohan and Anisha, left us for his heavenly abode yesterday (11/25) due to unforeseen circumstances," his family announced in a social media post on Sunday.

"Please give the family their privacy until we have additional details regarding services. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this challenging time," they added.

In a similar case, a man's body was found inside a container at Malibu Lagoon State Beach on July 31.

Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a dead body found inside a 55-gallon drum on the beach at Malibu Lagoon State Beach.

A maintenance worker first spotted the barrel in a shallow water inlet. He paddled out in a kayak and pulled the container to the shore but didn't open it.

The next day, a lifeguard saw the same barrel - now back in the lagoon - and swam out and brought it onto the beach, where he opened it and discovered the body.

# Indian -American community of New York bids farewell to outgoing New York Consul General Randhir Jaiswal

**INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO US TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU ALSO JOINED THE FAREWELL EVENT**



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu addresses the gathering

Harish Thakkar said the Consulate under Mr. Jaiswal's leadership has been proactive, particularly during the difficult days of Covid, and issued emergency visas, alleviating the distress of those in need.

Randhir Jaiswal, India's outgoing Consul General in New York, bids farewell with a sense of accomplishment. Jaiswal's tenure has been marked by dedicated efforts to boost bilateral ties, garnering praise from the India-American community, who organized a reception to express their appreciation.

Mr. Jaiswal said that as Consul General, he has endeavored to "tell the world what India means to the world today. It is a country which is progressing, which is reaching out to the moon, a country that is developing technologies that are going to define the pathway to the 21st century. It is a

country which believes in peace, non-violence, in the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi".

The farewell reception to Mr. Jaiswal organized by community leaders Harish Thakkar and Ajay Patel, was supported by several diaspora organizations which included AAPI -QLI, Long Island Diversity Council, Gujarati Samaj, Rajasthan Medical Alumni Association, World Vegan Vision, Anand Sangeet, Kali Mandir of NY and their members.

India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, also attended the farewell reception. "Delighted to attend farewell reception for Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, organized by the Indian community and American Friends of India in Long Island" Sandhu tweeted. In his address at the reception, Mr. Sandhu lauded Mr. Jaiswal for taking the consulate to "new heights" and recalled the work done during challenging times,



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal shares his thoughts

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP):** American Indian community of New York, bids farewell to outgoing New York Consul General Randhir Jaiswal. The event was hosted by community leaders Harish Thakkar & Ajay Patel. Indian Ambassador to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu also joined the farewell event.

Ajay Patel extended a warm welcome to Consul General Randhir Jaiswal who was accompanied by his deputy Dr. Varun Jeph.

AIA NY Past President & Community leader Harish Thakkar voiced appreciation for the efforts and initiatives undertaken by Mr. Jaiswal in his tenure, particularly during the challenging months of the pandemic.



Organizers with guests, from L to R: Harish Thakkar, Ajay Patel, Prem Bhandari, Davika Patel (MC), Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Heeta Thakkar (MC), CG Randhir Jaiswal, DCG Dr. Varun Jeph

especially during the pandemic.

Mr. Sandhu recalled efforts by Mr. Jaiswal and the Consulate during the peak months of the pandemic in helping those in dire need, saying that he "measured up" to the difficult task and "he and his team performed a fantastic job" in transporting community members and Indians back to their motherland amid challenges.

"There are revolutionary changes taking place in India," he said, adding that many Americans are becoming conscious of it now.

The India-US relationship is 'now on the roll and the future economic recovery of the world will come through this partnership', Sandhu said.

Heeta Thakkar & Davika Patel Emceed the event.

## World vegan vision "Vegan Thanksgiving celebration"

NOVEMBER 22, 2023

**GUTTENBERG, NJ (TIP):** The World Vegan Vision event held on Sunday, November 19th, 2023, successfully brought together advocates, experts, and enthusiasts to discuss and promote veganism as a way to embrace compassion and lead a sustainable lifestyle. The event witnessed a diverse group of individuals, including renowned physicians, empowering speakers, and dedicated animal rights activists, who contributed to its success.

Dr. Kalindi Bakshi, the president of the World Vegan New Jersey chapter, delivered an insightful address on veganism, highlighting its health benefits and positive impact on the environment. Dr. Bakshi emphasized the growing importance of adopting a plant-based diet.

Founder of World Vegan Vision, H.k Shah, appealed for support in adopting a vegan lifestyle. Avinash Director also provided valuable insights into the



organization's initiatives and shared updates on the organization's activities in 2023.

Eloise, an accomplished speaker, inspired the audience with her empowering perspectives aligned with the mission of World Vegan Vision. In just 10 minutes, Eloise left a lasting impression, motivating attendees to embrace compassion and a vegan lifestyle.

Several prominent guests attended the

event, including former water commissioner of California Ashok Bhatt, socialist Pam Kwatra, President Senior Friends of NJ Mahendra Shah, Rasesh Shah VP and Director, Dinesh Pandya from the Senior Citizen Association of Hudson County, Nina Vyas Women's Empowerment, Gandhian Society founder Bhadra Butala, Save the Farmer Director Mahesh Wani, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and Chief Guest Satish Karndikar.

Padmshi Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Chief Guest Satish Karndikar expressed their admiration for World Vegan Vision and offered their support for future projects.

World Vegan Vision expresses its heartfelt gratitude towards President Kalindi Bakshi, VP Neetu Jindal, Avi Nash, Abha Devrajan, Kinjal Patel, Anil Narang, Geeta Fofandi, and the entire team for their exceptional efforts in organizing such a successful event. Their dedication and hard work made the event an unforgettable experience.

Public Relations Director Nitin Vyas, who coordinated the entire vegan Thanksgiving event, addressed the audience and shared his vegan journey. He also introduced the entire committee of the World Vegan Vision New Jersey chapter, including Medical Advisors Dr. Shrenik Shah and Dr. Moiz, who were unable to attend the event. Chairwoman Malti Shah silently supervised and guided the entire event.

**CONTD ON PAGE 36**

## Consul General Randhir Jaiswal given affectionate send off by Indian American community of New York



Mr. Prem Bhandari and Mr. KK Mehta (fourth from left) present a bouquet to Dr. Abha Jaiswal and Mr. Randhir Jaiswal. Ajay Patel is seen on extreme right.

NOVEMBER 26 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Indian American community of New York metropolitan area hosted a farewell reception for India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal who is proceeding to Delhi to take up the next assignment as the spokesperson of India's Ministry of External Affairs.

Prominent members of Jaipur Foot USA and Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) organized a reception on November 22 at the Indian consulate in New York.

Consul General Jaiswal in his speech

on the occasion emphasized on the need to involve Indian American youth in strengthening bilateral ties. Each one of you is a success story, and you're the actual ambassadors.

Prem Bhandari of Jaipur foot USA and a leading Indian American voice highlighted Mr. Jaiswal's immense contribution in various fields - from improving consular services provided by the mission to resolving various problems faced by the community on many fronts.

The sendoff was attended by a large number of community members.

## Ambassador Jaiswal bids farewell, promising to meet again - 'Phir Milenge'



A view of the gathering. Seen, among others, from L to R: Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, Dr. Abha Jaiswal (3rd from left), Vikas Khanna, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Harry Panaser, Ranju Batra, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Jagdish Sewhani

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

strengthening of relations between India and the US received his adulation. " As India grows by leaps and bounds we will count on your support to take us forward", he said.

He attributed his success in ensuring efficient services to the community to his colleagues at the Consulate who were committed to their work.

Ambassador Jaiswal thanked the gathering for their presence and said they would meet again (Phir Milenge) .



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# The contentious legacy of Henry Kissinger



BY VAPPALA  
BALACHANDRAN

Henry Alfred Kissinger, born on May 27, 1923, in Bavaria as Heinz Alfred Kissinger, was an intellectual giant. He was also a very controversial person. Seymour Hersh's *The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House* (1983) marked the beginning of the controversies surrounding him.

Since 2001, the Washington DC-based National Security Archive of the George Washington University (NSAGWU) had been making legal efforts to bring Kissinger's papers into the public domain. This was because Kissinger had removed the recorded telephone conversations and office files from the State Department when he left office in 1976. To obtain these, the NSAGWU had to file suits under the Freedom of Information Act against Kissinger, the US State Department and the US Government's National Archives and Record Administration.

On Kissinger's death on November 29, the NSAGWU published a 'declassified obituary' that highlighted his achievements, including détente with the USSR, the breakthrough with China and the West Asia shuttle diplomacy. The assessment also exposed his 'darker side', including the overthrow of democracy in Chile, which paved the way for a brutal dictatorship, his 'disdain for human rights and support for dirty and even genocidal wars abroad', the secret bombing in Southeast Asia and, finally, his involvement in the Richard Nixon administration's criminal abuses, including 'the secret wiretaps of his own top aides'.

The assessment was also based on the colossal number of papers that the NSAGWU managed to reveal, including 30,000 pages of daily transcripts of Kissinger's phone conversations, which he had secretly recorded and had made his secretaries transcribe. Most of these conversations were recorded without the other persons' permission since, as told to the NSAGWU by his aides, Kissinger wanted to remember "which lie he told to whom".

I feel that his China diplomacy stands out among his achievements. It took a lot of time for Nixon and Kissinger to realign a new policy towards Beijing after diplomatic reverses in that region consequent to the 1970 US invasion of Cambodia. Earlier efforts to open a dialogue had reached nowhere. In September 1970, Nixon asked Kissinger to make one more effort.

The opportunity came in October when Pakistan President Yahya Khan visited the US. Kissinger had tried through two more channels: one through Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and the other via his old friend WR Smyser, a former diplomat, who contacted 'J' (Jean) in Paris, who was friendly with the Chinese ambassador, a 'Long March' veteran.

Ultimately, only the Pakistan channel worked. That elevated its status among the most dependable US allies. On December 9, 1970, a message from Khan was received by Pakistan Ambassador Agha Hilaly in Washington DC. He read out this message to Kissinger, which also contained a message from Chinese premier Zhou Enlai, conveying their agreement to hold talks with US President Nixon.

Kissinger made his preparatory visit from July 9 to 11, 1971, through an elaborate subterfuge. First, he visited New Delhi on July 9; it did not go off very well. Not that it mattered to him since his destination was elsewhere. The same day, he reached Islamabad and complained of 'Delhi belly'. Yahya advised him to rest at the hill station of Nathia Gali near Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Instead, Kissinger secretly drove to Islamabad to board a PIA airplane for Beijing.

That was how the path-breaking initiative from Nixon had fructified. Pakistan had a great role in this. It is not that indirect US-China talks were not going on

**On Kissinger's death on November 29, the NSAGWU published a 'declassified obituary' that highlighted his achievements, including détente with the USSR, the breakthrough with China and the West Asia shuttle diplomacy. The assessment also exposed his 'darker side', including the overthrow of democracy in Chile, which paved the way for a brutal dictatorship, his 'disdain for human rights and support for dirty and even genocidal wars abroad', the secret bombing in Southeast Asia and, finally, his involvement in the Richard Nixon administration's criminal abuses, including 'the secret wiretaps of his own top aides'.**



New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani shows Kissinger the extent of the devastation at Ground Zero after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York on Oct. 2, 2001. (Credit / James Keivom-AP)

in the interregnum. Zhou mentioned to Kissinger on July 9 that their delegations had met 136 times during the last 16 years. However, there was no 'intention' to solve problems.

In Beijing, Kissinger spent 17 hours with Zhou in five meetings (July 9-11), not to mention another four hours in drafting minutes and communications. The transcripts of these meetings, running into 102 pages, indicate how forceful, blunt and deep the Chinese diplomatic bargaining was, even at that time when they were considered comparatively weak. In his report to Nixon, Kissinger said the meetings were "the most searching, sweeping and most significant discussions I have ever had in the government".

He wrote, according to declassified documents: "The Chinese treated the entire visit with elaborate correctness and courtesy. They were extremely tough on substance and ideological in their approach, but their dealings were meticulous; they concentrated on essentials; they eschewed invective and haggling over details."

The next day (July 10), Zhou bluntly suggested to Kissinger that the US should withdraw all armed forces from the Taiwan area and the Taiwan Strait, recognize China as the sole representative of the Chinese people, declare Taiwan as a part of China, affirm the 'One China' policy, and stop the State Department policy of saying that 'Taiwan's status is undetermined'.

India came in for criticism from both sides for being aggressive to Pakistan. Sympathies were with Yahya Khan and Pakistan. After this meeting, a separate secret channel was established through Gen Vernon Walters, US Military Attaché in Paris. Zhou's final words to Kissinger on July 11 were: "Please tell Yahya Khan that if India commits aggression, we will support Pakistan."

However, China did not help Pakistan in the 1971 war. The US subsequently put out an explanation that Kissinger had misinterpreted Zhou's remarks. What he meant was that China would not be an 'idle spectator'.

Nixon's visit to Beijing came during February 21-28, 1972. Again, we must depend upon the NSAGWU's efforts, 27 years after this epoch-making visit, to know how it happened. When one compares these declassified documents, it could be seen that much more was revealed by the NSAGWU than the accounts provided by Nixon and Kissinger in their memoirs.

It was during these talks that we came to know why the Chinese were so angry with Jawaharlal Nehru. On February 22, Zhou denounced Khrushchev for inciting Nehru to 'attack' China in 1962. He also blamed Khrushchev for allegedly misleading India that China would not hit back, thus emboldening Nehru to take on China.

(The author is a Former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India)



# Towards a Brighter Tomorrow: India's G20 Presidency and the Dawn of a New Multilateralism



BY NARENDRA MODI,  
PRIME MINISTER  
OF INDIA

**"AS INDIA COMPLETES THE G20 PRESIDENCY, PENNED A FEW THOUGHTS ON HOW THE PRINCIPLES OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM- ONEEARTH, ONE FAMILY, ONE FUTURE WERE REINFORCED IN VARIOUS WAYS THROUGH THE YEAR GONE BY. INDIA FOCUSED ON FURTHERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWERING WOMEN, STRENGTHENING MULTILATERALISM AND MORE". PRIME MINISTER MODI ON X ( FORMERLY TWITTER), NOVEMBER 30, 2023**

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Today marks 365 days since India assumed the G20 Presidency. It is a moment to reflect, recommit, and rejuvenate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

As we undertook this responsibility last year, the global landscape grappled with multifaceted challenges: recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, looming climate threats, financial instability, and debt distress in developing nations, all amid declining multilateralism. In the midst of conflicts and competition, development cooperation suffered, impeding progress.

Assuming the G20 Chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to status quo, a shift from a GDP-centric to human-centric progress. India aimed to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us. Finally, the global conversation had to evolve - the interests of the few had to give way to the aspirations of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

Inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive - these four words defined our approach as G20 president, and the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our presidency. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the G20 integrated 55 African nations into the forum, expanding it to encompass 80% of the global population. This proactive stance has fostered a more comprehensive dialogue on global challenges and opportunities. The first-of-its-kind 'Voice of the Global South Summit,' convened by India in two editions, heralded a new dawn of multilateralism. India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era where developing countries take their rightful place in shaping the global narrative.

Inclusivity also infused India's domestic approach to G20, making it a People's Presidency that befits that world's largest democracy. Through "Jan Bhagidari" (people's participation) events, G20 reached 1.4 billion citizens, involving all states and Union Territories (UTs) as partners. And on substantive elements, India ensured that international attention was directed to broader developmental aims, aligning with G20's mandate.

At the critical midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, India delivered the G20 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking a crosscutting, action-oriented approach to interconnected issues, including health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

A key area driving this progress is robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digilocker first-hand. Through G20,



The 18th G20 Summit was organised in New Delhi under the presidency of India.

Photo: X/@narendramodi

we successfully completed the Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. This repository, featuring over 50 DPIs from 16 countries, will help the Global South build, adopt, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

For our One Earth, we introduced ambitious and inclusive aims to create urgent, lasting, and equitable change. The Declaration's 'Green Development Pact' addresses the challenges of choosing between combating hunger and protecting the planet, by outlining a comprehensive roadmap where employment and ecosystems are complimentary, consumption is climate conscious, and production is planet-friendly.

In tandem, the G20 Declaration calls for an ambitious tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. Coupled with the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance and a concerted push for Green Hydrogen, the G20's ambitions to build a cleaner, greener world is undeniable. This has always been India's ethos, and through Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), the world can benefit from our age-old sustainable traditions.

Further, the Declaration underscores our commitment to climate justice and equity, urging substantial financial and technological support from the Global North.

For the first time, there was a recognition of the quantum jump needed in the magnitude of development financing, moving from billions to trillions of dollars. G20 acknowledged that developing countries require \$5.9 trillion to fulfil their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2030.

Given the monumental resources required, G20

emphasised the importance of better, larger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks. Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Security Council, that will ensure a more equitable global order.

Gender equality took centre stage in the Declaration, culminating in the formation of a dedicated Working Group on the Empowerment of Women next year. India's Women's Reservation Bill 2023, reserving one-third of India's Parliament and state legislative assembly seats for women epitomizes our commitment to women-led development.

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade, and ambitious climate action. It is a matter of pride that during our Presidency, G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents, a marked rise from the past.

During our G20 Presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development. Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians is unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero-tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war.

I am delighted that during our Presidency India achieved the extraordinary: it revitalised multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women, everywhere.

As we hand over the G20 Presidency to Brazil, we do so with the conviction that our collective steps for people, planet, peace, and prosperity, will resonate for years to come.

# Making this Israeli-Palestinian war the last

**THE ONLY LASTING SOLUTION IS FOR ISRAEL TO VACATE ITS OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND LET A VIABLE PALESTINIAN STATE EMERGE**



BY CHINMAYA R.  
GHAREKHAN

&



KARL F.  
INDERFURTH

**"To ensure Israel's legitimate concern for the safety of its people, the new state should be demilitarized. Other measures can be thought of to assure the Israelis of their safety. Israel's neighboring Arab states should all be engaged in this process. The Abraham Accords provide a foundation.**

**If Israel has the vision of living in harmony in the region with its Arab neighbors, this is the only way. When that happens, Iran will lose its proclaimed reason for its anti-Israel tirades; Hezbollah will, likewise, lose its most important plank for threatening Israel. For decades, Israeli-Palestinian relations have been locked in a never-ending cycle of death, destruction and misery. The war in Gaza is the latest iteration. It should be the last. The Middle East could, finally, enjoy stable peace and security."**

All wars end. The Israeli-Hamas war will also end. When and how are still to be determined. But doing so is urgent.

The United Nations says 1.3 million of the 2.3 million residents of the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip have been displaced, and almost half of all homes in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.

One outcome of a war is when both sides gain something of value to them. The Israeli-Hamas war is likely to end in that kind of scenario.

Israel will win in military terms, no doubt about that. But Hamas is likely to win in terms of a greatly increased following among Arab populations everywhere, including, especially, in the occupied West Bank.



The ravages of Gaza

The Palestine Authority, which has been ruling there for the past 30 years, has become vastly unpopular and corrupt. Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, the most moderate Palestine leader Israel could have ever hoped for, has failed singularly in making any progress towards the objective of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank. He is perceived as collaborating with Israel in its hunt for 'terrorists'. The peace process has long been dead.

#### 'RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE' AND THE REALITY

As United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has reminded the international community, the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, condemnable and despicable as it was, did not happen in a vacuum. Under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, Israel has the inherent right of self-defense. The same article lays down that after acting in self-defense, the state concerned must report the action taken by it to the UN Security Council (UNSC). This does not seem to have been done.

In any case, self-defense does not authorize the disproportionate or indiscriminate use of force against civilians. It has been reported that Gaza's rate of death during Israel's assault has few precedents in this century - almost 15,000, a majority of them women and children. This goes well beyond the prevailing customary law of self-defense.

The most important and troubling issue is: what happens when Hamas has been subdued? What takes its place? Some, including the U.S. President Joe Biden, have suggested that the Ramallah-based Palestine Authority should take over administering the Gaza Strip, once

the situation becomes ready for that. 'The rich Arab states', a phrase widely cited in the media, would be asked to finance the rebuilding of Gaza. The only problem is that the Palestinians, in Gaza as well as in West Bank, do not want the Palestine Authority led by Mr. Abbas to rule anywhere, let alone Gaza.

