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HAPPY Mother's DAY



US won't supply weapons for Israel to attack Rafah: President Biden

NETANYAHU SAYS ISRAEL 'WILL STAND ALONE' IF IT HAS TO; 'IF WE NEED TO, WE WILL FIGHT WITH OUR FINGERNAIL'

MAY 9, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

President Joe Biden said Wednesday, May 8, that he would not supply offensive weapons that Israel could use to launch an all-out assault on Rafah - the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza - over concern for the well-being of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there.

Biden, in an interview with CNN, said the US was still committed to Israel's defense and would supply Iron Dome rocket interceptors and other defensive arms, but that if Israel goes into Rafah, "we're not going to supply the weapons and artillery shells used."

The US has historically provided enormous amounts of military aid to Israel. That has only accelerated in the aftermath of Hamas' October 7 attack that killed some 1,200 in Israel and led to about 250 being taken captive by

contd on page 40



Biden and Netanyahu . " Israel needs to do far more to protect the lives of civilians in Gaza", says Biden. -File photo

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India becomes first country to get over \$100 bn in remittances: UN



India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, which was the largest in the world Image for representation only

MAY 9, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): India received over \$111 billion in remittances in 2022, which was the largest in the world, according to the latest report from the UN International Organisation for Migration.

The report noted that migrant workers who were sending these huge sums were

vulnerable to financial exploitation, workplace abuse, unsafe working environment and xenophobia.

India-UAE, India-US, India-Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh-India were among the top 10 international country-to-country migration corridors, the report said. The leading country for outbound migration, India was the 13th as the destination country for immigrants (44.8 lakh).

The final figures confirm the World Bank's prediction made in December 2022 that India will be the first country in the world to receive \$100 billion from remittances. Though remittances to the rest of the South Asian countries declined by 10 per cent, they rose by 12 per cent in India's case, it had said.

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Trump promised oil CEOs protection to fossil fuel industry in return for \$1 billion to his campaign: report

MAY 9, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Media has reported extensively on a dinner meeting Donald Trump had with some of the country's top oil executives at his Mar-a-Lago Club last month. A report says that one executive complained about how they continued to face burdensome environmental regulations despite spending \$400 million to lobby the Biden administration in the last year.

Trump's immediate response, as reported by insiders, was that they all were wealthy enough and that they should raise \$1 billion to return him to the White House. He vowed to immediately reverse dozens of President Biden's environmental rules and policies and stop new ones from being enacted, according to people with knowledge of the meeting, who spoke on

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Donald Trump

-File photo



Rahul Gandhi said that Mr. Modi would resort to "drama and distraction" in the next few days since the election is slipping out of his hands

'Narendra Modi is not becoming PM again': Rahul Gandhi says 'election is slipping' out of his hands

MAY 10, 2024

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Amidst intense campaigning in the middle of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress party stepped up its counter-attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of crony capitalism.

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COMMENT

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Let Truth Prevail

On Modi's accusation of "Chori ka Maal" (black money) being provided by Ambani and Adani to the Congress Party

In the midst of the ongoing political landscape in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a significant accusation during an election rally in Telangana on May 8, alleging a possible nexus between the Congress party and major Indian businessmen Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani. Modi stated that the Congress party, which had been vocal in its criticism of the Modi government for allegedly benefitting Ambani and Adani, had gone silent on the issue. He implied that the silence was due to an understanding or deal between the Congress party and the two businessmen, hinting at possible truckloads of "dark money" being supplied by the businessmen to the Congress party.

Such statements carry significant weight, as the Prime Minister is the head of the government and a key political figure in India. His allegations against the Congress party, Ambani, and Adani have sparked a debate on the accountability and evidence surrounding such claims.

Prime Minister Modi's remarks suggest that the Congress party's sudden silence on the Ambani-Adani issue is due to an undisclosed agreement between them. His suggestion that the Congress party may be receiving "tempoads" (truckloads) of money from the businessmen implies a major breach of ethical conduct and potential criminal activity, particularly when the general elections are underway.

If the Prime Minister possesses evidence supporting his allegations, he should present it to the relevant authorities and initiate a proper investigation. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are responsible for handling cases involving corruption and money laundering, respectively. Modi's public accusations also place an onus on him to follow through with his statements by providing any evidence he may have.