The only available option is to hold fresh elections, in Gaza as well as in the West Bank, under international supervision as and when the situation allows. The UN should be asked to deploy a peace-keeping contingent on the border between Gaza and Israel to ensure security for both. The suffocating blockade of Gaza would be lifted. Israel does not like the UN, and likes the UN Secretary-General even less. It should be remembered that it was the UN that gave birth and legitimacy to the insipient state of Israel. The U.S. will need to take the lead on this in the UNSC.

#### FEASIBILITY OF TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Meanwhile, the proposal for a two-state solution, long pushed aside, has come alive. Everyone seems to be repeating the two-state mantra.

#### BUT HOW FEASIBLE IS THE TWO-STATE CONCEPT TODAY?

The 1993 Oslo Accord envisaged Palestine to be based in the West Bank. Today, the West Bank is heavily populated by Israeli settlers, 4,50,000 at latest count. No Israeli government will succeed in persuading the settlers to return. Force would be required. The land is like Swiss cheese, having settler roads and innumerable settlements, with more planned. The current Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will never agree to a Palestinian state,

however truncated.

What is needed, as soon as conditions permit, is to have a reality check of the two-state proposal - what is feasible and what is not. Painful concessions will be required, including land swaps, and a monitoring mechanism established to hold each side to the commitments they make.

The only lasting solution is for Israel to vacate its occupation of the West Bank and let a viable Palestinian state emerge.

#### ABRAHAM ACCORDS ARE A FOUNDATION

To ensure Israel's legitimate concern for the safety of its people, the new state should be demilitarized. Other measures can be thought of to assure the Israelis of their safety. Israel's neighboring Arab states should all be engaged in this process. The Abraham Accords provide a foundation.

If Israel has the vision of living in harmony in the region with its Arab neighbors, this is the only way. When that happens, Iran will lose its proclaimed reason for its anti-Israel tirades; Hezbollah will, likewise, lose its most important plank for threatening Israel.

For decades, Israeli-Palestinian relations have been locked in a never-ending cycle of death, destruction and misery. The war in Gaza is the latest iteration. It should be the last. The Middle East could, finally, enjoy stable peace and security.

(Chinmaya R. Gharekhan served as India's Ambassador to the United Nations and as India's Special Envoy to the Middle East, 2005-09. Karl F. Inderfurth served as the United States Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations Security Council and was Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, 1997-



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## NATIONAL TAX SECURITY AWARENESS WEEK, DAY 4: SUMMIT PARTNERS URGE BUSINESSES TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT DATA LOSS, FRAUD



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** As part of National Tax Security Awareness Week, the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners, on November 30, urged businesses to remain vigilant against cyberattacks aimed at stealing their customer's personal information and other business data that can help identity thieves.

The IRS continues to see instances where small businesses and others face a variety of identity theft related schemes that try to obtain information that can be used to file fake business tax returns. For example, phishing schemes continue to target businesses as well as tax professionals and individual taxpayers. And businesses continue to be targets of Form W-2 scams where identity thieves try to trick company leaders into sharing sensitive data.

"Businesses of all shapes and sizes, including tax professionals, continue to be a ripe target for identity thieves trying to obtain sensitive tax and financial data," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "Businesses and their employees need to remain careful on multiple fronts to protect their sensitive systems and data. Identity thieves continue to use an array of tactics to try getting at a treasure trove of information that can be used in many ways, including filing tax returns."

During National Tax Security Awareness Week, now in its eighth year, the Security Summit partnership of the IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax community work to raise awareness among taxpayers, tax professionals and the business community about the importance of safeguarding information to protect against identity theft. The Security Summit was formed in 2015 to combat tax-related identity theft through better public-private sector coordination as well as strengthening internal protections in the tax community and raising public awareness about security threats.

With the tax season fast approaching, the Security Summit partners today reminded the business community and others to take extra steps to protect their financial and tax information.

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

# Henry Kissinger, secretary of state under Presidents Nixon and Ford, dies at 100

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, November 29, his consulting firm said, according to AP. He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding presence and behind-the-scenes manipulation of power, Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon



Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has died at 100

and Gerald Ford, earning both vilification and the Nobel Peace Prize. Decades later, his name still provoked

impassioned debate over foreign policy landmarks long past.

Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of Watergate, when the politically attuned diplomat assumed a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon.

"No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe."

(Read 'The Contentious Legacy of Henry Kissinger' on Page 8)

## US issued record 140K visas to Indian students last year: Official

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** As part of the Biden administration's endeavor to promote people-to-people ties with India, the US issued more than 1,40,000 visas to Indian students last year and is taking several steps to reduce visa appointment wait period.

In an interview to PTI, Julie Stufft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Visa Services, said US missions in India worked six, seven days a week to make sure that students could be interviewed before their classes started.

This year, the US made a huge effort to concentrate on the demand coming out of India, she said.

"We are really proud of what we have done in India this year. I think for the first time in history, we set a goal to issue one million visas in India and not only did we accomplish that, but it was done several months in advance. So, the number will go way beyond that.

"There are record-setting numbers this year for workers, crew members and students applying in India to come to the United States," she added.

Stufft further said, "We specifically made sure that we saw the students who were applying coming out of India. India is now the largest source country for foreign students in the United States, as well as many other visa categories. That's a very important one for us. We have also had a lot of cases where the interview was waived, so no interview for Indian travelers who have previously travelled and are now going back to the US."

Last year, the US issued a record over 1,40,000 visas to Indian students, she said.

"For students who are applying in India, I would say the biggest thing is that the missions there have worked six, seven days a week to interview students to make sure that everyone can be interviewed before their classes start. The amount of effort and importance that we place on Indian students coming to the US is born out in



In an interview to PTI, Julie Stufft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Visa Services, said US missions in India worked six, seven days a week to make sure that students could be interviewed before their classes started

the visa process. We want to make sure everyone has that chance," she said.

The US, Stufft said, is working on taking several steps to reduce the visa appointment wait time in India, which is still a bit high.

"I hope it will be (coming down) this year, meaning this fiscal year for us. But we are sending huge numbers of officers to India to manage the wait time and move them around the country as needed. I mean, it has gotten much better but it still needs to come down quite a bit," she said.

"We had a state visit recently. Everyone from the president of course, to Ambassador (Eric) Garcetti and the secretary of state is so committed to making sure that the people-to-people ties between our two countries expand. We are carrying that out in the visa process. So, we really expect more innovations and a much quicker process in the future," Stufft told PTI.

The State Department official said anyone who is interested in travelling to the US for any reason should apply as soon as possible.

"If you are travelling for work-related

reasons, there's another special avenue to use. There is a special channel to use so that business-related visas are also prioritized. Bear with us, I would say as we get through this.

"India is unique because it represents the highest number of visas in several categories. Not just visitors, not just students, not just maritime crew members but highly skilled work. I mean, it is a tremendous demand across the board for us. So, our priority is to get all of those wait times down," she said.

During a media round table with a group of foreign journalists organized by the Foreign Press Centre, Stufft said the US has issued more than 10.5 million visas in 2023 so far, which is 2 million more than what it had anticipated and is almost hitting the highest-ever level at its overseas missions.

"Half of our overseas missions set their own record for that country for adjudications of visas in that country. We set records for visa adjudication, for work visas and for student visas as well in some (other) categories," she said.

For 2024, the US is still working very hard on reducing wait times, Stufft said.

"In some overseas locations, we still have very high wait times, some exceeding a year still for one category of visa, which is a first-time visitor, someone who needs an interview for their visa.

"All other categories have low wait times globally, but we are very focused on the first-time visitor interview wait times and what's very interesting to us is that many of the places where we have set records for visa production this year are the same places where we still have really high wait times. This just indicates a very high level of demand and we are going to use this year to really get control of that in these five or six places with very high wait times," she said.

(Source: PTI)

# Nikki Haley bags big endorsement from PAC backed by powerful Koch brothers

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Nikki Haley received a big boost towards her presidential ambition as she landed an endorsement from powerful conservative money bags Koch brother-backed American for Prosperity network.

The influential Americans for Prosperity super-PAC on Tuesday said it is endorsing Haley, 51, for president and she is best positioned to beat former president Donald Trump in the primary elections and incumbent President Joe Biden in the 2024 presidential elections.

"AFP Action is proud to throw our full support behind Nikki Haley, who offers America the opportunity to turn the page on the current political era, to win the Republican primary and defeat Joe Biden next November. Haley will have the full weight and scope of AFP Action's unmatched grassroots army and resources to help her earn the support of Americans to become the next President of the United States of America," said Emily Seidel, senior adviser of the group, in a memo.

In a statement, Haley said, "I am honored to have the support of Americans for Prosperity Action, including its millions of grassroots members all across the country." "AFP Action's members know that there is too much at stake in this election to sit on the sidelines. This is a choice between freedom and socialism, individual liberty and big government, fiscal responsibility and spiraling debt. We have a country to save, and I am grateful to have AFP Action by our side," the Republican presidential candidate said.

Notably, Trump continues to be the leading candidate by far in all the

opinion polls among Republican primary voters. However, in several opinion polls, Haley, a two-term former governor of South Carolina and former US Ambassador to the UN, is seen defeating Biden in a hypothetical poll.

"AFP Action's endorsement will put thousands of AFP Action activists and grassroots leaders into the field - with a focus on the early primary states - knocking on doors and urging voters to support Nikki Haley. Additionally, in the coming days, we will launch extensive mail, digital, and connected television campaigns to supplement those on-the-ground efforts," the memo said.

It said Haley has a long track record of empowering people with more freedom and opportunity and supporting policies that favor competition over control.

"As Governor, Haley's work to expand education opportunities, improve access and lower costs in our healthcare system, and protect freedom and flexibility in our workforce shows she shares our belief that the solutions to our most pressing challenges lie in free people - not heavy-handed government. While we don't agree with anyone on every issue, Nikki Haley, by far, offers the best opportunity to improve the lives of all Americans," the memo said.

"The foremost challenge confronting our nation, affecting every American, is the economy. Nikki Haley presents a bold and robust strategy to tackle the inflation that is making everything more expensive for American families - addressing the out-of-control government spending and simplifying the tax code to benefit the American people rather than special interests. Simultaneously, she has the courage to advocate for reforms to an entitlement

system that makes promises it can't keep," it added.

Seidel said up until this point there have been several candidates that could lead the country forward but their data has now pointed towards Haley as someone who could both lead and win.

"As voters have gotten to know more about her, her favorable ratings, as well as her ballot share, has only increased," AFP senior adviser Michael Palmer told reporters.

"In these early states and then particularly going into South Carolina and Super Tuesday, it is much easier to define or to craft a narrative around a blank slate which people don't know about versus a book that's already written, which is the case with Donald Trump and also the case to a certain extent with Governor DeSantis," Palmer said.

According to The Washington Post, Haley has gained momentum in the Republican primary and has in many ways surpassed Florida Governor Ron DeSantis as the top alternative to Trump.

"She is pitching herself as the most capable general election candidate, with some polls showing her outperforming rivals against President Biden," The Daily reported.

The rival DeSantis campaign described AFP's decision as an endorsement of Trump.

"Every dollar spent on Nikki Haley's candidacy should be reported as an in-kind to the Trump campaign. No one has a stronger record of beating the establishment than Ron DeSantis, and this time will be no different," DeSantis spokesman Andrew Romeo said in a statement.

Former New Jersey governor and GOP



Nikki Haley

File photo

presidential aspirant Chris Christie said he doesn't think voters in Iowa and New Hampshire are going to give a darn who the Koch brothers support.

"They are going to decide who they want to support by listening to us on the ground, in their living rooms, in their schools, in their cafeterias, where we're all campaigning regularly," he told Fox News in an interview.

In a statement, Democratic National Committee national press secretary Sarafina Chitika said it is no surprise that the Koch network, architects of Trump's MAGAnomics agenda, found their match in Haley, who checks all of their boxes - slashing taxes for the ultra-wealthy, gutting social security and Medicare, and ripping healthcare away from millions of Americans.

(Source: PTI)

## 'Good, appropriate': US on India setting up high-level probe in alleged murder attempt on Sikh separatist



"These allegations in this investigation, (we) take it very seriously." John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, told reporters at a news conference

DECEMBER 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US has welcomed as "good and appropriate" India's decision to announce a high-level probe into its allegations that an Indian official was involved in a foiled plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on American soil and said it is looking

forward to seeing the results.

US federal prosecutors on Wednesday, November 29, charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Sikh extremist who is an American and Canadian citizen.

An unnamed Indian official appeared in an indictment filed by US federal prosecutors in a Manhattan court on Wednesday along with the Indian national, who the Department of Justice alleges hired someone in the US to assassinate Pannun.

India on Thursday described as a "matter of concern" the US charging the Indian national with conspiring to kill the Sikh separatist, and asserted that a high-level probe committee will investigate all aspects of the case.

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

## US to launch domestic work visa renewal programme in December, Indians to benefit most: Official

NOVEMBER 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States is set to begin a pilot programme for domestic renewal of certain categories of H-1B visas in December, a step that will benefit a significantly large number of Indian technology professionals, a US official has said. This comes months after the White House announced the plan during the state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June.

In an interview to PTI, Julie Stuft, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Visa Services, said, "In India, the demand (for US visas) is still very high. The wait time of six, eight and 12 months is not what we need and (it is) not indicative of how we view India."

"We want to make sure that Indian travelers can get appointments as quickly as possible. One way we are



The United States is set to begin a pilot programme for domestic renewal of certain categories of H-1B visas in December  
Photo for representation only

doing that is through the domestic visa renewal programme, which is focused very much on India. We are piloting that," she said. Over a period of three months, beginning December, the State Department will be issuing 20,000 visas to foreign nationals who are already inside the country.

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

## 15 private schools in Bengaluru receive bomb threat, students evacuated from premises safely

At least 15 private schools in Bengaluru on Friday morning received an email with a bomb threat on its premises, triggering panic among the staff and parents, police said.

The school authorities immediately alerted police, which reached the institutions concerned with the bomb disposal squads and anti-sabotage check teams, they said.

The students and staff were immediately evacuated from the school premises, police said, adding no suspicious objects have been found yet.

As soon as parents got to know about the incident, they rushed to schools in panic to get their children back home safely.

"The email claimed that explosives had been planted on school premises. We received a call from the command centre and immediately rushed our teams to schools which are located in different parts of the city. All students and staff have been safely evacuated from the school premises and a thorough search operation is being carried out," a senior police officer said. So far, nothing suspicious has been found yet and prima facie looks like it's a hoax message. Parents need not panic, our teams are on the ground, he said. Last year also, some miscreants sent such emails claiming about a bomb threat to schools in Bengaluru, which later turned out to be a hoax message, police said.

## Centre approves Rs 1,658 cr recovery, reconstruction plan for Joshimath

The Centre on Thursday, Nov 30, approved a Rs 1,658.17 crore recovery and reconstruction plan for Joshimath in Uttarakhand which was affected by landslide and ground subsidence earlier this year.

The decision was taken by a high level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, according to an official statement. The committee approved the Recovery and Reconstruction (R&R) plan of Rs 1,658.17 crore for Joshimath, the statement said.

Under this plan, Rs 1,079.96 crore of central assistance will be provided from the recovery and reconstruction window of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

The Uttarakhand government will provide Rs 126.41 crore from its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) towards relief assistance and Rs 451.80 crore from its state budget, including land acquisition cost for resettlement of Rs 91.82 crore.

Joshimath was hit by landslide and ground subsidence and the central government has extended all necessary technical and logistical support to the state, the statement said.

## 5-STATE ELECTIONS

# Cong edge in Chhattisgarh, Telangana; BJP ahead in Rajasthan; close call in MP, Mizoram: Exit polls

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A cliffhanger in Chhattisgarh with an edge for the Congress. A fierce battle in Madhya Pradesh with two surveys predicting a landslide for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). A closer-than-expected clash in Rajasthan, which has voted out the incumbent every time in the last 25 years. A neck-and-neck contest in Telangana between the challenger Congress and the incumbent Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). And a hung assembly in Mizoram with a regional outfit likely emerging as kingmaker.

These were the broad takeaways from a clutch of exit polls released on Thursday, Nov 30, after the close of the five-state assembly elections that are widely seen as a virtual semi-final for the Lok Sabha polls scheduled to be held next summer. The results will be announced on Sunday, Dec 3.

The exit polls largely converged on the outcomes in Telangana and Chhattisgarh but varied wildly in the crucial heartland states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Mizoram, the polls predicted that the battle was largely between the ruling Mizo National Front and the Zoram People's Movement, with the Congress likely a distant third.

The outcome of the polls in five states — the last major electoral exercise before 2024 — will have significant impact on both the political narratives in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls. It will also shape the dynamics with the 28-party Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), which was forged just weeks before the polls were announced.

Three of the five states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — also featured bipolar contests between the BJP and the Congress, presenting an opportunity to test the strengths of the two national parties that will go head to head in nearly a third of all Lok Sabha seats next year.

In Madhya Pradesh, the largest state to go to the polls, a majority of exit polls predicted an intense battle between the ruling BJP and the Congress — two gave the edge to the Congress, one to the BJP and two forecast a dead heat. But two other prominent surveys — IndiaToday-AxisMyIndia and Today's Chanakya-News 24 were the outliers, predicting a sweep for the BJP and a decimation for the Congress.

The BJP has ruled the state for 18 of the last 20 years, and the party fielded a bevy of senior ministers and parliamentarians, in addition to talking about its welfare outreach and chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's image. The Congress had focussed on anti-incumbency and corruption allegations against Chouhan.

Soon after the exit polls, Chouhan said the results of the elections will be "unexpected and unprecedented". "I said this at a lot of places that the kind of support we are getting from women of



Women line up to vote in Hyderabad on Thursday, November 30. PTI

our state, the results will be unexpected and unprecedented. I had said that the way we were getting love of sisters and daughters, the result would be unprecedented. We will win handsomely," he said.

In neighbouring Rajasthan, where chief minister Ashok Gehlot was attempting to buck the state's political tradition, a majority of exit polls predicted that the BJP was coming back to power with anywhere between a narrow and a comfortable majority. But IndiaToday-AxisMyIndia and Today's Chanakya-News 24 both predicted a squeaker with the Congress marginally ahead.

The Congress had banked on the Gehlot government's welfare agenda and a public rapprochement between the CM and his former deputy, senior leader Sachin Pilot. The BJP, on the other hand, was dependent on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and anti-incumbency.

Congress leader Mahesh Joshi said, "I am a confident that Congress will retain the government in Rajasthan as there is pro-incumbency for the government. We will get clear mandate and form the government. We have served the people of Rajasthan with commitment. Our budget focused on people development."

The BJP, however, appeared confident of wresting power from the Congress. Party MLA Vasudev Devnani said, "The exit polls made it clear that the BJP is going to form a government with full majority. The result of five out of seven exit polls came in our favour. This is the victory of Rajasthan and its public. Congress might keep their hope alive over the result of the one exit poll. But I can assure that the BJP will achieve an even better result in the final counting day on Dec 3."

In Chhattisgarh, where the Congress trounced the BJP in a landslide in 2018, the contest was seen as more evenly poised. Five exit polls predicted a furious fight between the two national parties with the Congress inching ahead. Three others forecast that chief minister Bhupesh Baghel was comfortably set for a second straight term.

In the tribal-dominated state, the Congress had campaigned on its paddy procurement scheme and other welfare programmes, with the BJP attacking Baghel over corruption allegations. Reacting to Thursday's exit polls, Congress leader and Chhattisgarh deputy CM TS Singhdeo said, "Exit polls is the guess work by television channels. I always take them with a pinch of salt. I am confident of overwhelming Congress win. Let's wait for the results on December 3."

In Telangana, the only southern state to go to the polls in this round, every exit poll predicted that the Congress — which created the province while it was in power at the Centre in 2014 — was set to displace the BRS that has ruled the state since its inception. Three exit polls even said that the Congress would get a simple majority of its own while others predicted that it will likely emerge as the single-largest party.

The Congress, which was decimated in the 2018 polls and ended up around 20 percentage points in vote share behind the BRS, ran an energetic campaign led by state unit chief Revanth Reddy who attacked the BRS over corruption and anti-incumbency. Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, on the other hand, underlined his welfare outreach and the raft of schemes that the state government operationalised over the last decade.

## 'Like brothers': Rescued Indian tunnel workers stayed hopeful through ordeal

Hope that they would be rescued soon kept workers trapped in a collapsed tunnel in India strong through their 17-day ordeal, some of the men said on Wednesday, Nov 28, after their rescue.

All 41 men, low-wage workers from some of India's poorest states, were rescued. They were taken to a specialist hospital in Rishikesh city after spending the night at a makeshift medical facility in this small Himalayan town.

The men had lights in their confinement area and service pipes were used to push in oxygen, water, food, medicines and also to talk to them, and allow them to speak to their families.

They went for daily walks and did yoga in the 2-km (1-mile) stretch of the highway tunnel in which they were trapped.

But many said knowing they were not forgotten, and would be soon pulled out, was what really kept them hopeful and strong.

"For the first day or so, everyone inside was very hopeless and sad," worker Birendra Kishku, 39, told Reuters. "We didn't know if anyone outside knew we were trapped."

"But when they reached us through the pipe, we got to know what the government was doing to bring us out," he added. "Me, my family and our entire village is very happy now."

### RESCUE CLINCHED BY 'RAT MINERS'

Government agencies managing the crisis had Nov 27 on turned to "rat miners" to drill through the rocks and gravel by hand from inside the evacuation pipe pushed through the debris after machinery failed.

The miners are experts at a primitive, hazardous and controversial method used mostly to get at coal deposits through narrow passages, and get their name because they resemble burrowing rats. The miners, brought from central India, worked through Monday night and finally broke through the estimated 60-metres of rocks, earth and metal on Tuesday afternoon.

"There was probably no government department that was not involved, there was practically an all-of-government approach ... unlike any in the past," said Syed Ata Hasnain, a member of the National Disaster Management Authority which oversaw the rescue.

The tunnel is part of the \$1.5 billion Char Dham highway, one of Modi's most ambitious projects, aimed at connecting four Hindu pilgrimage sites through an 890-km network of roads.

Authorities have not said what caused the cave-in but the region is prone to landslides, earthquakes and floods.

The tunnel did not have an emergency exit and was built through a geological fault, a member of a panel of experts investigating the disaster has told Reuters.

# Rising ambitions on climate action must see matching progress on climate finance: Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for ensuring requisite climate financing and technological transfer to developing countries, asserting that it must be recognised that they have not contributed in creating the climate problem but are still willing to be a part of the solution.

In Dubai to attend the COP28 meeting, Modi told the UAE-based Aletihad in an interview that he has always maintained that climate change is a collective challenge that demands a unified global response.

Rising ambitions on climate action must see matching progress on climate finance, he asserted.

India, he said, is optimistic that the meeting will inject fresh momentum into effective climate action.

He expressed hope that COP28 would bring fresh impetus to effective climate action and international cooperation in advancing the goals of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

"India and the UAE stand as partners in shaping a greener and more prosperous future, and we remain steadfast in our joint efforts to influence the global discourse on climate action," he said.

Speaking on the Indo-UAE ties, he said their partnership in climate action is going from strength to strength, driven by a futuristic vision.

India and the UAE enjoy robust and enduring relations and can join forces in establishing a common grid to enhance energy security, leveraging each other's strengths in the energy sector and providing support to the International Solar Alliance's Global Solar Facility, Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by officials upon his arrival to attend World Climate Action Summit during COP28, in Dubai, early Friday, Dec 1. PTI

told the newspaper:

"India and the UAE stand as partners in shaping a greener and more prosperous future, and we remain steadfast in our joint efforts to influence the global discourse on climate action," he said. It is his sixth visit to the UAE since becoming prime minister in 2014. As countries that share a vision of promoting sustainability and renewable energy, India and the UAE have emerged as leaders in global renewable energy efforts, he said, commending the UAE's unwavering commitment to climate action within the renewable energy sector.

On climate finance, often a sticking point during climate talks, Modi said he has always maintained that it is a collective challenge that demands a unified global response.

"It is essential to recognise that

developing countries have not contributed in the creation of the problem. Yet developing countries are willing to be a part of the solution," the prime minister said.

"But, they cannot contribute without access to the financing and technology needed... I have, therefore, advocated strongly for global cooperation for ensuring requisite climate financing and technology transfer," he said, stressing the importance of ensuring that climate financing flows to the developing world in a practical and assured manner.

He added, "I believe climate action must be based on equity, climate justice, shared obligations and shared capacities. By adhering to these principles, we can forge a path toward a sustainable future that leaves no one behind." *Source: PTI*

## India to get more fighter jets as defence panel clears massive deal

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a big boost for the military as well as defence production in India, the Defence Acquisition Council has cleared the procurement of 97 additional Tejas aircraft and 156 Prachand attack helicopters. Both aircraft are indigenously developed and the value of these deals is around Rs 1.1 lakh crore.

The Tejas Mark 1-A fighters are being acquired for the Indian Air Force and the choppers for the Air Force and the Army. Additional deals, including for anti-ship missiles and towed gun systems, have also been approved, taking the total value to Rs 2.23 lakh crore.

Rs 2.2 lakh crore, or 98% of the total amount, will be sourced from domestic industries. This will not only give a massive leg up to 'aatmanirbharta' in defence but also create jobs over the long run.

This is the largest order book that indigenous manufacturers have received in India's history. What has been granted now, however, is an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) and contract negotiations will take place with manufacturers after that. This will take time, but the period may be far shorter than it would have been if foreign manufacturers were involved.

Once a final price is negotiated, the last sign-off will be done by the Cabinet Committee on Security. The final induction into the military may take at least 10 years.

A major upgrade of the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI was also cleared



by the council, under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday. The IAF has over 260 Su-30 aircraft and the upgrade is expected to be an indigenous one, with India-developed radars, avionics and subsystems. Around 84 aircraft are expected to be upgraded initially.

The Council also approved the replacement of the Indian field gun, which has completed its service life, with a state-of-the-art towed gun system. Towed gun systems are not only more mobile but also have longer barrels, and thus a longer firing range.

# India in history this Week

## DECEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 7

### 01 DECEMBER

1962 Major Shaitan Singh, who was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, for playing an important role in the India-China war, was born.

1963 Nagaland became the 16th state of India.

1965 The Border Security Force was established.

1933 Air service started between Calcutta and Dhaka.

2006 Nepal approved the new national anthem, which does not even have the name of the king.

1990 The sister of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the female freedom fighter Vijayalakshmi Pandit died.

1974 Sucheta Kripalani, the Indian freedom fighter and the first woman Chief Minister of India (Uttar Pradesh), passed away.



### 02 DECEMBER

1911 Gateway of India was built in memory of his arrival at Bombay (now Mumbai), the first king of Britain to visit India, George V and Queen Mary.



1918 Gurudas Banerjee, the leading educationist and the first Indian Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, died.

1942 Sri Aurobindo Ashram School was established in Pondicherry (now Puducherry), which was later known as Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education.

1999 Private sector investment was approved in the insurance sector in India.

1937 Renowned politician, former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi was born.

1918 India's leading educationist Gurudas Banerjee passed away

1989 Vishwanath Pratap Singh became the seventh Prime Minister of the country.

### 03 DECEMBER

1844 The first President of the country Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born.

1796 Baji Rao II was made the Peshwa of the

Maratha Empire. He was the last Peshwa of the Maratha Empire.

1889 Revolutionary Khudiram Bose was born in the independence movement.

1915 A magnitude 6.5 earthquake in Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh killed 170 people and destroyed many homes.

1971 The Emergency came into force in the country after the war between India and Pakistan started.

1979 Hockey magician Major Dhyanchand Singh died.

2004 India and Pakistan agreed to restore rail connectivity between Munabav and Khokhrapar after 40 years.

2011 Film actor Dev Anand died.



1984 Leaking toxic gas from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal killed at least 3000 people and caused several thousands of physical deformities.

1959 India and Nepal signed the agreement of Gandak Irrigation and Power Project.

1967 India's first rocket (Rohini RH 75) was launched from Thumba.

2008 Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh resigned from his post on the day after the terrorist incident of 23 November in Mumbai.

### 04 DECEMBER

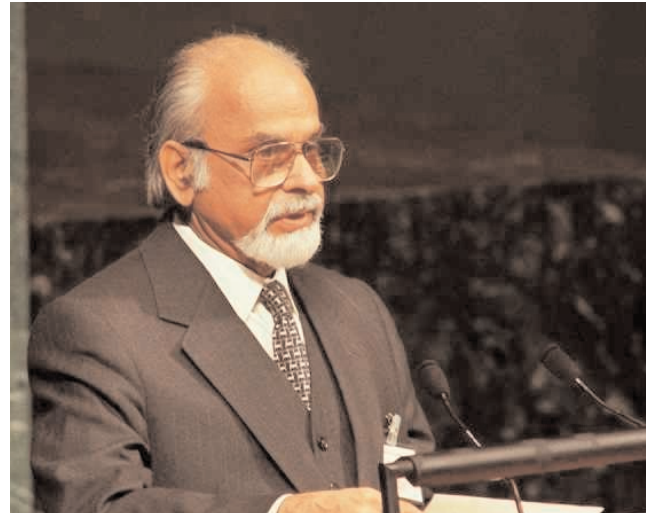
2008 Renowned historian Romila Thapar was chosen for the Cluj honor.

1888 Birth of historian Ramesh Chandra Majumdar.

1860 Agustino Lawrenceo of Margao, Goa, received a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Paris. He became the first Indian to pursue a doctorate from a foreign university.

1899 For the first time, the vaccine of typhoid was used to protect humans from this disease.

1919 The twelfth Prime Minister of India, Indra Kumar Gujral was born.



1910 Ramaswamy Venkataraman, the eighth president of India, was born.

1971 The Indian Navy attacked the Pakistani Navy and Karachi.

### 05 DECEMBER

1955 The STD service that provides long distance telephone calls to every home came into existence on this day in 1955.

1971 India recognized Bangladesh as a country.

1895 The birth of Josh Malihabadi, the famous Urdu poet of India and Pakistan.

1941 Famous Indian female painter Amrita Shergill died in Lahore. Many of his artworks were appreciated worldwide.

1969 The birth of Anjali Bhagwat, the famous shooter who has illuminated the name of India in the world in shooting.

1998 Russia agrees to give 'Krivak class' multi-purpose warship to Indian Navy.



1999 Yukta Mukhi took the title of Miss World to her name.

1657 Shah Jahan's younger son Murad proclaimed himself king.

1943 Japanese airplane bombed Kolkata.

1950 Freedom fighter, poet, yogi and philosopher Arvind Ghosh died in Puducherry.

1950 Sikkim became a protected state of India.

### 06 DECEMBER

1732 Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of the East India Company, was born.

1907 The first incident of dacoity related to India's freedom struggle took place at Chingariporta railway station.

1992 Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished by Hindu kar sevaks. After this, riots broke out in many states of India.

1907 The first incident of dacoity related to India's freedom struggle took place at Chingariporta railway station.

1956 Bahujan political leader and constitution builder Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar died.

1987 MiG-29 joined the Indian Air Force, renamed 'Baz'.

### 07 DECEMBER

1949 Indian Armed Forces Flag Day is celebrated.

1782 Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore died.

1825 The first steam-powered ship 'Enterprise' reached Kolkata.

1856 The 'Hindu widow' was officially married for the first time in the country.

1995 India launched communication satellite INSAT-2C.

2003 Raman Singh holds the post of Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh.

2008 Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh won the Japan Tour title.

2016 Famous Indian actor, comedian, political satirist, playwright, film director and advocate Cho Ramaswamy passed away.





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# CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH MAGIC, STORY TELLING AND SONG AT NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

Do you want to hear stories that amaze, befuddle and generally delight you?



Neil Gaiman

Credit / NJPAC

NEIL GAIMAN, masterful storyteller, will enthrall you with tales and personal anecdotes. Far more than just a science fiction and fantasy novelist, Neil Gaiman's storytelling prowess has taken the world by storm, and it appears that he is far from finished. Enjoy an evening of his unique company as he takes to the stage at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, December 3rd at 3 p.m.

Having published over 20 novels including the hit best-seller 'American Gods,' 'Coraline,' 'Neverwhere,' and 'Stardust,' he is also celebrated for creating the graphic novel series 'Sandman,' winning praise from the horror king himself, Stephen King. Expect an evening in his company to illuminate and inspire as he talks about his works, past, present, and future.

Staggeringly prolific across genres and media, his celebrated body of work includes the comic book series

'The Sandman' and novels 'American Gods,' 'Coraline,' 'The Graveyard Book' and 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane.' He'll tell stories and read stories, answer questions, and, in his own words, "amaze, befuddle and generally delight. It will be fun and odd and not like any other evening with Neil Gaiman."

"He's heaped with sci-fi and horror prizes-the Hugo, the Nebula, the Bram Stoker-but also with children's prizes, the Newbery and more. He's a literary rock star who also takes the stage-and mines our deep, dark veins." NPR

## TICKETS

For Tickets to see Neil Gaiman, visit [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey or call 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## THE ILLUSIONISTS



The Illusionists

Credit / NJPAC

The entire family is invited to witness 'THE ILLUSIONISTS - MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS,' a mind-blowing spectacle featuring the jaw-dropping talents of the most incredible illusionists on

earth. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Thursday, December 7th 2023 at 8 p.m.

'THE ILLUSIONISTS - LIVE FROM BROADWAY' is produced by Simon Painter, Tim Lawson and MagicSpace Entertainment. Conceived by Simon Painter, the show's creative team also includes executive producer Tim Lawson, director Neil Dorward and creative director Jim Millan. Full of hilarious magic tricks, death-defying stunts and acts of breathtaking wonder, THE ILLUSIONISTS has shattered box office records worldwide and thrilled audiences of all ages with a mind-blowing spectacular showcasing the jaw-dropping talents of seven of the most incredible illusionists on earth.

## TICKETS

Tickets to see 'The Illusionists' are available by visiting [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey or calling 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## PATTI LABELLE



Patti LaBelle with guest Leela James

Credit / NJPAC

The "Godmother of Soul," two-time Grammy Award winning American singer, author and actress Patti LaBelle, one of contemporary music's living legends, honors the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Patti LaBelle has spent over 50 years in the music industry. LaBelle spent 16 years as lead singer of Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, who changed their name to Labelle in the early 1970s and released the iconic disco song, 'Lady Marmalade.' LaBelle's solo career includes the hits 'On My Own,' 'If You Asked Me To,' 'Stir It Up,' and 'New Attitude' and R&B ballads such as 'You Are My Friend,' 'If Only You Knew' and 'Love, Need and Want You.'

LaBelle has sold over 50 million records worldwide and has been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame,

the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Apollo Hall of Fame and was included on Rolling Stone's list of '100 Greatest Singers'.

Patti LaBelle will be accompanied by special guest Leela James. The R&B singer-songwriter's husky, soulful sound has earned her accolades and audiences around the globe.

## TICKETS

Tickets to see Patti LaBelle and Leela James can be purchased at ([njpac.org/event/patti-labelle](http://njpac.org/event/patti-labelle)) or by visiting the NJPAC Box Office or by calling 888. G.O.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, which have reached almost 2 million children, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more

than 10 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

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Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

## DIRECTIONS & PARKING

For directions to NJPAC and Parking availability, visit

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

# ENJOY ECLECTIC EVENTS AT MPAC THIS HOLIDAY

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience the magic of the holidays with the below events.....

## A Magical Cirque Christmas

Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 3 pm and 8 pm

Embrace the holiday spirit with 'A Magical Cirque Christmas,' a variety show full of nostalgia, charm, and awe-inspiring performances for all ages. Get ready to be dazzled, enchanted, and filled with holiday cheer as you witness the incredible talents of world-class entertainers performing to your favorite holiday music. Celebrate the magic of the season with the entire family!

## LIMITED TICKETS

### Cat Kid Comic Club The Musical

Monday, December 4, 2023 at 4 pm (Sensory Friendly)

This madcap musical based on Dav Pilkey's ('Captain Underpants,' 'Dogman') irreverently hilarious book series finds Cat Kid and Molly Pollywog starting an epic club to teach 21 rambunctious baby frogs how to make their own comics, flipping out their fishy father Flippy in the process!

### Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox -- Life in the Past Lane Tour

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Everything new is old again when you take a road trip to experience 'Life in The Past Lane!' Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox's new show blends modern-day earworms and iconic pop hits with the original styles that put American popular music on the map: Ragtime, swing, big band, country/western, doo wop and soul. Dressing in vintage attire is encouraged!

### Il Divo: A New Day Holiday Tour

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm

The international, chart-topping supergroup Il Divo debuted in 2004 with instant success. With songs in four languages, their debut album became a worldwide chart-topping sensation. The group has gone on to be a leader in their unique pop-opera genre, achieving second-to-none success with sales of over 30 million records.

### The Temptations and The Four Tops

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:30 pm



The Nutcracker

Credit / MPAC

Two legendary supergroups - together again! From 'Baby, I Need Your Loving' to 'My Girl,' enjoy an evening full of your favorite Motown memories from two classic 1960s hitmakers.

### The Irish Tenors -- 25th Anniversary: A Family Christmas

Starring Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 8 pm

The Irish Tenors -- Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Declan Kelly -- have been the acknowledged Celtic music kings since they burst upon the scene. The Irish Tenors create a concert experience that touches hearts and stirs the emotions, featuring happy songs of celebration and humor, mixed with touching melodies and songs that warm the heart.

### Girl Named Tom - One More Christmas Tour

Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 7 pm

Celebrate the holidays with the 2021 winner of 'The Voice,' performing music from their album, 'One More Christmas,' and other favorites! The sound of 'Girl Named Tom' is built on the heartfelt voice of Bekah Grace and her two brothers' beautiful sibling harmony. Their homegrown style combines the classics (Joni Mitchell; Crosby, Stills & Nash) with pop artists of today (Taylor Swift, Harry Styles, Adriaenne Lenker) and their own original material, including their recent single, 'What a View.'



The Nutcracker

Credit / MPAC

### New Jersey Ballet's Nutcracker

With New Jersey Symphony

December 15-December 27, 2023

New Jersey Ballet's beloved annual tradition enchants youngsters and grown-ups alike with splendid dancing, eye-popping special effects and a touch of holiday magic, set to Tchaikovsky's iconic score performed live by New Jersey Symphony.

All Programs are Subject to Change.

## THE MAYO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (MPAC)

MPAC presents a wide range of programs that entertain, enrich, and educate the diverse population of the region and enhance the economic vitality of Northern New Jersey. MPAC was named the 2016 Outstanding Historic Theatre by the League of Historic American Theatres, and is ranked in the top 50 mid-sized performing arts centers by Pollstar Magazine.

## CONNECT WITH MPAC

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# FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY CONCERT FROM NJYS

BY MABEL PAIS



Clockwise (from top) : NJYS, Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Conductor  
Gregory O. Williams, Nicolette Corrado

Credit / Wharton Arts

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) presents a family-friendly 'All that Jazz!' Holiday Concert on

Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 p.m. at the Margaret Williams Theatre at New Jersey City University, 2039 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Jersey City, NJ 07305.

On this enchanting music-filled journey, the award-winning NJYS Youth Symphony led by Helen H. Cha-Pyo will bring the magic of Tchaikovsky's 'Nutcracker Suite' to life. The NJYS Jazz Orchestra with Guest Conductor Gregory O. Williams will jazz up everyone's favorite holiday classics with works including 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,' 'Joy to the World,' and 'Silent Night' featuring vocalist Nicolette Corrado, as well as the music of Duke Ellington in celebration of his 125th birthday. In addition, the NJYS Youth Symphony will perform Jeff Tyzik's festive creations, 'Christmas Overture' and 'Chanukah Suite,' along with a nostalgic performance of J.S. Bach's 'Jesu,' 'Joy of Man's Desiring,' a piece performed on NJYS' inaugural concert in December 1979 and commemorates the orchestra's 45th anniversary season.

"As we embrace the spirit of the season in our 'All that Jazz!' Holiday Concert, I invite you to join the talented young musicians of the New Jersey Youth

Symphony and Jazz Orchestra for a delightful hour of captivating musical performances," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. "This concert promises a warm welcome to music lovers of all ages, so gather your family and friends for a festive concert of holiday melodies to uplift your spirits. We're particularly thrilled to present this performance at New Jersey City University for the first time, adding an extra layer of excitement to this joyous occasion."

## TICKETS

For more Information and Tickets, visit [NJYS.org](http://NJYS.org). Discounts are available for Students, Seniors; Groups using code: Family Pack.