If Modi's allegations are indeed credible, it would be essential to investigate the claims for the sake of transparency and maintaining public trust in the country's institutions. The nation deserves to know the truth behind such serious accusations.

Should the Prime Minister fail to provide evidence to back up his claims, the situation could take a different turn. Accusations without evidence could be seen as an attempt to defame the Congress party, as well as Ambani and Adani, damaging their reputations and creating unnecessary political tension.

On the other hand, if Modi does present substantial evidence and it leads to legal action against the Congress party, Ambani, and Adani, it would signify a major shift in the Indian political and economic landscape. Such a revelation would have profound implications for the relationships between the government, the opposition, and major corporate entities.

The nation deserves clarity on these serious accusations, which have the potential to impact the political, economic, and ethical landscape of the country. The Prime Minister must present the evidence to the appropriate agencies or face the possibility of legal consequences for making unsubstantiated claims. As the political landscape evolves, the nation watches closely, eager to see how this situation unfolds.

Not by money alone, Mr. Trump

Wake up, America-your future depends on it

Donald Trump's reported promise to the oil industry captains in exchange for a billion-dollar campaign fund in an attempt to return to the White House is deeply troubling. If true, it reflects a concerning disregard for the welfare of the nation and the American people in favor of personal ambition and financial gain. Such a deal prioritizes corporate interests over the broader public good and environmental sustainability, echoing the accusations against figures like Julius Caesar's antagonist Cassius, who was accused of selling and manipulating positions for personal gain.

The scenario you describe highlights a fundamental ethical issue: the potential sale of political influence in exchange for financial support. This kind of transaction not only undermines the democratic principles upon which the United States was founded, but it also jeopardizes the nation's future by entrenching the interests of the fossil fuel industry at a time when the world is facing an urgent climate crisis. By making promises to protect the fossil fuel industry, Trump could be endorsing a path that exacerbates environmental degradation and hinders progress toward cleaner, sustainable energy sources.

The comparison to Caesar's accusation against Cassius is apt, suggesting a betrayal of the public trust for private gain. America's political system is built on the idea of elected officials serving the interests of their constituents and upholding the country's values and integrity. When politicians prioritize their own interests or the interests of specific industries over those of the public, they are eroding the foundation of democracy and contributing to the decay of the nation's ethical standards.

The personal history of Donald Trump-declaring bankruptcy multiple times, allegedly defrauding Americans by avoiding taxes, and living a life of luxury at the expense of others-paints a picture of a man with little regard for ethical conduct. This raises serious questions about his potential to lead the nation effectively and with integrity. If a leader cannot manage their own affairs responsibly, it is reasonable to doubt their ability to manage the complex challenges facing a nation.

The metaphor of "vermin eating into the vitals of a tree" is a powerful image that conveys the potential long-term harm such a deal could cause to the country. If left unchecked, decisions driven by self-interest and financial gain can erode the core values and institutions that have historically made America strong. It is a call to action for Americans to be vigilant and demand accountability from their leaders.

America deserves leaders who prioritize the well-being of the nation and its people, who strive to act in the best interests of all citizens, not just a select few. This requires rejecting any attempts to compromise political integrity for financial gain and holding politicians accountable for their actions.

The scenario is a stark reminder of the importance of ethical leadership and the need for Americans to remain vigilant in their pursuit of a government that serves the public good. As the nation faces critical challenges, including the climate crisis and economic inequality, it is crucial to demand leaders who are committed to finding solutions that benefit all, rather than perpetuating a cycle of exploitation and self-interest. Wake up, America-your future depends on it.

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Congressman Suozzi (D-NY) and Congressman Fitzpatrick (R-PA) to President: We Need "Order at the Border" and Work Permits for Mixed Status Families

MAY 9, 2024

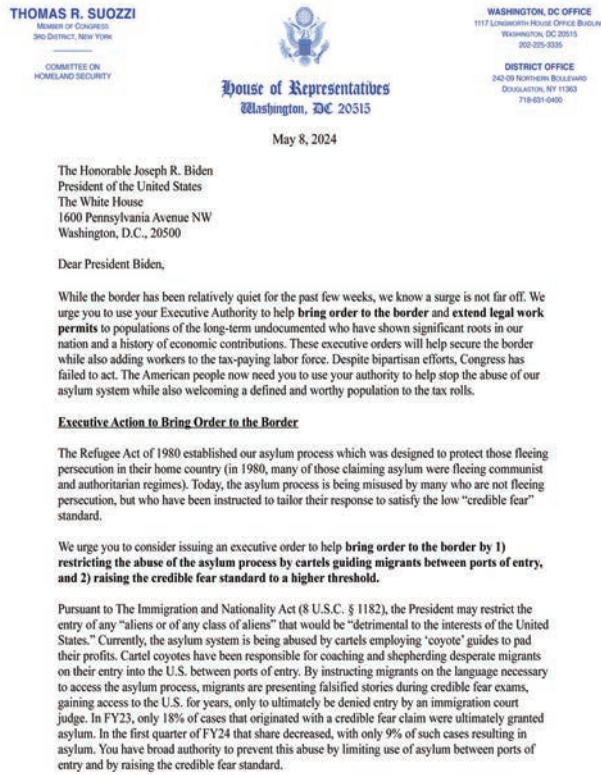
WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), on May 9, joined forces with the American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) and Families United (AFU) and, in one unified voice, called on President Biden to issue executive orders to help bring order to the border and to help expand the issuance of work permits for families with mixed immigration status.

"Today we are delivering a bipartisan message to President Biden to enact executive orders to bring 'order to the border' and expand work permits for families with mixed immigration status," said Suozzi. "Americans want action. Congress has failed to act and we now need the President! Organized crime 'coyotes' are scamming the asylum system enacted in 1980 that was designed to help Cold War defectors. Additionally, 1.1 million undocumented people living here for decades and married to US citizens need a work permit to allow them to pay taxes and come out from the shadows."

"Only bipartisan commonsense solutions will fix what's broken, concluded Suozzi."

"We need a smart and sensible immigration system to support families and protect the border," said Congressman Fitzpatrick. "I am proud to partner with Rep. Suozzi on this bipartisan letter to President Biden urging him to take executive action on sensible immigration reforms to begin fixing our country's broken immigration process."

Suozzi and Fitzpatrick sent a letter to the White House this morning asking the President to use his Executive Authority to "help bring order to the border and extend legal work permits to populations of the long-term undocumented who have shown significant roots in our nation and a history of economic contributions."



Congressman Suozzi addresses the media with Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. The two leaders were joined at DC press conference by American Business Immigration Coalition and American Families United

deeply grateful to Representatives Tom Suozzi and Brian Fitzpatrick for leading on common-sense solutions for these U.S. citizen spouses that everyday Americans want, and we urge President Biden to protect American families."

Additionally, the Suozzi/Fitzpatrick letter urged the President to consider issuing "an executive order to help bring order to the border by 1) restricting the abuse of the asylum process by cartels guiding migrants between ports of entry, and 2) raising the credible fear standard to a higher threshold."

The bipartisan pair of lawmakers closed the letter by writing, "We support efforts to bring order to the border and fairness for long-term contributors. Our nation needs solutions, and an overwhelming majority of U.S. citizens will support meaningful steps taken in this direction."

Suozzi and Fitzpatrick were joined at the press conference by Rebecca Shi, Executive Director, ABIC; Al Cardenas, Co-Chair, ABIC; Andrew Tisch, Board Member, ABIC and Co-Chair, Loews Corporation; and Stephanie Medellin, Board Member, AFU.

"Common-sense solutions like work permits for spouses of US citizens and mixed status families is economically crucial," said Rebecca Shi, Executive Director of ABIC. "Polls show that American voters support legal work permits for long term residents already established deep roots in our nation. We are



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MONTY PANESAR, FIRST SIKH TO PLAY CRICKET FROM ENGLAND AGAINST INDIA, QUILTS POLITICS ONE WEEK AFTER JOINING IT



Panesar had expressed prime ministerial aspirations and said that he wanted to be 'the voice for the workers of this country'

MAY 9, 2024

LONDON (TIP): Former England spinner Monty Panesar has ended his political stint in just one week as he announced that he is withdrawing as a parliamentary candidate for George Galloway's Workers Party of Great Britain.

The 42-year-old Panesar was unveiled by Galloway amid much fanfare in Westminster last week.

The former left-arm spinner was due to contest the Ealing Southall seat in West London at the next general election.

Panesar, however, decided to withdraw his candidacy after a series of challenging media interviews, in one of which he struggled to offer an opinion on the UK's continued membership of NATO.