## WHARTON ARTS

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

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



### Katrina Kaif lauds Vicky Kaushal's performance as Sam Bahadur

Actor Katrina Kaif on Thursday, Nov 30, heaped praise on her husband Vicky Kaushal for his performance in the biographical drama film Sam Bahadur. The actor watched the movie at a special screening where she walked the red carpet hand in hand with Vicky, with the two actors twinning in black.

Taking to Instagram, Katrina shared a poster of the film, which she captioned, "SAM BAHADUR -@meghnagulzar such a poetic beautiful classic film, was transported to another era.. you can see your passion to telling his story and attention to detail in every shot."

"And SAM !!!..... GRACE, HEROISM, GRIT. What a performance, flawless, I'm just astounded, you are too inspiring, true to your craft in the most brilliant integral way, was so proud to watch you shine your way across the screen. I've seen you this last year pour yourself into this film and transform into Sam. A performance to be remembered @vickykaushal09," she added.

On Nov 29 night, Vicky Kaushal's family, including his wife Katrina Kaif, brother Sunny Kushal, father Sham Kaushal and his mother Veena Kaushal arrived at the film's special screening in Mumbai.

Source: HT

# Jawan, Pathaan shine on IMDb's list of top 10 theatrical releases of 2023

On Thursday, November 30, the list of most popular movies (theatrical and streaming) and webseries was unveiled by IMDb. The list of top 10 Indian movies released theatrically was dominated by Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, as two of his releases, after a hiatus of four years, found top spots in the list.

While Jawan clinched the first spot, Pathaan comfortably landed in the second spot followed by Karan Johar's first directorial in seven years Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani.

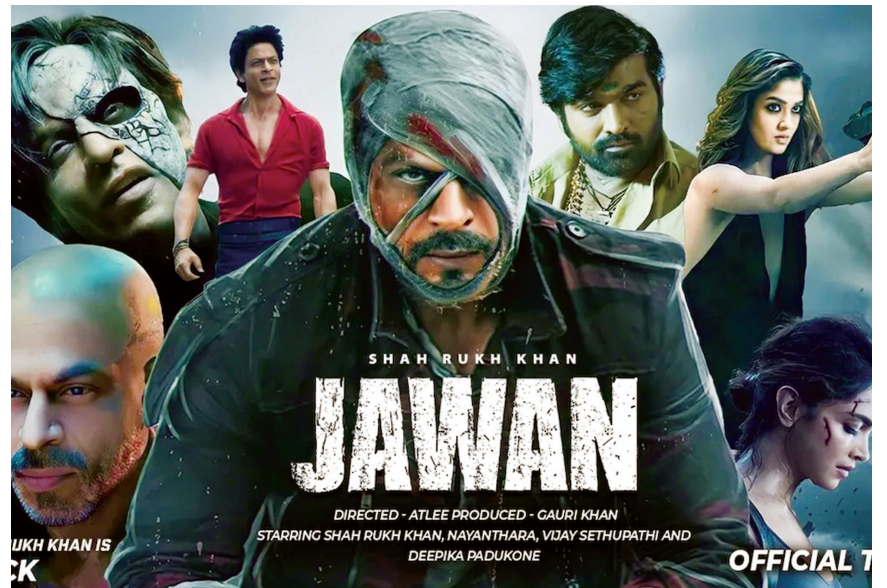
Atlee, the director of Jawan, said, "Jawan is a captivating, emotional, action-entertainer that intricately portrays the profound emotional odyssey of a man who is determined to rectify societal injustices. This film holds a significant place in our hearts. Love from the audience worldwide is overwhelming."

Reacting to the news, KJo expressed: "The team and I are overwhelmed with the love and warmth we have received for Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. To be on the top 10 list of IMDb is a massive validation of the film's reception. I am grateful and even more energised as a filmmaker."

Thalapathy Vijay-starrer Leo grabbed the fourth spot on the list of most popular theatrical movies.

With regards to the most popular streaming films, anthology Lust Stories 2 topped the list, followed by the Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer Jaane Jaan and Sidharth Malhotra-starrer Mission Majnu. Farzi became the most popular Indian streaming series of 2023 in the Top 10 Most Popular Indian Web Series of 2023. Guns & Gulaabs landed on the second spot, followed by The Night Manager.

Source: IANS



## Randeep Hooda, Lin Laishram tie the knot in traditional Manipuri wedding

Actors Randeep Hooda and Lin Laishram have tied the knot in a traditional Meitei wedding ceremony in Imphal on Wednesday, November 29.

Randeep dressed in white, looked like a beautiful Manipuri groom as he was surrounded by his family and relatives. Another video from the wedding ceremony has Lin dressed as a traditional Manipuri bride.

Randeep was spotted wearing a white shawl. Lin was dressed in a potloi or polloi, a cylindrical skirt made up of thick cloth and bamboo. It is ornamented with satin and velvet material, as well as gems and glitter.

Wedding rituals took place at Chumthang Shannapung resort in Imphal as Hooda and Lin tied the knot in a traditional Meitei wedding ceremony. Hooda and Lin, along with their families, visited a relief camp at Moirang Lamkhai and Sendra Tourist Resort earlier.

During an interaction with a mediaperson,

Randeep talked about his love story with Lin Laishram and how he is excited to experience the Manipuri tradition.

He said, "Feels very good. I felt that it's only respectful to come and marry in the bride's tradition. However, I have heard that in Meitei love marriages, the groom has to sit for a very long time. So, that's something but I am looking forward to the ceremony and traditions. I want to experience my life partner's culture. That's why I am here."

Randeep added, "I hope I don't make any mistakes. And we have been talking about their culture, Manipuri culture and all that for a long time. I am looking forward to it and hope that all goes well. I am praying for our happy future and lots of kids and lots of abundance. Yes, it's east meets west. It's like a traditional or cultural exchange. We have been friends for a very long time. We met when we were in the theatre. Since then, we have had a great friendship, which we are now making into a family."

Source: ANI





*‘Leave The World Behind’: Strangers, danger and layers, says Julia Roberts*

U.S. actress Julia Roberts says her new film “Leave The World Behind” is a multilayered disaster thriller that allowed her to play someone very different from herself.

Executive produced by former U.S. President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, the movie is written and directed by “Mr. Robot” creator Sam Esmail and based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Rumaan Alam.

It sees Roberts’ character Amanda, her husband and two children head on an impromptu holiday in a small Long Island town. Their getaway is interrupted when a man and his daughter, played by Mahershala Ali and Myha’la Herrold, turn up on their doorstep claiming to be the owners of the upmarket residence and requesting to stay the night. As tension builds between the two families, strange events start occurring around them and they find themselves under the same roof trying to make sense of the chaos outside.

Source: Reuters

# Jennifer Lawrence shrugs off plastic surgery rumors: ‘I’m just aging gracefully’

Jennifer Lawrence has set the record straight regarding all the plastic surgery rumors in the air. The Hunger Games star responded strongly in a recent conversation with Kylie Jenner for the interview, denying any allegations that she had undergone facial procedures and attributing her youthful appearance to makeup skills and graceful aging.

Jennifer Lawrence denied the possibility that she had cosmetic surgery, explaining instead that makeup has amazing transforming powers. “I also think it’s incredible what makeup can do because I work with Hung [Vanngo], who overlines the lip, and I call him a plastic surgeon because everybody in the last few months since I’ve been working with him, is convinced that I had eye surgery”.

The Red Sparrow actress emphasizes once more that she is not getting surgery for eyes—rather, she is only applying cosmetics. The plastic surgery rumors began circulating after Jennifer Lawrence attended the Dior Fashion Show. Netizens were quick to notice a dramatic shift in her appearance as compared to her earlier looks.

The actress responded to critics on social media, disputing rumors that she had a nose job or lip fillers, asserting that her transformed appearance is simply a result of graceful aging. Further stating that she lost the baby weight, Jennifer said: “I started at 19, so I get the before and after pictures from



when I’m 19 to 30 and I’m like, ‘I grew up. I lost baby weight in my face, and my face changed because I’m aging’.

and I’m like, ‘I’ve had the exact same nose. My cheeks got smaller. Thank you for bringing it up’ she added.

Source: HT

## Taylor Swift, Blake Lively, Michelle Williams, and more glam up for Beyoncé’s Renaissance Film Premiere



2023 has been a standout year for pop icons Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, with both enjoying record-breaking world tours. The red carpet is bustling with excitement at the premiere of Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé on Nov. 30. Taylor Swift, Michelle Williams, and Blake Lively have already graced the star-studded event, showcasing their unwavering support and embracing girl power for the ‘queen bey’. The celebrities dazzled on the red carpet, dressing in accordance with the themes of “most fabulous silver fashions.”

From Kansas City to London, Taylor Swift surprised everyone with her attendance at Beyoncé’s Renaissance Film Premiere on November 30. The Lover Singer donned a floor-length Balmain gown, matching black Giuseppe Zanotti slingback heels, and jewelry with intricate details. Well, fans see ‘No rivalry’ here. Back in

October, Beyoncé attended Era’s Tour premiere held in LA and now Taylor is here to shower her support in return.

Whether it’s a movie premiere or a major gala, Blake Lively is the queen of the red carpet when it comes to elegance. She looked stunning wearing a black coat, Christian Louboutin platforms, and a miniskirt with beadwork.

The night’s biggest attraction, Beyoncé, looked amazing in the Balmain PF23 silver collection during the after-party.

The former member of Destiny’s Child made a statement on the red carpet by adorning herself with a chic silver long-sleeve minidress, black stockings, loose hair, and understated makeup. Blue Ivy Carter, Beyoncé’s eleven-year-old daughter, looked gorgeous in an all-black outfit, wearing a pair of stylish black shades and an off-the-shoulder black gown.

Source: HT

## COSTA RICA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY WITHOUT AN ARMY

**COSTA RICAN (TIP):** At a time where the world is dealing with two major armed conflicts, Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas, Central American country Costa Rica is celebrating 75 years of peace and democracy without an army.

"Costa Rica's journey towards becoming the first country in the world to abolish its army reflects the unwavering determination to foster a political environment grounded in civility and peace," Sofia Salas, Costa Rica's chargé d'affaires for India, told The New Indian Express.

On December 1, 1948, Costa Rica made the bold decision to abolish its army and invest in its people, becoming the first country in the world to do so. Setting an example, it showed that an alternative model of co-existence and development is viable.

"Costa Rica and India share the same universal principles of democracy, human rights, peace and stability. While we understand the legitimate security and defence concerns that other countries have, we hope that our experience serves as a reminder and hope that peace is achievable through a rigorous commitment to the tools of international law," Salas added.

Costa Rica's former President Jose Figueres, with the symbolic blow of a sledgehammer to a stone wall of the military facility 'Cuartel Bellavista', proclaimed the abolition of the army, publicly handing the keys to the Minister of Education and announcing that this military barracks would be placed at the service of Costa Rican culture and art. Since 1949, this historic site has housed the National Museum. The decision to abolish the army in Costa Rica was taken after the civil war in 1948.

President Figueres then proclaimed: "We are unconditional supporters of the ideal of a new world in America. In the land of Washington, Lincoln, Bolivar and Marti, today we say: Oh America, other peoples who are also your children, would offer you their greatness. Little Costa Rica wants to offer you now and always its heart, its love for civility, for democracy, for institutional life."

"The abolition of the army is a decision that changed the destiny of our country and has deeply marked the Costa Rican people. It instils in Costa Ricans a sense of great responsibility regarding the importance of firmly and consistently safeguarding our cherished peace and democracy, not to take it for granted," Salas added.

(ENS)

# Truce in Gaza extended another day but talks over remaining hostages could get tougher

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel and Hamas agreed at the last minute November 30 to extend their cease-fire in Gaza by another day. But any further renewal of the deal that has seen dozens of hostages and prisoners released could prove more daunting since Hamas is expected to set a higher price for many of the remaining captives.

International pressure has mounted for the truce to continue as long as possible after nearly eight weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground campaign in Gaza that have killed thousands of Palestinians, uprooted more than three-quarters of the population of 2.3 million and led to a humanitarian crisis.

Israel has vowed to resume its offensive once the cease-fire expires.

And the talks appear to be growing tougher, with Hamas having already freed most of the women and children kidnapped during the deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war. The militants are expected to make greater demands in return for freeing scores of civilian men and soldiers.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials on his third visit to the region since the start of the war, said he hoped the cease-fire could be extended and more hostages could be released.

"This process is producing results. It's important, and we hope that it can continue," he said.

Qatar, which along with Egypt has played a key role in mediating,



announced the latest extension of the truce, under which Hamas has released at least 10 Israeli hostages per day in exchange for Israel's release of at least 30 Palestinian prisoners. The two Arab countries are now seeking to prolong the deal by another two days, according to Diaa Rashwan, the head of Egypt's State Information Service.

As word of Thursday's extension came, gunmen opened fire on people waiting for buses along a main highway entering Jerusalem, killing at least three people and wounding several others, according to police.

The two attackers, brothers from a Palestinian neighborhood in annexed east Jerusalem, were killed. Hamas' armed wing claimed the attack, casting it as retaliation for the killing of women and children in Gaza and other Israeli "crimes." The attack did not appear to threaten the truce in Gaza.

Netanyahu is under intense pressure from families of the hostages to bring them home. But his far-right governing partners are also pushing him to continue the war until Hamas is destroyed, and could bolt his coalition if he is seen as making too many concessions.

Israel says it will maintain the truce until Hamas stops releasing captives, at which point it will resume military operations aimed at eliminating the group, even as the Biden administration has urged it to operate with far greater precision if it resumes its offensive.

"As soon as Hamas stops releasing mothers, we're coming for the fathers. As soon as it stops releasing daughters, we're coming for the sons," Israeli government spokesman Eylon Levy said. "We are going to continue putting unrelenting military pressure on Hamas to release everyone." (AP)

## Israel and Hamas agree to extend truce for two more days, and to free more hostages and prisoners

**TEL AVIV (TIP):** Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past November 28, raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women and children, freed by Hamas, entered Israel Monday night after more than seven weeks in captivity in Gaza in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday and was due to run out.

Thirty-three Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in east Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The prisoners were greeted by loud cheers as their bus made its way through the streets of Ramallah.

The deal for two additional days of cease-fire, announced by Qatar, raised hopes for further extensions, which also

allow more aid into Gaza.

Conditions there have remained dire for 2.3 million Palestinians, battered by weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground offensive that have driven three-quarters of the population from their homes.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released.

After the announcement by Qatar a key mediator in the conflict, along with the United States and Egypt Hamas confirmed it had agreed to a two-day extension under the same terms.

But Israel says it remains committed to crushing Hamas' military capabilities and ending its 16-year rule over Gaza after its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel.

That would likely mean expanding a ground offensive from devastated northern Gaza to the south.

Monday's releases bring to 51 the

number of Israelis freed under the truce; an additional 18 hostages of various nationalities have also been released.

So far, 150 Palestinians have been released from Israeli prisons.

After weeks of national trauma over the roughly 240 people abducted by Hamas and other militants, scenes of the women and children reuniting with families have rallied Israelis behind calls to return those who remain in captivity.

"We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing, two relatives of Abigail Edan, a 4-year-old girl and dual Israeli-American citizen who was released Sunday," said in a statement.

Hamas and other militants could still be holding up to 175 hostages, enough to potentially extend the cease-fire for two and a half weeks.

But those include a number of soldiers, and Hamas is likely to make much greater demands for their release. (AP)

# COP28 president denies using climate talks to push oil deals

**DUBAI (TIP):** The Emirati host of the UN climate conference in Dubai denied November 29 reports that he used his presidency of the crucial talks on global warming to pursue fossil fuels deals.

The allegations against Sultan Al Jaber, who is also CEO of his country's oil giant ADNOC, have fanned long-running suspicions over the wisdom of a petrostate hosting the COP28 talks.

But Jaber, who also chairs a UAE-owned clean energy company, strongly denied reports that he used his position as COP president to pitch new oil and gas investments to governments.

"These allegations are false, not true, incorrect and not accurate," Jaber told reporters on the eve of the talks, which will draw world leaders and tens of thousands of delegates to Dubai over the next two weeks.

"It's an attempt to undermine the work of the COP28 presidency. Let me ask you a question: do you think the UAE or myself will need the COP or the COP presidency to go and establish business deals or commercial relationships?"

Leaked documents obtained by the BBC and the Centre for Climate Reporting alleged that talking points prepared for Jaber for COP meetings with foreign governments pushed joint business opportunities in fossil fuels.

The briefing notes, detailed in reports published on Monday, signalled ADNOC's willingness to work with countries including China, Germany and Egypt to develop oil and gas projects.

"I promise you, never ever did I see these talking points that they refer (to), or that I ever even used such talking points



in my discussions," said Jaber.

He said every meeting he conducted with governments or stakeholders as president of the climate talks "has always been centred around one thing and one thing only: and that is my COP28 agenda."

"Worst fears"

But the allegations fuelled persistent scepticism over the suitability of an oil executive leading the world's climate negotiations as governments are pushed to commit to phasing out fossil fuels, something no COP has ever achieved.

Former US vice president Al Gore said the allegations "have confirmed some of the worst fears" around Jaber while former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said the COP28 host had been caught "red handed".

"The global community's gaze is fixed upon these leaders, expecting them to embody the very essence of integrity, untainted by bias and national or personal gain," said Tasneem Essop, executive director of the Climate Action

Network International.

"Any deviation from this path represents a betrayal of the trust placed in them by the world and a failure in their duty to future generations," he wrote on X.

But Jaber has weathered other controversies over his alleged conflict of interest since being appointed COP president earlier this year, including calls from US and European lawmakers for his replacement.

Supporters, including US climate envoy John Kerry, say Jaber is uniquely positioned to broker compromise at the COP talks, where world leaders will be confronted by their lack of progress in curbing global warming in a record-breaking hot year.

The 50-year-old bristled at accusations that he has a conflict of interest, touting his years of work in climate and sustainability, and success in drawing out commitments from big oil and gas players. (AFP)

## RUSSIA JAILS MAN FOR WRITING 'NO TO WAR' USING HIS FINGER IN SNOW

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russia has sentenced a man to 10 days in jail for tracing the words "No to war" on a snow-covered turnstile outside a skating rink in Moscow, a court document showed.

Moscow made criticism of its offensive in Ukraine illegal shortly after the conflict began in February 2022, and thousands have been detained for simple acts of protest.

According to the court document published November 24, Dmitry Fedorov was caught by police last November 29 in Moscow's Gorky Park, using his finger to etch the forbidden slogan.

After carrying out the crime, "police officers offered to take him in a vehicle to the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs," the court document said, but Fedorov refused.

Police officers repeatedly warned he would be breaking the law if he failed to do so, and he was eventually booked.

Fedorov disputed that he resisted arrest in court, but admitted to writing the slogan and was sentenced to 10 days of "administrative detention", the document said.

The Ostorozhno Novosti news outlet, which first reported on the story, said he was also fined an undisclosed sum.

Since launching its offensive in Ukraine, Moscow has waged an unprecedented crackdown on dissent that rights groups have likened to the mass repression seen under the Soviet Union.

A Russian court earlier this month sentenced artist Alexandra Skochilenko to seven years in prison after she swapped supermarket price tags with slogans criticising the offensive. (AFP)

## TWO PLANES CRASH ON SAME DAY IN TANZANIA NATIONAL PARK; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

**DAR ES SALAAM (TIP):** Two passenger planes carrying tourists crash-landed at the same airport and on the same day in a Tanzanian national park, but officials said everyone on board survived unharmed. The incidents, both involving planes operated by domestic airline Unity Air, took place on November 25 at Mikumi National Park, the Tanzanian park authority known as TANAPA said. A total of 60 passengers, plus seven crew members were on the two flights, it said in separate statements. In the first incident, an Embraer aircraft carrying 30 passengers, two pilots and one flight attendant en route from the holiday island of Zanzibar suffered a "technical problem" when it landed at the park's Kikoboga airport, the agency said. (AFP)

## Ukraine says storms killed 12, 800 villages without power

**KYIV (TIP):** Extreme weather that stormed through Ukraine's south earlier this week killed 12 people, while bad weather and the war with Russia have left more than 800 villages without power, Kyiv said on November 29.

Hurricane winds and snowfall hit southern Ukraine, already severely affected by Russia's invasion, on Monday.

The strong winds also swept through occupied Ukraine, Moscow-annexed Crimea and southern Russia.

"Twelve people died due to the weather," Ukraine's interior minister Igor Klymenko said, increasing the toll by one person since Tuesday. Klymenko said 23 people were injured.

Officials said the severe weather was over but that hundreds of villages were without power.

Intense repair works are underway in southern regions and Ukraine has imported electricity from three western neighbours, Kyiv added.

Ukraine's energy ministry said that



"812 settlements were without energy" due to the weather and the war.

It said 368 were cut off by the extreme storms, while another 444 had power cuts "due to hostilities and technical problems."

Ukraine has been preparing for weeks for a feared renewed Russian campaign hitting its energy grid.

Such attacks left millions in the dark and cold last winter.

Ukraine's state energy company Ukrenergo said the "most difficult situation" was in the southern Odesa and Kherson regions -- regularly hit by Russian strikes.

It has imported electricity at night from neighbouring Slovakia, Romania and Moldova, said Ukrenergo.

Moscow has said four people were killed in Crimea and southern Russia by the storms.

The Kremlin-backed leader of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov on Wednesday said that an "emergency" regime was in force in 15 municipalities across the peninsula -- including the main city of Simferopol and the seaside resort of Yalta.

He said some 43,000 people were without power and that "repair work" was underway.

When the storm hit on Monday, Moscow said almost two million people in southern Russia, annexed Crimea and occupied Ukraine were without power. (AFP)

## BANGLADESH'S MAIN OPPOSITION PARTY BNP SAYS IT WILL BOYCOTT 'FARCICAL' JANUARY ELECTIONS

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's main opposition on November 30 officially boycotted the upcoming general elections, removing the only party that could have offered a realistic challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's fourth consecutive term in power.

**The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), warning that thousands of its members had been arrested in a sweeping crackdown, said it had not applied to contest a single seat on the last day of filing candidate nominations before the January 7 polls.**

"We are boycotting the election," A.K.M Wahiduzzaman, a spokesman of the party, told AFP.

"We remained steadfast to our stand that we will not take part in any election with Sheikh Hasina in power".

The BNP and other parties have held mass protests calling on Hasina to quit power and let a neutral government run the polls, demands the government has said are unconstitutional.

Human Rights Watch warned Monday of a "violent autocratic crackdown", with almost 10,000 opposition activists arrested and at least 16 people killed since protests escalated in October, including two police officers.

Wahiduzzaman, accusing Hasina of having "rigged the previous two elections", said the number arrested was even higher.

"She has arrested more than 18,090 of our leaders and supporters in an unprecedented crackdown since late October 28 to rig another election," he said.

"We won't join any farcical election." Hasina has overseen massive economic growth during her 15 years in power, but there has been international alarm over democratic backsliding and thousands of extrajudicial killings.

Other key opposition parties have also said they will boycott the elections, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's largest Islamist party, and the Islami Andolon Bangladesh.

Election Commission spokesman Shariful Alam said they would confirm who was participating later Thursday.

Apart from the ruling Awami League, several smaller allied parties have said they will take part.

Some BNP officials are understood to have left the party hoping to contest a seat as independents. (AFP)

# Imran Khan not to contest for PTI chairman's post, nominates close aide to lead the party

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan will not contest the intra-party polls and has instead nominated barrister Gohar Khan for the post of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman to lead the party in the upcoming general elections, a top leader said on November 29.

Barrister Ali Zafar announced that chairman Imran Khan would not be contesting intra-party polls scheduled for December 2 and barrister Gohar Khan had been nominated for the slot of party chairman, Dawn newspaper reported.

His statement comes a day after confusion erupted within Imran Khan's party after it dismissed a statement by one of its own senior leaders, who claimed that the jailed leader would not contest for the chairman's post in the upcoming intra-party polls.

"Imran Khan was, is and will continue to be the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. I will carry out my responsibility till Khan returns," Gohar Khan said.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is set to conduct intra-party elections within the 20-day time frame set by the election commission to retain the "bat" as its electoral symbol, ahead of general



elections scheduled to be held on February 8.

Barrister Gohar Khan will be the candidate for PTI's chairmanship, Senior Vice-President Sher Afzal Marwat said on Tuesday, hours after Khan, 71, reportedly decided against retaining the top post due to legal hurdles as the party heads towards internal polls, Geo News reported.

Khan remains behind bars in Rawalpindi's Adiala jail and is entangled in several legal battles.

His party, in an earlier statement on X, strongly rebutted the "speculation" over

the election of a new party chairman.

The party's Core Committee on Monday gave formal approval to hold the intra-party polls within the time frame of 20 days given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

If the party does not follow the orders, it will lose its bat symbol.

Khan, being a former iconic international cricketer, is considered synonymous with the (cricket) bat.

This will be a huge development for the party as the country moves towards general elections, set to take place in February. (PTI)

## Sri Lanka inflation doubles ahead of debt deal

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's inflation more than doubled to 3.4 per cent in November, the statistics office said November 30, a day after Colombo announced a deal to restructure nearly \$6 billion in bilateral debt.

The benchmark Colombo Consumer Price Index rose to 3.4 per cent from 1.5 per cent in October, official statistics showed.

However, the latest inflation number was still dramatically lower than the 61 per cent recorded a year ago when the country was in the grip of an unprecedented economic crisis after running out of foreign reserves.

The sharp price rises in November compared to the previous month were due to the increases in electricity and water tariffs and fuel prices, the statistics office said.

On Wednesday, the finance ministry said it had reached an "agreement in principle" with its lenders, including China, to restructure nearly \$6 billion in loans and unlock International Monetary Fund (IMF) funding for a bailout.

The country defaulted on its \$46 billion debt in April last year after running out of foreign exchange to finance imports of even the most essential commodities, making life a misery for the island's 22 million people.

The ministry said the deal included a mix of extending the tenure and reducing interest on around \$5.9 billion in bilateral loans granted to the cash-strapped South Asian island.

Sri Lanka in March secured a four-year \$2.9 billion bailout package from the IMF subject to Colombo ensuring debt sustainability in line with agreed targets.

However, the release of a second \$330 million loan instalment had been held up since September due to delays in securing a deal with foreign creditors.

Sri Lanka's largest single bilateral lender China had been reluctant to take a haircut on its loans and instead had offered to extend the term of its loans and adjust down interest rates. (AFP)

## Nepal becomes the first South Asian country to officially register same-sex marriage

PRADHAN KATHMANDU (TIP): Five months after the Supreme Court legalised it, Nepal on November 29 formally registered the first case of same-sex marriage, making it the first South Asian country to do so.

Trans-woman Maya Gurung, 35 and Surendra Pandey, 27, a gay, got legally married and their marriage was registered at Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung district in Western Nepal, according to Sanjib Gurung (Pinky), president of Blue Diamond Society, an organization working for the rights and welfare of the sexual minorities in Nepal.

Way back in 2007, Nepal's Supreme Court had allowed same-sex marriage.

Even the Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, explicitly states that there can be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

On June 27, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an interim order to legalise same-sex marriage in Nepal in a writ petition filed by multiple people, including Gurung.

But despite the historic order to temporarily register same-sex marriage, Kathmandu District Court four months ago rejected the move citing a lack of necessary laws.

Surendra Pandey and Maya's marriage application was rejected at that time.

"It's a great pleasure to learn about this, it is a great achievement for us, the third gender community of Nepal," Pinky told PTI.

This is the first case not only in Nepal but also in the whole of South Asia, and we welcome the decision.

Married in the traditional manner with the approval of their families, Surendra, a resident of Nawalparasi district, and Maya, a resident of Lamjung district, have been living together as husband and wife for the past six years. (PTI)



# Sikh History This Week

## DECEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 7

### 1st December



1764 Ahmad Shah Abdali attacked Sri Harimandir Sahib. Jathedar Gurbakash Singh and 30 GurSikhs sacrificed their lives defending the sanctity of Sri Harimandir Sahib.

1924 Babbar Amar Singh of Pindori Nijjaran, Jalandhar, died during the trial of Babbar Akali conspiracy case. He was involved in the second abortive attempt to murder Labh Singh of Dhadda Fateh Singh.

### 2nd December



1848 Sikhs fought the British at Sadulpur, Gujranwala. The Sikh Army under Sher Singh fought against the Right Column of the Army of the Punjab under Command of Major General Joseph Thackwell.

1990 International Conference on Sikh Studies was held at University of British Columbia, Vancouver. The Canadian Sikh Study and Teaching Society was instrumental in organizing and hosting the conference. Some of the topics covered included: "Fundamentalism; Enlightenment of Mind; Sikhism as a Tortume Quid; Sikh Culture; From Ritual to Counter Ritual in a Critical Analysis; Role of Reason in Sikhism; Guru Granth Sahib and Modern Science; Creation of the Khalsa – a non-Sikh Indian Perspective; Need for World Institute of Sikhism, and Sikh Identity a Continuing Feature. More than 700 people attended this Sikh Academic Conference, a befitting tribute to the Vancouver Sikh community.

### 3rd December

1849 Maharaja Dalip Singh meets Lord Dalhousie.



### 4th December

1705 Seige of Anandpur ended. The seige of Anadpur initiated on May 3, 1705 ended. In response to beseiger's continuous pleas to vacate the fort of Anandpur in return for safe passage, Guru Sahib sent rubbish covered brocades, loaded over bullocks. In violation of the solemn oaths on the Quran, the goods were looted. Ashamed at their sordid behavior, the Mughal commanders now sent a message in the Emperor's name, expressing regret at the behavior of the imperial troops and reiterated the agreement on safe conduct if Guru agreed to quit Anadpur.

1926 SGPC initiated activities to seek control of 750 Sikh Shrines.

### 5th December



1705 Guru Gobind Singh Ji bid farewell to Anandpur. Accompanied by members of his family and 1500 other singhs/singhnees, Guru Sahib was leaving Anandpur with the promises of the Hindu Hill Rajas and the Muslim Mughal forces that they shall not attack this entourage. However, these promises soon evaoprated and the Sikhs were not only attacked but pursued.

1710 Sikh forces, under the leadership of Baba Gurbakash Singh (Banda Bahadur), fought Mughal forces in Sadora.



1872 Bhai Vir Singh, a great Sikh scholar, was born. Bhai VIR SINGH (1872-1957) born on Dec. 5, 1872, was a great poet, scholar, and a spiritual leader. He edited and published for the first Prachin Panth Prakash, the work of Rattan Singh Bhangu. As K.N. Subramanyam commented "He was essentially a product of the best aspects of Sikhism." He was conferred the degree of Doctor of Oriental Learning Honoris Causa, in 1949, in absentia by the Punjab University. He was awarded the Padame Bhusham in 1956. He died on June 10, 1957.

1966 Fateh Singh announced that he would immolate himself on Dec. 27, 1966, if Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab. However, neither Chandigarh was transferred nor Fateh Singh kept his promise.

### 6th December

1778 Khalsa Dal, the combined forces of 11 Sikh Misl, attacked Ruhel Khand, U.P.

1921 Kishan Singh Garhgaj delivers an anti-British speech at Haripur.



1947 Winston Churchill sent a note to S. Baldev Singh suggesting him to stay in London for couple more days and let Jawaharlal Nehru go back to India, hoping that by talking to the British govt. and the Muslim League they could possibly find a solution. "So as to enable the Sikhs to have political feet of their own on which they may walk in the current of World-History."

S. Baldev Singh mentioned this to Nehru and then called a press conference and read a statement (apparently prepared by Nehru) that the Sikhs demand nothing from the British. Whatever the Sikhs want will get it from the Congress and the only demand of the Sikhs is that the British leave India.

### 7th December

1715 Baba Gurbakash Singh (Banda Bahadur) along with 740 of his men were arrested from Gurdas Nangal. A Fierce fight took place between Baba GurBakash Singh and Abdus Samad Khan. Baba GurBakash Singh and his men were besieged in the Gurdas Nangal fortress near Gurdaspur. The unbreakable siege lasted for 6 months. In Dec, the entire food stock and ammunition exhausted and the Mughal forces captured Banda Bahadur with 740 men. All taken to Delhi.



# Ways to care for your hair like a model

When it comes to maintaining gorgeous voluminous hair, models definitely know a thing or two. Considering Fashion Week is synonymous with multiple hairstyling sessions, late nights, and lots of coffee, you realize that their great hair is the result of some serious amazing hair care routine. Dyson India got on a candid chat backstage with a few models and they shared the hair care tips they swear by.

## Investing in a high-quality hairbrush

Anita Kumar, model, shares, "Some hairbrushes are really damaging to the hair as they're far too hard and can pull and break the hair, leaving split ends. Investing in a good hairbrush can help care for your tresses each day." The Dyson Paddle brush is designed for smoothing hair when drying and styling. With a weighted handle for balance, and air-cushion suspension for scalp comfort.

## Using Coconut Oil

The age-old coconut oil is super nourishing and ultra-hydrating for tresses that need life after excessive styling. Pallavi Singh, model, shared with the brand that one of the simplest but effective tricks is to use coconut oil on the scalp and ends and tie your hair into a shower cap. Leave it on for thirty minutes and wash it off with a clarifying shampoo to transform your hair and add shine.

## Self-styling with the right tools with less heat damage

As models go through extensive heat styling during fashion shows, they try to avoid using heat while



self-styling. But, on days when they really need to get that lustrous curl for a date night or outing with friends, they prefer using the Dyson Airwrap Multi-styler which helps in styling the hair with no extra heat damage. And, it saves a lot of time as they get salon-like hair at home.

## Letting your hair dry naturally

Letting your hair dry naturally helps in reviving your hair. Nisha Yadav swears by not using hair sprays and using avocado or olive oil as a hydrating mask which helps give her hair a day off.

## Saving your hair from mechanical damage

Our hair goes through

mechanical damage which can't be reversed. To avoid such damage, many models suggested using an old T-shirt or a micro-fibre towel to wrap your hair after a wash. Wet strands are much more fragile and prone to breakage and the harsh fibres of a towel can be too aggressive. They also suggested using a satin pillow cover to help improve the health and appearance of your hair. Satin pillowcases are smooth and slippery, which means they create less friction with your hair than traditional cotton pillowcases. This can help prevent hair breakage, tangles, and frizz, especially if you tend to move around a lot in your sleep.

Source: News18



## Home remedies to get rid of blackheads

Blackheads are small bumps that appear due to pores becoming clogged with oil and dead skin but cinnamon and honey can help in combating this because of anti-bacterial qualities, says an expert.

- Baking soda: Baking soda isn't just for baking or keeping your refrigerator smelling fresh. The antiseptic quality of it makes it a wonderful product for your skin. It works as an exfoliant to scrub away dead skin cells leaving skin soft and smooth. Baking soda also helps to neutralize the skin's pH, it encourages the skin to produce less oil which means that after regular use, you may be able to say goodbye to those blackheads for good.
- Cinnamon: Cinnamon is an anti-bacterial spice that can be used to make an aromatic face mask that offers all sorts of benefits to the skin, including the removal of blackheads. It also helps to eliminate flaky skin as well as acne, and it can be used as a body scrub for a smoother, more glowing complexion.
- Honey: Honey is both antibacterial and antiseptic, properties that help remove blackheads by destroying germs or impurities that clog pores, making it another great choice for those with acne related blackheads. Honey also acts as a natural antibiotic, helping to pull dirt from the pores of the skin to clear blackheads as well as tightening and hydrating the pores for a clearer complexion.
- Epsom salts: Epsom salts are not only great for easing sore muscles, they can also help to remove blackheads.

## FOOD CORNER

### Chilli Paneer

Chilli Paneer is one of the most popular recipes in Indo-Chinese cuisine. It is simply flour or batter coated fried paneer cubes tossed in a spicy, salty, tangy and sweet sauce made with green bell peppers, garlic, ginger, green chillies, soy sauce and more seasonings. There are three primary ways of making it, including dry, semi dry or gravy versions.

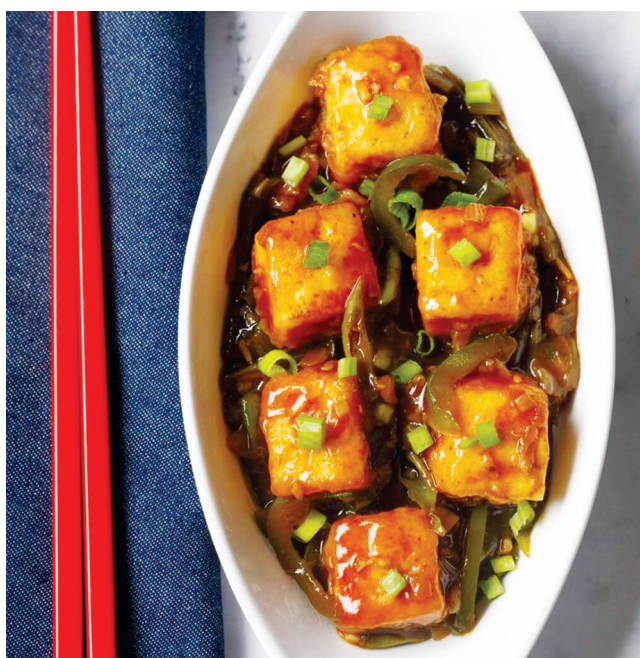
In a typical Chilli Paneer recipe, the paneer cubes are coated with either a thin dusting of flour or are batter coated prior to being fried. The fried cheese cubes are then tossed in a sweet, sour and spicy sauce that is, as the Americans say, "finger-licking good."

#### INGREDIENTS

250 gm cubed paneer, 2 chopped, de seeded Capsicum (Green Pepper), 4 cloves chopped garlic, 1 tablespoon tomato ketchup, 1 teaspoon white vinegar, 1 cup Veg stock, 2 chopped into cubes Onion, 8 chopped Green Chilli, 2 tablespoon light soya sauce, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 2 cup Refined oil, 3 tablespoon Corn starch.

#### Method

- Cut paneer into 1 inch cubes and sprinkle 2



tablespoon cornstarch over it. Toss the paneer lightly to coat the corn starch. Take care not to

- break the paneer.
- Heat sufficient oil in a kadai, when oil is medium hot, add the paneer pieces and deep fry on medium heat until the edges start to turn brown. Take care to fry in batches. Drain on absorbent paper and set aside.
- Cut the onion into 8 pieces and remove the smaller inner pieces from it. Then cut each capsicum into 8 pieces and deseed them. And cut the green chillies into slices. Set them all aside.
- Blend remaining corn starch (nearly a tablespoon) along with tomato ketchup and white vinegar in the vegetable stock. Let it rest and keep aside.
- Heat two tablespoons of oil in a sauce pan, add crushed garlic to fairly hot oil and saute for about 10 seconds or till light golden in colour. Stir-fry for a minute.
- Add sliced green chillies, onions and green capsicum to the wok and fry on high flame for 30 seconds. Add the remaining capsicum and toss well for another minute. The vegetables should be cooked but crisp. Saute for a couple of minutes.
- Add the corn slurry over high heat, stirring till the sauce is thick enough to coat the paneer and the vegetables. Serve it hot immediately.

# Lifestyle changes to improve your cholesterol

High cholesterol increases your risk of heart disease and heart attacks. Medications can help improve your cholesterol. But if you'd rather first make lifestyle changes to improve your cholesterol, try these five healthy changes. If you already take medications, these changes can improve their cholesterol-lowering effect.

## Eat heart-healthy foods

A few changes in your diet can reduce cholesterol and improve your heart health:

**Reduce saturated fats.** Saturated fats, found primarily in red meat and full-fat dairy products, raise your total cholesterol. Decreasing your consumption of saturated fats can reduce your low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol — the "bad" cholesterol.

**Eliminate trans fats.** Trans fats, sometimes listed on food labels as "partially hydrogenated vegetable oil," are often used in margarines and store-bought cookies, crackers and cakes. Trans fats raise overall cholesterol levels. Eat foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 fatty acids don't affect LDL cholesterol. But they have other heart-healthy benefits, including reducing blood pressure. Foods with omega-3 fatty acids include salmon, mackerel, herring, walnuts and flaxseeds.

**Increase soluble fiber.** Soluble fiber can reduce the absorption of cholesterol into your bloodstream. Soluble fiber is found in such foods as oatmeal, kidney beans, Brussels sprouts, apples and pears.