"I'm a proud Brit who has had the honor to represent my country at the highest level of cricket," Panesar wrote on X. "I now want to do my bit to help others but I recognize I am at the beginning of my journey and still learning about how politics can help people.

"So today I am withdrawing as a General Election candidate for The Workers Party," he added.

"I realize I need more time to listen, learn and find my political home, one that aligns with my personal and political values.

"I wish The Workers Party all the best but look forward to taking some time to mature and find my political feet so I am well prepared to deliver my very best when I next run up to the political wicket."

Earlier, Panesar had expressed prime ministerial aspirations and said that he wanted to be "the voice for the workers of this country".

Panesar, whose full name is Mudhsuden Singh Panesar, became the first practicing Sikh to represent England in 2006 during a tour of India. (Source: PTI)

2 brothers from Haryana's Karnal arrested for killing Indian student in Australia

MTECH STUDENT WAS ALLEGEDLY STABBED TO DEATH IN AUSTRALIA DURING A FIGHT BETWEEN SOME INDIAN STUDENTS

MAY 9, 2024

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA (TIP): Two brothers from Haryana have been arrested in Australia for stabbing to death a 22-year-old MTech student from India.

Abhijeet and Robin Gartan were arrested in New South Wales's Goulburn on Tuesday, two days after the fatal stabbing of Navjeet Sandhu in the Melbourne suburb of Ormond, officials said.

"Brothers Abhijeet Abhijeet and Robin Gartan were arrested in Goulburn with the assistance of NSW Police," the Victoria Police said in an official statement.

The victim and the accused were residents of Haryana's Karnal.

Navjeet Sandhu, an MTech student was allegedly stabbed to death in Australia during a fight between some Indian students, the victim's uncle said on Monday, May 6.

He said that one more student was injured in the incident, which took place on Saturday, May 4, around 9 pm local time in Melbourne.

According to Yashvir, the victim's uncle, Navjeet Sandhu was fatally attacked with a knife by another student when he tried to intervene in a dispute between a few Indian students over some rent issue.

"Navjeet's friend (another Indian



Abhijeet and Robin Gartan, residents of Haryana's Karnal, were arrested by Victoria, Australia police for killing Navjeet Sandhu - Photo: Victoria Police

student) had asked him to accompany him to his house to pick up his belongings as he had a car. While his friend went inside, Navjeet heard some shouts and saw there was a scuffle. When Navjeet tried to intervene asking them not to fight, he was fatally stabbed in the chest with a knife," Yashvir, who'll retire from the Army in July, said.

He added that like Navjeet, the alleged accused also hail from Karnal.

Yashvir said the family got the information about the incident early Sunday morning.

Navjeet's friend, whom he was

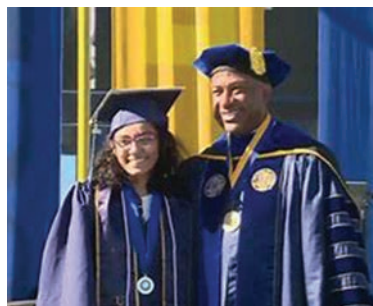
accompanying, also sustained injuries in the incident, the uncle of the deceased said.

Yashvir said the family is in a state of shock. "Navjeet was a brilliant student and was to join his family in July for vacations," he said.

According to Yashvir, Navjeet had moved to Australia on a study visa one-and-a-half years ago and his father, who is a farmer, had sold one-and-a-half acres of their land to fund his education.

"We urge the Government of India to help us to bring the body as soon as possible," he said. (With PTI inputs)

Indian American musical prodigy earns master's degree at 18, sets sights on doctorate



Tiara Abraham has created history by earning her master's degree at 18

MAY 6, 2024

INDIANA (TIP): Tiara Abraham, an 18-year-old Indian American music prodigy, has etched her name in history by earning her master's degree from Indiana University (IU). She is the youngest individual to achieve this feat across all IU campuses statewide in 2024.

The California native graduated with a master's degree in music of Voice from the prestigious Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, reports media. "I started college, community college at 7-years-old so I've definitely gotten used to being the youngest in the classroom," she told media.

Tiara attained this milestone even before obtaining her driver's license. Tiara moved from California to Indiana at the age of 16 to pursue her passion for music, enrolling in one of the world's top music schools. Her supportive parents, Bijou and Dr. Taji Abraham, shared their immense pride in her accomplishments.