**Add whey protein.** Whey protein, which is found in dairy products, may account for many of the health benefits attributed to dairy. Studies have shown that whey protein given as a supplement lowers both LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol as well as blood pressure.

## Exercise on most days of the week

Exercise can improve cholesterol. Moderate physical activity can help raise high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, the "good" cholesterol. With your doctor's OK, work up to at least 30 minutes of exercise five times a week or vigorous aerobic activity for 20 minutes three



times a week.

Adding physical activity, even in short intervals several times a day, can help you begin to lose weight. Consider:

- Taking a brisk daily walk during your lunch hour
- Riding your bike to work
- Playing a favorite sport

To stay motivated, consider finding an exercise buddy or joining an exercise group.

## Quit smoking

Quitting smoking improves your HDL cholesterol level. The benefits occur quickly:

- Within 20 minutes of quitting, your blood pressure and heart rate recover from the cigarette-induced spike
- Within three months of quitting, your blood circulation and lung function begin to improve
- Within a year of quitting, your risk of heart disease is half that of a smoker

## Lose weight

Carrying even a few extra pounds contributes to high cholesterol. Small changes add up. If you drink sugary beverages, switch to tap water. Snack on air-popped popcorn or pretzels — but keep track of the calories. If you crave something sweet, try sherbet or candies with little or no fat, such as jelly beans. *Source: MayoClinic*



## Spices, veggies help you kill diabetes, heart disease

Including magnesium rich food like spices, nuts, beans, cocoa, whole grains and green leafy vegetables in your diet daily may reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke and type-2 diabetes, reveals a study published in the open access journal BMC Medicine.

Researchers found that people in the highest category of dietary magnesium consumption had a 10% lower risk of coronary heart disease, 12% lower risk of stroke and a 26% lower risk of type-2 diabetes compared to those in the lowest category.

Their results also indicate that an extra 100 mg per day of dietary magnesium could also reduce risk of stroke by seven percent and type-2 diabetes by 19%.

Low levels of magnesium in the body have been associated with a range of diseases, but no conclusive evidence has been put forward on the link between dietary magnesium and health risks.

Meta-analysis provides the most up-to-date evidence supporting a link between the role of magnesium in food and reducing the risk of disease.

This analysis of the evidence on dietary magnesium and health outcomes is the largest to date, involving data from more than one million people across nine countries. The current health guidelines recommend a magnesium intake of around 300 mg per day for men and 270 mg per day for women. Despite this, magnesium deficiency is relatively common, affecting between 2.5% and 15% of the general population. The findings will be important for informing the public and policy makers on dietary guidelines to reduce magnesium deficiency related health risks.

# Low-dose radiation therapy may reduce inflammation, improve heart function

Cardiologists and radiation oncologists at the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis pioneered the use of radiation therapy -- a tactic generally employed against cancer -- to treat patients with ventricular tachycardia, a potentially fatal irregular heart rhythm. The research team discovered that low-dose radiation therapy appears to enhance heart function in various forms of heart failure after analysing the cardiac effects of radiation in a small number of these individuals and modelling the effects of low-dose radiation in mice with heart failure.

More research is needed before the researchers can test this therapy in heart failure patients, but the study implies that the effects of radiation on wounded hearts with high levels of inflammation may be more variable -- and maybe helpful -- than previously recognised. According to the study, which was published in the journal *Med*, low-dose radiation therapy improves



cardiac function, at least in part, by reducing the amount of inflammatory immune cells in the heart muscle.

"The radiation therapy used to treat ventricular tachycardia is targeted to a specific location in the heart; however, a large portion of the rest of the heart gets a low-dose exposure," said co-senior author and cardiologist Ali Javaheri, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of medicine. "We wanted to understand the effects of that low-dose radiation on these patients' hearts. There was concern that it could be harmful to overall heart function, even though

it treats dangerous arrhythmia. We were surprised to find the opposite: Heart function appeared to be improved after radiation therapy, at least in the short term."

About 6.2 million American adults currently live with heart failure, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than half of heart failure patients hospitalised for the condition die within five years of that first hospitalisation, demonstrating a need for better therapies. A failing heart gradually loses its ability to properly supply the body with oxygenated blood. A complex condition, heart failure can have diverse triggers, including a past heart attack, viral infection or chronic arrhythmias such as ventricular tachycardia.

A group of nine patients with ventricular tachycardia was evaluated with a cardiac MRI before and after radiation treatment, with the MRIs showing improved heart function soon after radiation.

*Source: ANI*

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## DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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## YouTube rolls out over 30 'Playables' mini-games for Premium users

In an effort to lure users to subscribe to its paid Premium service, Google-owned YouTube has rolled out a collection of mini-games called "Playables", offering more than 30 mini-games that can be played instantly, without the need for any downloads.

The games can be played on Android, iOS and desktop.

To begin, users can navigate to a "Playables" shelf by scrolling on Home or by clicking a "Playables" link in the Explore menu on desktop and mobile, reports TechCrunch.

The games available are Daily Solitaire, The Daily Crossword, Angry Birds Showdown, Merge Pirates, Farm Land, Words of Wonder, Endless Siege, 8 Ball Billiards Classic, and Brain Out.

The games may not be available at all times, as YouTube stated that they are only playable until March 28.

This limited-time access might be used by YouTube to gather feedback from its Premium subscribers before making any further choices about expanding its gaming capabilities.

Meanwhile, YouTube has said it is testing new generative AI features that'll let people create music tracks using just a text prompt or a simple hummed tune. The company introduced Dream Track, an experiment on YouTube Shorts which is powered by Google DeepMind's most advanced music generation model to date, Lyria. *Source: IANS*

## NASA to send Indian to International Space Station, says ISRO chief S Somanath

ISRO chief S Somanath has confirmed that NASA is working towards sending an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS).

This announcement follows the comments made by NASA chief Bill Nelson, who is in India on an official visit. The idea was first floated in high-level discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden, said Somanath in Kolkata today. "We are taking it forward; that's what the NASA chief said — that Indian astronauts will be flying to the ISS in an American vehicle," Somanath said.

The collaboration marks a milestone in Indo-US space relations and underscores the growing partnership between the two nations in the realm of space exploration.

Somanath emphasised the importance of the programme being beneficial for India. He said astronauts would be given comprehensive training in NASA facilities.

# Antarctic glacier moves 8km after being stable for 50 years

As the world prepares for the COP28 climate conference in Dubai, a stark reminder of the climate crisis's impact comes from Antarctica, where scientists have observed a dramatic event: the collapse of the ice shelf extending from Cadman Glacier on the west Antarctic Peninsula.

This collapse has left the glacier vulnerable to the ocean's warm waters, resulting in an accelerated retreat that signals a worrying trend in polar ice dynamics.

The findings, published in Nature Communications, are the result of meticulous research by an international team from the University of Leeds, Lancaster University, ENVEO, the University of Delaware, and the British Antarctic Survey.

Utilising data from nine satellite missions, including ESA's CryoSat and Europe's Copernicus Sentinel-1, the researchers were able to track significant changes in the ice shelf and glacier over time.

Their analysis revealed that between November 2018 and May 2021, Cadman Glacier retreated by an astonishing eight kilometers after remaining stable for approximately half a century. The rapid change is attributed to ocean water temperatures around the west Antarctic Peninsula that were up to 2°C warmer than average during 2018–2019.

Benjamin Wallis, a researcher from the University of Leeds who led the study, shared insights into the mechanisms behind this dramatic shift. According to Wallis, the warmer waters likely began undermining the Cadman Ice Shelf as early as the 1970s, with the effects becoming pronounced by the early 2000s.

The warmth penetrated not just the surface but also the deeper layers of the ocean, potentially reaching the point where the ice shelf was grounded on the seafloor. This bottom-up melting was captured through satellite observations.

Ice shelves play a crucial role in the stability of glaciers; they act as a buttress, floating on the ocean



surface and sometimes anchoring to the ocean floor, which slows down the flow of glacial ice toward the sea. The loss of the Cadman Ice Shelf has removed this critical support, allowing the glacier to discharge more ice into the ocean at an alarming rate.

The implications of this research are profound. It underscores the sensitivity of Antarctic glaciers to oceanic temperature changes and highlights the potential for rapid ice loss in response to climate change.

As global leaders convene to discuss climate action, the situation in Antarctica serves as a powerful call to address the warming oceans that threaten not only polar regions but global sea levels and ecosystems.

*Source: India Today*

## iOS17 update adds new feature that raises privacy concern

A new iOS17 update has added a feature called 'NameDrop' that has raised privacy concerns among iPhone users. The new 'NameDrop' feature enables users to quickly share their contact information with nearby iPhones or Apple Watches, rather than handing over their phone to a new person to exchange information.

According to Fox23, several local law enforcement agencies in the US, like Dewey police expressed concern about the update. According to them, this feature is 'ON' by default, so if you want to shut it off, go to Settings, tap General, then AirDrop, then 'Bringing Devices Together' and change it to off.

Police also said that "you should remember to do this on your children's phone too if you choose to." While the feature is enabled by default, it should be noted that the user must manually authorise any information sent and has the option to decline.

Many users took to social media to warn against utilising the new feature. "The NameDrop feature aims to make sharing contacts easy but at a privacy cost. Without knowing, you could be sharing your info with nearby iPhone users," a user warned on X.

"Dear iPhone users: How to turn NameDrop off after update. 1. Go to Settings 2. Tap 'General' 3. Tap 'AirDrop' 4. Toggle 'Bringing Devices Together' to off. You're welcome," another user wrote.



One more user mentioned, "FAQ: Is NameDrop always enabled? Yes, it's on by default. This means your iPhone could be oversharing without you realising".

*Source: IANS*

## Alibaba arm exits Zomato, sells stake for Rs 3,337 crore

Alipay Singapore Holding, an arm of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, on Wednesday divested its entire 3.44% stake in food delivery aggregator Zomato for Rs 3,337 crore through open market transactions. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company, Max Life Insurance, Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund (MF), Birla MF, Morgan Stanley, India Acorn ICAV, Societe Generale, Government of Singapore, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Goldman Sachs (Singapore) Pte, Government Pension Fund Global and Veritas Asset Management, among others were the buyers of shares of Zomato. Alipay Singapore Holding Pte sold more than 29.60 crore shares of Zomato in 31 tranches on the BSE. According to the block deal data available with BSE, the shares were sold at an average price of Rs 112.7 apiece.

## Average long-term US mortgage rate falls to 7.22%

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate fell for the fifth week in a row, more good news for prospective homebuyers grappling with an increasingly unaffordable housing market.

The latest decline brought the average rate on a 30-year mortgage down to 7.22% from 7.29% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 6.49%.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage is now at the lowest level it's been in 10 weeks, when it was 7.19%. "Market sentiment has significantly shifted over the last month, leading to a continued decline in mortgage rates," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "The current trajectory of rates is an encouraging development for potential homebuyers, with purchase application activity recently rising to the same level as mid-September when rates were similar to today's levels." While the recent string of rate declines are welcome news for would-be homebuyers, the average rate on a 30-year home loan remains sharply higher than just two years ago, when it was around 3%.

Higher rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how much they can afford in a market already out of reach for many Americans. They also discourage homeowners who locked in rock-bottom rates two years ago from selling. The average rate on a 30-year home loan climbed above 6% in September 2022 and has remained above that threshold since. In late October, it climbed to 7.79%, the highest level on records going back to late 2000. That helped push up the median monthly payment listed on home loan applications in October to \$2,199, a 9.3% increase from a year earlier.

# Elon Musk launches profane attack on X advertisers

NEW YORK (TIP)

In a profanity-laced outburst, Elon Musk has slammed advertisers that have left X, warning they will kill the social media platform.

At an event in New York, he accused companies that have joined an ad boycott of the site formerly known as Twitter of trying to blackmail him.

"Go [expletive] yourself," the billionaire said in an interview.

Some firms have paused advertising on X amid concerns over antisemitism, including a post from Mr Musk himself.

The Tesla and SpaceX boss apologised on Wednesday for that post, saying it might be the "dumbest" thing he has ever shared online.

But it was his response to a question about an advertising boycott by companies including Disney, Apple and Comcast that caused a stir at the gathering of leaders from the worlds of business, politics and culture.

"I don't want them to advertise," Mr Musk said at the New York Times' DealBook Summit.

"If someone is going to blackmail me with advertising or money go [expletive] yourself.

"Go. [Expletive]. Yourself. Is that clear? Hey Bob, if you're in the audience, that's how I feel."

He was apparently referring to Disney chief executive Bob Iger, who spoke at the summit earlier in the day.

In the room with Musk was Linda Yaccarino, X's chief executive, who has been charged with trying to bring back advertisers to the platform.

Musk also said that advertisers could kill X. "What this advertising boycott is going to do is it's going to kill the company," he said.

"The whole world will know those advertisers killed the company, and we will document it in great detail," he added.

Yaccarino has since reposted what she called his "candid interview", adding her perspective on advertising that "X is standing at a unique and amazing intersection of Free Speech and Main Street — and the X community is powerful and is here to welcome you".

Musk has been on a visit to Israel after he last month appeared to personally back an antisemitic conspiracy theory.

"I'm sorry for that tweet... it might be literally the worst and dumbest post that I've ever done," he said on Wednesday.



The boycott isn't just to do with that post, though.

Many advertisers had already decided to spend their dollars elsewhere.

In an interview with the BBC in April, Musk said "almost all of them [advertisers] have either come back or they're going to come back".

Three months later he acknowledged in a post on X that ad revenue had fallen by 50%.

That was before a report by liberal pressure group Media Matters, which claimed to have found evidence that some adverts had been placed next to Nazi content.

X says the group's report had "misrepresented the real user experience of X" in order to "undermine freedom of speech and mislead advertisers". X has filed a lawsuit against Media Matters.

It's hard to see how Musk's comments will bring advertisers running back. The company is heavily reliant on their money.

Source: BBC

## India's GDP growth accelerates to 7.6% in July-September quarter

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's gross domestic product (GDP) for the second quarter of the ongoing financial year accelerated to 7.6 per cent year-on-year, showed data shared by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Thursday, Nov 30.

In the same period last year, the GDP growth stood at 6.2 per cent.

However, the GDP growth in the second quarter was marginally lower in comparison with the first quarter of FY24. In the first quarter, the GDP growth stood at 7.8 per cent.

It may be noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had estimated GDP growth in the July-September quarter at 6.5 per cent. A Reuters poll of economists had estimated GDP growth at 6.8 per cent, despite the global economic slowdown.

The stronger-than-expected growth can be attributed to strong urban consumption, manufacturing, and higher government spending. Manufacturing growth came in at 13.9 per cent, while construction growth stood at 13.3 per cent.

The estimated Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices for Q2 2023-24 stands at Rs 71.66 lakh crore, reflecting a 9.1 per cent



growth compared to Rs 65.67 lakh crore in Q2 2022-23, where the growth rate was 17.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, the estimated GDP at current prices for the first half of 2023-24 is Rs 142.33 lakh crore, compared to Rs 131.09 lakh crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, indicating a growth of 8.6 per cent in H1 2023-24, as opposed to 22.2 per cent in H1 2022-23.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

## THE INDIAN PANORAMA BRINGS YOU WEEKLY HOROSCOPE BY CHIRAG DARUWALLA, SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

### WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - DEC 4 TO DEC 10, 2023



Aries

**ARIES** : Ganesha says an important feeling of negotiating your personal belongings will come your way during this coming week. Unexpected opportunities for professional growth and advancement may present themselves throughout your career; Nevertheless, careful consideration of all applicable factors is necessary before making any important choice. Love requires that you have an honest and open dialogue with your significant other to resolve any conflicts or ambiguities that may arise in your romantic relationship. In business, you should always be ready to take advantage of new opportunities, but you should always take some time to think about the implications before you act on any of these opportunities. This week is a great time to focus on your own items for the future, and apply that same ambition and drive to your academic pursuits. In terms of your health, it is essential that you take good care of yourself this week, both physically and emotionally, so that you can maintain your balance and your energy conditions.

Lucky Color: Maroon | Lucky Number: 7



Taurus

**TAURUS** : Ganesha says by the end of this week, you will have a low sense of assurance and enthusiasm about the future. You will be able to easily and efficiently conquer any challenge that comes your way. This week provides opportunities for financial growth; Nevertheless, it is important to exercise due diligence and do applicable research before making any significant investment. Love is going to flourish if you take advantage of it this week. Because you will feel highly seductive and confident, building relationships with others will come naturally to you. Lots of business opportunities will be available to you this week, but before you commit to any of them, make sure you pay close attention to what they yield. This is a terrific week for gaining new knowledge and expanding your horizons. Spend some time perfecting your knowledge and abilities through the study of books, or individual shops. This is a good time to focus on developing your learning and setting things up for what is to come. It will be good for both of them to take care of their physical and internal health during this week. Be sure to get adequate amounts of rest and exercise, and try to eat a well-balanced diet.

Lucky Color: Pink | Lucky Number: 12



Gemini

**GEMINI** : Ganesha says this week is an excellent time to focus on your special items for the future. You will find that your feeling has improved a lot. When it comes to making choices about your finances, it's important to exercise caution and not let your passions get in the way. Your romantic relationships may be fraught with tension or questions this week; Still, you should try to have an open and honest conversation with

your partner to resolve any issues that may arise. In the business world, this week may present you with some unseen opportunities for advancement and expansion in your career; Nevertheless, be sure to carefully consider all applicable factors before you commit to a significant choice. This will help you maintain your balance and give you renewed energy as you work towards achieving your goals. To maintain your physical and internal health, it is important to take the time to pay attention to how you feel, both physically and mentally. This will help you maintain your balance and give you renewed energy as you work towards achieving your goals.

Lucky Color: Blue | Lucky Number: 18



Cancer

**CANCER** : Ganesha says this week should be spent cherishing and appreciating yourself as well as practicing love and self-care. Avoid taking loans if you can, as new income from your job, advancement, and an increase in salary can help in improving your current financial condition. Long-term cooperation can be proposed by a colleague, but you should not rush into it. The presence of a partner can increase happiness; Nevertheless, you must be humble and devoted in your words. Miscommunication at the plant can add to the workload, and running a family business can be stressful. Make a plan and stick to it, focus on the future, and for self-confident scholars this week can be a delicate time in sports. Avoid being hostile towards other people, eat plenty of green vegetables instead of junk food, and be sure to take care of your health, especially if you are an athlete.

Lucky Color: Yellow | Lucky Number: 3



Leo

**LEO** : Ganesha says this week will bring opportunities for special growth and self-discovery as you continue to change, learn, and grow. It's important to be mindful of your riches and avoid your spending if you want to live up to your financial claims, but it's also important to have the burning desire for success that will lead you to those goals. If you are considering proposing marriage to someone then your daily love role shows it is possible that you will not accept a positive response. After spending some time apart, you and your partner can get married. Much awaits you this week for your professional life, but it is essential that you exercise caution and keep a close eye on any financial deals or ventures that may arise. To avoid getting frustrated with the educational path you're currently on, keep in mind that time is on your side when it comes to getting new work. Depression can have a negative impact on a person's health and well-being, so depressed individuals need to make sure they are taking care of themselves physically and mentally.

Lucky Color: White | Lucky Number: 16



Virgo

**VIRGO** : Ganesha says during this week, be aware that your insignificant actions can make a significant impact on other people's lives. During this week, whatever choice you make regarding your finances is going to pave the way for a significant amount of success. Make the most of the encouraging environment to move towards the path you have set for yourself. Love requires that you stay away from feelings that are based on mistrust or

power. This week can bring you some really awesome romantic signs. In business, maintaining a positive attitude can help you navigate dire situations throughout your career. It is important to exercise patience for a pleasant journey. Your natural curiosity and capacity for literacy can be stimulated this week, which can affect the state of your interest in academic pursuits and indeed increase the state of your intelligence. Your overall health appears to be good, and you should have plenty of both internal and physical energy.

Lucky Color: Orange | Lucky Number: 5



Libra

**LIBRA** : Ganesha says you should let go of negative emotions like resentment, regret, begging, and complaining during this week which should be seen as positive signs. It is important to avoid wasting your time on sadness. Your financial condition will improve this week, and the returns on the investments made will be visible. Married life sometimes has to cross the walls of distance and communication. The way you communicate can have a significant impact on your health. In business, there can be unexpected charges, but you should make every effort to stick to your plans. If you have a difference of opinion with an elderly or executive person, there are good chances that there will be pressure between you. There can be opportunities to achieve success in leadership positions during this week. In fact, even if you are busy with your job and other new tests, you should make sure that whatever is the task, you get it done.

Lucky Color: Green | Lucky Number: 1



Scorpio

**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says this week is a good time to believe in yourself, you are capable of much more than you give yourself credit for. Your financial condition this week is likely to be similar to this month, having multiple sources of income can benefit you, but it can also lead to an increase in fees and a reduction in savings. To improve your relationship, concentrate on strengthening your bond with your partner and maintaining open lines of communication. Even with good relationships with colleagues and administrators, there is no guarantee of advancement or positive evaluations. With hard work, dedication, and trouble you can get your educational qualification. In addition to maintaining a balanced diet, leading an active life is important for overall well-being.

Lucky Color: Black | Lucky Number: 9



Sagittarius

**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says you may discover new sources of income which will boost your confidence and motivate you to work harder. This is a great time to consider making a long-term investment in real estate, but be sure to do your research. Be aware of your words and conduct in relationships, and avoid using harsh language or conduct that may hurt your partner's pride. Workers are advised to remain conservative and avoid forming quick opinions about their work, and avoid schemes that promise quick or easy money. This week you can find your determination and focus on adding, and avoiding distractions. To maintain good health, it is important to engage in

CONTD ON PAGE 31

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : DECEMBER 4 TO DECEMBER 10  
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**DECEMBER 4**

Ganesha says starting new businesses is encouraged throughout the upcoming time. Previously sluggish projects would pick up steam. If there are any disagreements, they will be resolved, which will make you feel relieved. Due to your competitive nature, you would always try to outperform others and be well-liked by your fellow students. Friends will be supportive but obnoxious. The possibility of developing romantic relationships with coworkers exists, but they would be very fleeting.

**DECEMBER 5**

Ganesha says you would have abundant energy right now, and if you used it well, you would achieve outstanding accomplishments. Later in the year, a long trip looks likely, probably to attend some momentous event. It is not advisable to rely on friends and family because they won't be accommodating. Financially speaking, it appears to be an excellent time to buy equities and real estate, but all purchases should be made with the long term in mind.

**DECEMBER 6**

Ganesha says many people's financial situations will improve today, and some will inherit family property. Your confidence will increase as the business prospers and you make money. Both academically and athletically, students will do incredibly well. Those with high blood pressure or piles should exercise caution with their health. The legal issues weighing on your mind will be resolved to your satisfaction. For some, promotions and pay raises are likely.

**DECEMBER 7**

Ganesha says you enjoy reading to expand your knowledge, but you need to learn to control your urge to act when you are bashful, arrogant, or moody. Children would provide great joy and success in their chosen careers. Travelling far or going on a pilgrimage will be high on your agenda. Property sales, rent accrual, dividends, and interest payments all result in financial profits for the seller. Long-term investments and speculative ventures are also advantageous at this time.

**DECEMBER 8**

Ganesha says today you should work on controlling your occasionally

careless and stubborn behavior. Entrepreneurs would diversify their businesses and pursue new, lucrative opportunities. If you deal in real estate, you will do incredibly well, but you might anticipate some partner rivalry. Later today, you'll be delighted to hear some exciting news from your kids. Make the most of your new romance, which may be new to you. For both spiritual and physical benefits, meditation and yoga should be practiced.

**DECEMBER 9**

Ganesha says to be aware of your impulsive and hasty tendencies. To improve your productivity, take the initiative to alter the workplace environment to suit your needs. You'll target meetings with delegates who are well-known around the world. You'll be able to start saving for the future now. You'll appreciate having your partner around. You have a deep faith in God, and you may soon visit numerous holy sites. Your attention will be drawn to interior design and construction.

**DECEMBER 10**

Ganesha says people will regard you with respect and deference. You possess

the fortitude to handle any circumstance. You will become a well-known person because of your originality and planned work, attracting everyone's attention. Your snarky and cynical nature can keep you from social gatherings. Potent nature may cause you to lose credibility. You will soon take the marital oath. Be patient, since resolving your legal challenges will take some more time.

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**CONTD FROM PAGE 30**

physical exertion and yoga and try to control your anger.

Lucky Color: Violet | Lucky Number: 5



**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says this week, faith in a higher power and a positive mindset can lead to blessings in your life. Focus on building confidence. There cannot be unnecessary income opportunities through government jobs. The stars may not be in your favor for love this week, it is important to prioritize the well-being of your family and be mindful that financial issues or conflicts may strain relationships. With long working hours and rock-bottom prices, the week ahead could be a busy one. Still, finding joy in small impacts can help keep you motivated. Persistence and hard work can lead to success, be patient and keep moving forward. Despite a busy schedule, make sure to spend time with family, which can help reduce stress and bring a sense of calm.

Lucky Color: Purple | Lucky Number: 13



**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says this week is a time of special growth and self-discovery as you continue to grow, learn, and change. With time, you can learn to save a little. Spending quality time with your partner is important this week to maintain a strong and healthy relationship. There can be a change in your relationship. An old acquaintance may suddenly propose an engagement. Dealing with a business partner may result in a clash of pride which may affect financial loss, but unexpected professional wins are possible in the medium of communication. Scholars participating in sports can achieve success through hard work, but they should pay attention to their health and exercise regularly. Establishing a routine is a good place to start, and scholars may even have the opportunity to travel abroad for sports-related conditioning. People who are stressed can become a scourge on themselves, so it is important to reduce stressful situations and spend time with family to calm down.

Lucky Color: Cream | Lucky Number: 6



**PISCES** : Ganesha says this week, you may feel confident and good, which may give you an advantage over your rivals. You are likely to make the right opinion which leads to growth and profit. Investments made now can yield positive results. Cosmic energy this week may prompt you to put yourself in unnecessary trouble in order to

maintain structure and connections, including in your romantic life. Your professional trials should be successful this week, with chances of career advancement. You may be willing to share in artistic and experimental conditioning, which will help build your character and increase your vocal confidence. Practice meditation to maintain good physical health and happiness.

Lucky Color: Red | Lucky Number: 14

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# Kaal Bhairav Jayanti

**B**hairav Ashtami, also known as Bhairavashtami, Bhairava Jayanti, Kaal-Bhairava Ashtami and Kaal-Bhairava Jayanti, is the holy day of Hinduism that is the day of taking Bhairava, a sinister and angry incarnation of Lord Shiva. This day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Bhairava. It falls on the fifteenth day (Ashtami) of the Hindu month of Kartik, in the fortnight of the decreasing moon (Krishna Paksha). Bhairav Ashtami falls on a single day in November, December or January. The name Kalashtami is sometimes used to refer to this day, but can also refer to any Ashtami in the Krishna Paksha, all these are the holy days of Bhairava, also known as Dandapani. Lord Bhairav's vehicle is a dog, that is, Lord Bhairava rides a dog.

Bhairava is the incarnation of Lord Shiva in the form of anger. It can be said that Bhairava is the manifestation of Lord Shiva's wrath. According to the narrative narrated on this occasion, the trinity gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva were talking in a serious mood about who was the best among them. In this debate, Shiva got a little angry with the comment made by Brahma and instructed his gana Bhairava to cut off one of the five heads of Brahma. Bhairava obeyed Shiva's command and one head of Brahma was cut off and thus he became the four head. Filled with fear, all the others prayed to Shiva and Bhairava.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME BHAIRAV

Bhairav is derived from the word 'Bhr' which means one who bears(holds) the universe by sustaining and nourishing it while the word 'rav' means self-awareness. Another meaning implies that He is the patron of those who fear the cycle of suffering, where 'rava' stands for intensified awareness which arises within Bhiru' which means dread or fear of cycle of suffering.

## LEGENDS SURROUNDING BHAIRAV

The most popular story of origins of Kaal Bhairav is mentioned in the Shiva Mahapurana. Legends go that once Lord Brahma grew arrogant and during a conversation with Lord Vishnu, stated that He is the Supreme Creator, He has five heads just as Lord Shiva and He can do whatever that Lord Shiva can do and thus He should be worshipped and not Lord Shiva. To crush the ego of Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva took a hair strand of His and threw it on the floor and from that emerged Lord Kaal Bhairav who chopped-off the fifth head of Lord Brahma. Lord Brahma understood His mistake and asked for forgiveness. Lord Kaal Bhairav got cursed with the sin of Brahman-hatya and thus wandered around like a vagabond with the severed fifth head of Lord Brahma until He reached Kashi. There He was absolved of the sin and thus stayed there and became the protective Deity of the city. He is also known as 'Kotwal of Kashi'.

Another legend goes that once a demon named Dahurasuran had a boon that he could only be killed by a woman. Thus Maa Parvati took the ferocious form of Goddess Kali to kill him. After killing the demon from the wrath and rage of Goddess Kali manifested a child whom Maa Kali fed Her milk. Lord Shiva merged both Goddess Kali and the Child into Himself and through the merged form emerged the Ashtanga Bhairavas (eight Bhairavas). The Ashtanga Bhairavas married the Ashta Matrikas. From these Ashta Bhairavas and Ashta Matrikas, 64 Bhairavas and 64 Yoginis manifested.

One more story about origins of Lord Kaal Bhairav is that when Raja Daksha insulted Lord Shiva, Maa Sati couldn't bear it and jumped in the fire of Yagna kund. When Lord Shiva came to know about the happenings in rage he took His Kaal Bhairav form and beheaded Raja Daksha. Later Kaal Bhairav became the protective Deity in all Shakti peethas.

The worship of Kaal Bhairav during Bhairav Ashtami in various temples includes observance of all-night vigil (Jagaran), where prayers are offered to Him along with His story being told and an Arti performed at the midnight since it is the best time to worship Him. In the morning bath is taken by the devotees and oblations (Tarpan) are offered to deceased ancestors.

A long fast is also observed by devotees for His divine grace and to absolve all sins. Kaal Bhairav along with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are worshipped with sweet offerings and flowers. His Vahana is the Dog, thus



## Important information

**Kaal Bhairava Jayanti 2023**

**Tuesday, 05 December 2023**

**Ashtami Date Start : 04 December 2023 at 09:59 PM**

**Ashtami Date ends : 06 December 2023 at 12:37 AM**

Dogs are also offered respect and food offerings including sweets, milk and curd are served to them.

In the Kal Bhairav Mandir (temple) in Ujjain, liquor and other offerings in symbolic form known as panchakarma are offered to Kaal Bhairav God as five tantric ritual offerings.

The Kaal Bhairav Mandir in Varanasi is the oldest known temple in the holy place. Throughout the year, the body of the Deity idol is covered by a cloth and only the face is revealed. On Bhairav Jayanti, the whole idol is revealed and decorated with garlands.

The renowned Kaal Bhairav Mandir in Kashi, where Kaal Bhairav is revered as the 'Kotwal of Kashi' celebrates Bhairav Ashtami with great fervour. The Deity idol is elaborately decorated with garlands and flowers and many devotees visit the temple to participate in the grand celebration. The Kaal Bhairav Astami and Kaal Bhairav Jayanti are also celebrated across the various Jyotirlinga temples in India.

## WHAT TO DO ON KALASHTAMI?

- Devotees on this day take early bath in the morning and offer prayers to Lord Shiva. They perform a special puja dedicated to Kaal Bhairav for His blessings and protection.
- In the evening, people also visit the temple of Lord Kala Bhairava and ask for forgiveness.
- On this day, Kalashtami special puja and rituals are also performed for the divine grace of Lord Shiva in His fierce Kaal Bhairava form.
- Devotees also install an idol of Lord Kaal Bhairava in their home for worship.
- They also observe fast throughout the day. Some

also stay awake the whole night (jagran or night vigil), reading scriptures and listening to the mantras and stories of Lord Shiva.

- It is the best time to recite the Kaal Bhairav Katha and chant mantras dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Devotees also feed dogs because Lord Bhairava has a black dog as His divine carrier.
- It is the most auspicious day to feed Brahmins at places like Kashi and Nasik.
- Kalabhairava Pooja vidhi includes Kalash Sthapana, Panchang Sthapana, 64 yogini Pujan, Shetrapal Pujan, Swasti Vachan, Sankalpa, Ganesh Pujan and Abhishek, Navgraha Pujan and 108 Japa of each planetary mantra, Invocation of major Gods and Goddesses in Kalash, Abhishek and Pujan of Bhairav Idol and Yantra, Bhairav Mantra Japa, Homa, Aarti and Pushpanjali.

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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."

# History This Week

DEC 01 - DEC 07

## DECEMBER 1

December 1, 1918 - Iceland was granted independence by the Danish parliament.



December 1, 1919 - Lady Nancy Astor became the first woman in the British House of Commons.

December 1, 1925 - The Locarno Treaties were signed by France, Belgium and Germany, as a preventative measure to avoid another war, in the aftermath of World War I. Terms of the Locarno Pact were guaranteed by Britain and Italy.

December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.

December 1, 1942 - The Beveridge Report was published in Britain envisioning the welfare state including insurance for the entire population.

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 1, 1988 - Benazir Bhutto was nominated to become prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman to govern a Muslim nation.

December 1, 1989 - Mikhail Gorbachev became the first Soviet Russian leader to visit the Vatican and meet the Pope, thus ending 72 years of strict atheist policy in Communist Russia.

December 1, 1990 - England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer.

December 1, 1994 - The head of the U.N. Commission on Rwanda estimated 500,000 deaths had resulted from genocide.

## DECEMBER 2

December 2, 1942 - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.



December 2, 1954 - The U.S. Senate condemned Senator Joseph McCarthy for misconduct following his ruthless investigations of thousands of alleged Communists.

December 2, 1971 - The United Arab Emirates was formed, consisting of seven Arab kingdoms on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula including the former Trucial states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain and Fujairah. Ras al-Khaimah became a member in 1972. The area has some of the world's largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

December 2, 1979 - Electors in Iran voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new constitution granting absolute power to Ayatollah Khomeini.

December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William DeVries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.

Birthday - French painter Georges Seurat (1859-1891) was born in Paris. He was a leader in the neo-impressionist movement of the late 19th Century.

## DECEMBER 3

December 3, 1931 - British dominions gained complete legislative independence as the Statute of Westminster gave equal status to the dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, and Newfoundland.



December 3, 1962 - Edith Sampson was sworn in as the first African American female judge, after she was elected associate judge of the Municipal Court in Chicago.

December 3, 1967 - The first successful

heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky, who lived for 18 days.

December 3, 1984 - A deadly gas leak (of methyl isocyanate) at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed at least 3,000 persons and injured more than 200,000.

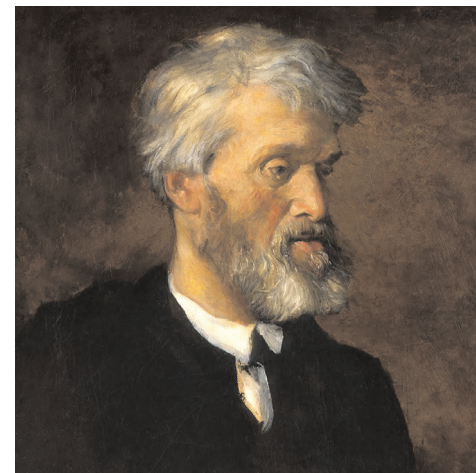
December 3, 1993 - Britain's Princess Diana announced she was stepping out of the public spotlight, desiring more privacy amid unyielding attention from the tabloid press and 'paparazzi.'

Birthday - Polish novelist Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) was born in the Ukraine (as Josef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski). Although he could speak no English at age 20, he went on to become an outstanding novelist, best known for his tales of seafaring life including Heart of Darkness and Lord Jim.

## DECEMBER 4

December 4, 1943 - During World War II, the second Cairo Conference took place, attended by Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and President Inonu of Turkey.

December 4, 1991 - The last American hostage held in Lebanon was released. Journalist Terry Anderson of the Associated Press had been kidnapped on March 16, 1985 and held for 2,454 days by Islamic Jihad (Holy War) captors. He was one of 15 Americans held hostage for periods ranging from two months to more than six years. Three of the hostages; William Buckley, Peter Kilburn and Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, were killed during their captivity. The others were released one or two at a time.



Birthday - Scottish essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) was born in the village of Ecclefechan, Scotland. He wrote a three volume history of the French Revolution. Other works included; Heroes and Hero-Worship, Life and Letters of Oliver Cromwell and Frederick the Great.

## DECEMBER 5

December 5, 1933 - The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution was repealed. For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it had outlawed the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

December 5, 1955 - In Alabama, the

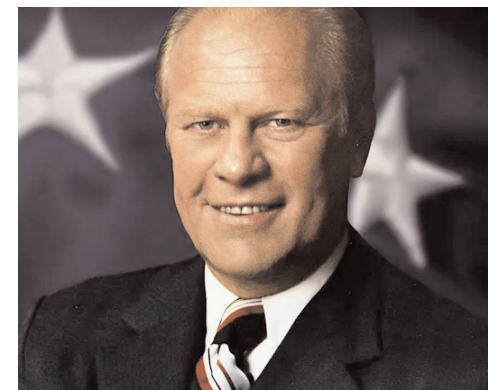
Montgomery bus boycott began in response to the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat on a municipal bus to a white man. Organized by the African American community, the boycott lasted until December 20, 1956, when a U.S. Supreme Court ruling integrated the public transportation system.



Birthday - Walt Disney (1901-1966) was born in Chicago, Illinois. As a little boy, he liked to draw farm animals and eventually got a job as an artist. He moved to Hollywood and in 1928 produced Steamboat Willie, starring Mickey Mouse, in the first cartoon with synchronized sound. In 1937, he released his full length animated film, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. He opened the Disneyland amusement park in Anaheim, California, in 1955. Five years after his death, Disney World opened in Florida. The company he founded has since grown into a global entertainment empire.

## DECEMBER 6

December 6, 1971 - The Democratic Republic of Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, was recognized by India. Pakistan then broke off diplomatic relations with India.



December 6, 1973 - Gerald Ford was sworn in as vice president under Richard Nixon following the resignation of Spiro Agnew who pleaded no contest to charges of income tax evasion.

December 6, 1978 - In Spain, a new constitution was approved by referendum, providing for a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary form of government.

## DECEMBER 7

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

Birthday - Wax modeler Marie Tussaud (1761-1850) was born in Bern, Switzerland. She established Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London in 1802 and later added a Chamber of Horrors.

# Bodh Gaya: The land of Nirvana

**B**odh Gaya is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Gaya District of Bihar. Famous for the Mahabodhi Temple, it was here under the Bodhi tree that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

It is now one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and a lot of foreign countries, including Japan and China, have helped the Indian government in building facilities for the Buddhist pilgrims. The place is bustling with pilgrims all through the year from India and abroad who come to pay their homage in monasteries, temples and remnants of Bodhi Tree.

Located near the river Neranjana, Bodh Gaya was earlier known as Uruwela. It was also known as Sambodhi, Vajrasana or Mahabodhi until the 18th century CE. It is one of the four important Buddhist sites that include: Kushinagar, Lumbini and Sarnath.

## Great Buddha Statue

This statue of Lord Buddha is the tallest in India and was instated by the XIV Dalai Lama in 1989. It is a meditating Buddha resting on a giant lotus, constructed using intricately carved sandstone and red granite.

## PRETSHILA HILL

Pretshila Hill (meaning Hill of Ghost), around 8 km north-west of Gaya, is a revered place for Hindus where they do pind daan (a religious ritual performed for the peace of the departed souls). On top of the hill lies a temple dedicated to Lord Yama, who as per Hindu mythology is the God of Death. The temple was initially constructed by Rani Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore but has been renovated several times. You can see a tank called Ramkund close to the temple, where it is believed that Lord Ram bathed once. People are of the belief that taking a bath in this tank washes away all the sins of devotees.

## DUNGESHWARI CAVE TEMPLES

Drive about 12 km northeast of Gaya to reach the ancient Dungeshwari Cave Temples, also known as Mahakala Caves.



It is believed that Lord Buddha meditated in the three caves here before continuing his journey to Bodhgaya. The caves here also feature Buddhist shrines which are called Sujata Sthan by the natives. There is an interesting story behind the existence of these cave temples, which states that during his self-mortification, Gautama became extremely weak and starved. At that time, a lady named Sujata from a nearby village offered him food and water. Later Gautama realised that one cannot attain enlightenment by self-indulgence or self-abasement. He then carried on with his journey and reached Bodhgaya where he finally attained enlightenment. In one of the cave temples, you can see a beautiful golden statue of Buddha, which is about 6 feet tall. When in Gaya, do not miss out on paying a visit to these ancient cave temples as the journey will add to your Buddhist experience.

## BARABAR CAVES

About 24 km north from Gaya lies Barabar Caves, which are probably one of the oldest existing rock-cut caves in India. These caves, most of them dating from the Maurya Empire (322-185 BCE), are situated in Makhdumpur block of Jehanabad district, Bihar. Some caves here also have inscriptions from the Ashokan period. Four caves, namely Sudama, Karan Chaupar, Lomas Rishi and Vishwa Zopri, basically form the Barabar Caves. All these caves are fascinating in their own way. While Lomas Rishi caves resemble the huts where Buddhist monks used to live in, the Sudama Cave has arches like a bow. All these caves have some interesting stories to tell here. Make sure to carry some water along as there are no shops or for that matter no place to stay in the vicinity of these caves.

## DEO SUN TEMPLE

Built during the 8th century by Chandravanshi King, Bhairavendra Singh, Deo Sun Temple in Aurangabad district is one of the most notable temples and a major crowd-puller in Bihar. It is often noticed that devotees and travellers visiting Gaya make a point to explore this age-old temple, which is about 70 km drive from the city.

At present, the sanctum of the temple features beautiful idols of the presiding deities, namely Vishnu, Surya and Avalokitesawara. If you walk outside the main hall, you will see some broken idols of Gods and Goddess along with sculptures of Sun God.

As the temple is among few existing ancient sun temples in the country, it makes for a must visit religious site for Hindus.



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## U.S. Says Indian Official Directed...

The plot, prosecutors indicated in court documents, was no empty threat. It was linked to the June killing of another Sikh separatist in Canada, and they said that the Indian government official who orchestrated the attempted assassination told Mr. Gupta that there was another target in California.

The indictment included a photo of a roll of hundred-dollar bills that prosecutors said was an advance payment for the New York job. "We have so many targets," Mr. Gupta told the federal agent he had unwittingly hired to do the killing, the indictment said.

The target of the New York plot was identified by American officials as Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is general counsel for Sikhs for Justice, which supports the secession of Punjab from India.

A PTI report says that the Indian national, charged in connection with a plan to assassinate a Sikh separatist on American soil, agreed to the plot after being assured that a criminal case against him in Gujarat would be dismissed, federal prosecutors here have alleged.

Nikhil Gupta, 52, has been charged with murder-for-hire in connection with his participation in a foiled plot to assassinate a US citizen in New York City, according to a superseding indictment unsealed on Wednesday in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

While the indictment does not name the US citizen who was the target of the assassination plot, The Financial Times, citing unnamed sources, last week reported that US authorities thwarted a plot to assassinate banned Sikhs for Justice's Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, and issued a warning to the Indian government over concerns it was involved in the plot.

In the indictment, prosecutors outline how Gupta agreed to the plot after being assured that a criminal case against him in Gujarat would be dismissed.

"Beginning in or about early May 2023, in a series of telephonic and electronic communications between CC-1 and Gupta over encrypted applications, CC-1 asked Gupta to arrange the murder of the victim in exchange for CC-1's assistance in securing the dismissal of a criminal case against Gupta in India. Gupta agreed to orchestrate the assassination. In addition to their electronic communications, Gupta also met CC-1 in person in New Delhi in furtherance of the plot," the indictment said.

Prosecutors have said that CC-1 is an "Indian government employee" who directed the plot from India to assassinate on US soil "an attorney and political activist who is a US citizen of Indian-origin residing in New York City," described as "the victim" in the indictment.

"On or about May 6, 2023, at the outset of their conversation over a particular encrypted messaging application, CC-1 wrote Gupta: "This is (CC-1)...Save my name as (CC-1 Alias)."

Gupta saved the telephone number on Gupta's phone under an alias for CC-1. A few minutes later, CC-1 messaged Gupta that CC-1 had a "target in New York" and another target in "California", the indictment said.

The indictment added that around "May 12, 2023, CC-1 notified Gupta that his criminal case "has already been taken care of", and that "nobody from Gujrat police is calling". On or about May 23, 2023, CC-1 again assured Gupta that CC-1 had "spoke[n] with the boss about your Gujarat (case)," that it was "all clear", and "nobody will ever bother you again".

CC-1 further offered to arrange a meeting between Gupta and a "DCP", which is an acronym used in India for Deputy Commissioner of Police. "Following CC-1's assurances, Gupta pressed forward to arrange the murder," the indictment said.

The murder-for-hire charge against Gupta carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire carries a

maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The indictment said that at CC-1's direction, Gupta contacted an individual whom he believed to be a criminal associate, but who was in fact a confidential source working with the DEA for assistance in contracting a hitman to murder the victim in New York City.

The confidential source introduced Gupta to a purported hitman, who was in fact a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) undercover officer.

CC-1 subsequently agreed in dealings brokered by Gupta to pay the undercover officer USD 100,000 to murder the victim. Around June 9, 2023, CC-1 and Gupta arranged for an associate to deliver USD 15,000 in cash to the undercover officer as an advance payment for the murder. CC-1's associate then delivered the \$15,000 to the undercover officer in Manhattan.

It also claims that there is a link between the alleged plot against Mr. Pannun and the plot to kill Hardeep Singh Nijjar, which Canada has accused Indian government agents of masterminding.

[https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/11/29/us/u-s-v-gupta.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.CU0.L1XM.lfk6G5U7-WVF&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/11/29/us/u-s-v-gupta.html?unlocked_article_code=1.CU0.L1XM.lfk6G5U7-WVF&smid=url-share)

Gupta, described as an "international narcotics trafficker", was arrested in the Czech Republic at the request of the United States in June 2023 in connection with his participation in the plot.

The New York Times said in its report: "Reached by phone on Wednesday night, Mr. Pannun said he viewed the indictment of Mr. Gupta as "an indictment of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

"The conspiracy and plot to kill me," he said, "comes from the government of India."

Meanwhile, government of India has decided to take the US allegation of involvement of India in the failed assassination attempt seriously. India has set up a "high-level" enquiry committee to look into allegations made by the United States government regarding the Indian plot targeting Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a U.S.-based Khalistani activist wanted on terror charges, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced in New Delhi on Wednesday, November 29.

(With inputs from New York Times and PTI)

## Sikh organizations across the world...

In a statement issued on Monday, November 27 from Washington, D.C., Sikhs of America said gurdwaras are places of worship and should be free from personal political views.

"We urge the management of the gurdwara to take strict action against these miscreants so that peace-loving Sikh community in New York can come to gurdwaras freely without any fear or pressure," Sikhs of America's founder and chairman Jasdip Singh Jassee and its president Kanwaljit Singh Soni said in the joint statement.

"Ambassador Sandhu went to the gurdwara to pray and the management honored him with a siropa. After that, a handful of miscreants tried to disrespect him and violated the peace and sanctity of the gurdwara. Gurdwaras are places of worship and should be free from personal political views," the statement said.

"Sikhs of America, the leading Sikh organization in the US, strongly condemns the disrespect of a Sikh devotee, Ambassador of India to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu in a gurdwara in Long Island, New York, yesterday," it said.

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) president Harmeet Singh Kalka said this instance had dented the image of the entire Sikh community and should be condemned.

"Sandhu, besides being an envoy of the Indian Government, has also been the representative of the Sikh community on foreign soil. Only a handful of Sikh community members have been vitiating the

atmosphere by indulging in such incidents without realizing its repercussions and problems for the common Indians living abroad," he said.

The SGPC general secretary, Rajinder Singh Mehta, said at least the gurdwaras should be free of such political views as they were the places of worship. "There could be differences of opinion among the Sikh community, yet a gurdwara was not an appropriate place to rake up such an issue and insult the Indian diplomat. The Indian government too should clarify its stance on the issue of killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar," he said.

Delhi Akali chief Paramjit Singh Sarna too slammed the incident. "Some of these persons with vested interests intend to bring disrepute to the entire Sikh community. No Sikh who is aware of Sandhu's legacy could do what they did," he said. '

Sarna underscored Ambassador Sandhu's lineage as a grandson of none other than Sikh stalwart Teja Singh Samundri, who had played a vital role in the Gurdwara Reform Movement during the British era. The SGPC's headquarters in fact is housed in a building named after Teja Singh Samundri.

"For the Sikhs, Sandhu is and will always command high respect not only because of his legacy, but also because of his high geopolitical competence. We condemn the hecklers," he said.

(With inputs from TNS and PTI)

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

## World vegan vision "Vegan Thanksgiving celebration"

World Vegan Vision would also like to extend its appreciation to Neetu Jindal for her invaluable involvement as the Vice President of the organization and Anil Narang their passion and drive have played a significant role in promoting compassion, love, understanding, and veganism worldwide.

Special thanks are given to the Red Robin Song Animal Sanctuary crew, including Lisa Robinsong, Nirvaan, Peter Ortiz, Noelle Reyes, Sunil Joseph, Amy Beth, Elogata Wandacat, John Di Leonardo, and Juliana Cinone, for their tireless advocacy and commitment to the well-being of animals and the planet.

The event featured a delectable vegan menu organized by Public Relations Director Nitin Vyas. Highlights from the menu included Mashed Potato Corn Chaat, Harabhara Kebab, Sev Khamni, Baked Samosa, Chora Fali and Mathiya, Mediterranean Platter, Methi-Mutter Malai, Tofu Tikka, Lilva-Patra, Tadka Daal, Laccha Paratha, Thepla, Peas Pulav, Apple/Pumpkin Pie, Tres Leches, Indian Assorted Sweets, and Mango Chia Seed Delight.

During the lunch break, attendees engaged in meaningful discussions and networking opportunities, fostering connections with like-minded individuals and further exploring the principles of veganism. These interactions facilitated the exchange of ideas, and experiences, and strengthened the global vegan community.

As the event concluded, the wrap-up and clean-up crew diligently ensured that everything was left in pristine condition, reflecting World Vegan Vision's commitment to sustainability and environmental consciousness.

World Vegan Vision looks forward to continuing its efforts to spread awareness about veganism and promote a compassionate and sustainable future for all.

### ABOUT WORLD VEGAN VISION:

World Vegan Vision is an organization dedicated to promoting veganism as a means to create a compassionate and sustainable world. Through educational events, outreach programs, and community engagement, World Vegan Vision inspires individuals to adopt a vegan lifestyle for the benefit of animals, the environment, and human health.

# NIAASC holds its 34th Conference in Tavares, Florida



**TAVARES, FL (TIP):** The National Indo-American for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) held their 34th conference in the town of Tavares, Florida on Saturday, November 18th, 2023. This event which was attended by over 100 participants was held in collaboration with Shantiniketan-3, Tavares, Florida. Being that it was the signature annual event of NIAASC, a plethora of renowned professionals were in attendance and talked on various topics. The theme of the conference was: "Empowering Aging".

**TOPICS ARE APPENDED BELOW:**

- 1 Protecting Seniors Citizens (Safeguarding against Scams) by Alicia Ramirez (AARP)
- 2 Aging -- A Curse or Boon by Baldev Seekri
- 3 Debunking Anti-Aging Myths by Srinivasa Rao

The above-named speakers are nationally known professionals and have been endeared by the community-at-large. Alicia Ramirez is a retired professional from AARP and in her speech cautioned that AI technology is being used to scam the seniors and advised that seniors need to be cognizant on the aforementioned. Baldev Seekri is the author of 'Meaningful Aging' and one of the highlighting topics was how the mind-set can make meaningful aging happen. Srinivasa Rao, a bio-medical scientist who has authored a slew of articles on food and nutrition and in his presentation shed light on reverse aging via nutrition.

The conference started with lighting of the lamp and invocation by Acharya Praygraj, followed by the opening remarks provided by Yogesh Naik from Shantiniketan-3 (Advisory Committee) and Chandrakant Shah (NIAASC Conference Coordinator) who welcomed all the participants and the guests. This was followed by the lecture topics as per above. All the above-named speakers are subject matter experts, and the delivery of the topics were succinct and material content was one that allayed a lot of apprehension/misgivings that the attendees had



relating to Aging and its effects.

In her welcome speech, Gunjan Rastogi, NIAASC president greeted all participants and talked about the detailed program and in her concluding remarks assured the members of her unwavering commitment to the organization and further reiterated that the vision will continue to fortify the organization's mission to be a force multiplier for helping the Seniors. Gunjan's speech was followed by Rajeshwar Prasad who is the Founder and Chairman of NIAASC. He spoke at length the need to foster partnerships and collaboration which in an effort to seek synergy so as to pave the way for organizing an array of nation-wide workshops for Seniors.

The conference was financially supported by various sponsors and donations ranged from \$51.00 to \$10,000.00. The major sponsor being Santosh Kumar from Chicago she is also known as "Mother Teresa of Chicago". India

Home (NY) was another notable sponsor and supported the event by sponsoring food. The cultural program was emceed by Tara Ashok who thoroughly regaled the audience with great fanfare.

At the end of every conference, it is the practice of getting evaluations done by the members in attendance with the sole purpose of getting better the next time. Deep dive into what works and what does not work are carefully examined so that areas and opportunities for improvement are taken into cognizance at the subsequent events.

NIAASC has been in operation since its inception of Spring of 1999 with the stated objectives "To provide help to seniors through information, referral and advocacy services."

For more information about NIAASC, please visit [www.NIAASC.org](http://www.NIAASC.org) or email at [NIAASC@aol.com](mailto:NIAASC@aol.com).



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## Suryakumar to lead T20I side, KL Rahul to captain in ODIs in South Africa

Suryakumar Yadav, who is captaining the Indian team in the ongoing five-match T20I series against Australia, will continue in the role in the shortest format during the three-match series against South Africa beginning on December 10 in Durban, while KL Rahul will be the skipper for the three-match ODI series against the Proteas.

The BCCI selection committee, which met here on Thursday, also decided to make pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as Rohit Sharma's deputy in the two-Test series beginning on December 26 in Centurion.

Rahul will keep wickets in the Test series. Both Rohit and Virat Kohli requested the Indian cricket board for a break from the white-ball leg of the tour.

B Sai Sudharshan and Rinku Singh have received maiden call-ups in the Indian ODI squad.

The selection committee meeting was held in the presence of head coach Rahul Dravid.

The three-match T20I series will begin on December 10, which will be followed by three ODIs starting December 17 in Johannesburg.

## Ronaldo faces USD 1 billion class-action lawsuit after promoting Binance NFTs

Portuguese soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo has been hit with class-action lawsuit seeking at least \$1 billion in damages for his role in promoting cryptocurrency-related "non-fungible tokens," or NFTs, issued by the beleaguered cryptocurrency exchange Binance.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in the Southern District of Florida Monday alleges that Ronaldo's promotion of Binance was "deceptive and unlawful." Binance's partnership with high-profile figures like Ronaldo, the plaintiffs claim, led them into costly and unsafe investments.

"Evidence now reveals that Binance's fraud was only able to reach such heights through the offer and sale of unregistered securities, with the willing help and assistance of some of the wealthiest, powerful and recognized organizations and celebrities across the globe—just like Defendant Ronaldo," the suit reads.

Representatives for Ronaldo declined to comment Thursday. Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, did not immediately return requests for statement from The Associated Press.

## India Vs Australia

# T20I: Not poor bowling but dew led to loss

GUWAHATI (TIP)

Dew was the primary reason for the Indian bowling attack's poor show in the third T20I, in which the hosts failed to defend an imposing total of 222, vice-captain and opener Ruturaj Gaikwad said.

The Indian bowlers gave away 80 runs in the last five overs while defending 222 as Glenn Maxwell's 48-ball 104 not out, including 23 runs off the final over from Prasad Krishna, saw Australia win by five wickets and make it 1-2 in their five-match series.

For the record, Krishna's 0/68 in four overs is the worst T20I number by any Indian bowler.

"I don't think so it's a concern because it's almost like you are bowling with a wet ball. And it's really tough on them," Gaikwad told reporters during the post-match press conference.

"In these kinds of conditions, 12 runs per over or even 13 or 14 runs per over is gettable, even while we are chasing. In the first game, how easily we managed to chase 210," he cited an example. "So, definitely there's not a concern at all. It's just that the conditions are slightly tougher for them, and we have to accept and move on."

Gaikwad said Maxwell's brutal innings and heavy dew proved to be home team's undoing.

Making his 100th T20I appearance, Maxwell starred as Australia massed 45 runs in the last two overs to seal a last-ball thriller.

"I think even Maxi batted really well. To win from a situation where they needed 100 from seven, I think it was critical innings for him," Gaikwad said. "Our bowlers tried executing whatever they had in their control. Also, there was a lot of dew around so ball was slipping a lot. So I think it was tough for the bowlers as well."

### India need young bowlers to deliver

**RAIPUR:** India's young bowling unit will look to better its death overs performance while utilising Glenn Maxwell's absence to its advantage in the fourth T20I of their five-match series on December 1.

India's second-string bowling attack crumbled in the last two overs in the third T20I as the bowlers failed to defend 40-plus runs.

There is a possibility of a minor tweak in the Indian line-up after Prasad Krishna gave away 68



India's Suryakumar Yadav, Axar Patel and Arshdeep Singh share a light moment during a training session. photo: PTI

runs in four overs, including 21 in the final over.

Deepak Chahar is back in the mix and his ability to move the new ball could see him start along with death overs specialist Mukesh Kumar, who is back after a one-match break.

Both Prasad and Avesh Khan lack variety and innovation as they keep pitching the ball at the same length. They consistently pitch it back of the length and the nature of the Indian tracks makes it too easy for batters to put it away.

Also not being able to use variations like conventional or wide yorkers has been their undoing as they didn't execute slower deliveries properly.

The 23-year-old leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi has been the pick of the bowlers, having grabbed six wickets at an average of 19.66.

Bishnoi credited skipper Suryakumar Yadav for giving the bowlers a "free hand".

"As a captain, Surya bhai gives you a free hand, he gives you all the right to place the fielders, the length that you want to bowl but you have to deliver in your execution," said Bishnoi. "He has been doing great captaincy in last 2-3 matches."

# Junior World Cup: Goal-hungry India feast on Canada

SANTIAGO (TIP)

The Indian team made a resounding start to its FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup campaign by securing a commanding 12-0 victory over Canada here.

Mumtaz Khan scored four goals, while Annu and Deepika Soreng scored three goals each. Dipi Monika Toppo and Neelam grabbed one goal each on Wednesday, Nov 29.

India began the match with an attacking approach, and swiftly secured an early advantage as Annu scored two early goals (4th and 6th minutes) through penalty corners.

Despite taking a two-goal lead, India persisted with their aggressive style, maintaining pressure on Canada. However, they were unable to find more goals in the opening quarter as it ended 2-0 in their favor.

The momentum from the first quarter



was carried into the second by India, who continued their dominance. They maintained possession, consistently penetrating the circle, resulting in Dipi (21st) and Mumtaz (26th) netting a field goal each, further extending India's lead.

In the meantime, Canada won a penalty

corner but they were unable to make the most of it. As the second quarter concluded, the Indian team enjoyed a commanding 4-0 lead.

Despite having a healthy lead, the Indian team showed no signs of slowing down in the third quarter and continued

to dominate the proceedings with Deepika (34th) converting a penalty corner, following which Annu (39th) completed her hat-trick, while Mumtaz (41st) scored her second goal of the match.

Also, Neelam (45th) smashed home her shot from a penalty corner to make it 8-0 for India by the end of the penultimate quarter.

The Indian team's hunger for goals continued in the fourth quarter, resulting in strikes from Deepika (50th, 54th) and Mumtaz (54th, 60th) as they completed their hat-tricks.

India will next lock horns with Germany. "Our team has been working very hard for this tournament for the last one year. We made some mistakes today as well, but we will try to rectify all those mistakes and score more goals when we meet Germany in our next match," Deepika said. In the other Pool C match, Belgium hammered European champions Germany 6-0. Source: Agencies



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

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**Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins**



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