The young prodigy, who became a Mensa member at 4-years-old, celebrated her Sweet 16 with an Undergraduate degree from UC Davis. She now aspires to get a doctorate from Indiana University before pursuing a career in music.

Indian American Ashwin Ramaswami raises \$280,000 for Georgia senate run

MAY 8, 2024

ATLANTA (TIP): The First Gen Indian American Ashwin Ramaswami running for the Georgia state senate in district 48 has raised over \$280,000, according to latest filings.

Ramaswami has outraised his incumbent opponent Shawn Still by 22 times as per the latest public campaign finance report filing from Feb 1 to April 30.

"Our latest reports are further evidence that our community values honesty and integrity in our leadership above all," he stated. "We've built a grassroots campaign with unprecedented momentum to ensure we elect a leader who will serve our communities first and foremost: funding our schools, supporting our small businesses, preparing us for the technology of the future, and protecting the right to vote."

"Our community will never forget Shawn Still's utter lack of leadership and integrity when he tried to overturn Georgians' votes in 2020," Ramaswami added. "Experience matters significantly, and it's clear that Shawn Still has the wrong kind of experience."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Ashwin Ramaswami running for the Georgia state senate in district 48 has raised over \$280,000, according to latest filings

Ten Indian Americans elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

MAY 3, 2024

CAMBRIDGE, MA (TIP): Ten distinguished Indian Americans, including novelists Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri have been elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts & Sciences founded in 1780 to help a young nation face its challenges.

The 250 members elected in 2024 are being recognized for their excellence and invited to uphold the Academy's mission of engaging across disciplines and divides, according to a media release.

"We honor these artists, scholars, scientists, and leaders in the public, non-profit, and private sectors for their accomplishments and for the curiosity, creativity, and courage required to reach new heights," said David Oxtoby, President of the Academy. "We invite these exceptional individuals to join in the Academy's work to address serious challenges and advance the common good."

TEN INDIAN AMERICAN MEMBERS ELECTED IN 2024, AMONG 31 AREAS OF EXPERTISE, INCLUDE:



Sourav Chatterjee, Akshay Venkatesh Geeta J. Narlikar, Vivek Malhotra, Uma Ramakrishnan, Gauri Viswanathan, Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, Satish K. Tripathi and Vijay Gupta are the ten Indian Americans elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

MATHEMATICS: Sourav Chatterjee, Stanford University and Akshay Venkatesh, Institute for Advanced Study

BIOCHEMISTRY: Geeta J. Narlikar, University of California, San Francisco

CELLULAR AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY: Vivek Malhotra, Centre for Genomic Regulation

EVOLUTION AND ECOLOGY: Uma Ramakrishnan (IHM), National Centre for Biological Sciences

LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE STUDIES: Gauri Viswanathan, Columbia University.

LITERATURE: Amitav Ghosh and Jhumpa Lahiri, Barnard College.

EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP: Satish K. Tripathi, University at Buffalo.

SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, AND NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP: Vijay Gupta, Street Symphony Project, Inc.

"With the broad diversity of members elected this year, we are continuing to expand on the commitment to excellence and wide-ranging expertise established by our founders," said Chair of the Board Goodwin Liu, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court.

"The honor of election comes with an invitation for new members to rededicate themselves to the common good by advancing the Academy's nonpartisan, cross-disciplinary work in the arts, democracy, education, global affairs, and science."

Induction ceremonies for new members will take place in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in September 2024.

INDIAN AMERICAN SOCIAL SECTOR INVESTOR RISHI MOUDGIL NAMED MICHIGAN FOUNDERS FUND ED

Rishi Moudgil has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Michigan Founders Fund (MFF)



MAY 3, 2024

MICHIGAN (TIP): Indian American social sector investor, Rishi Moudgil has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Michigan Founders Fund (MFF), a venture development organization that aims to make Michigan America's most successful, inclusive and community-minded startup ecosystem.

"Moudgil brings extensive social impact and entrepreneurial experience to the role," MFF stated announcing his appointment April 30. He "stands out for his extensive experiences as a founder, entrepreneurial ecosystem builder, social sector investor, and leader in enhancing place-based initiatives in Michigan. His deep understanding of organizational growth and community engagement perfectly aligns with our mission to propel Michigan's startup ecosystem forward."

He previously served as Founding Executive Director of GreenLight Fund Detroit, which, with two community investment funds, took an inclusive and scalable approach to locally led problem solving, designed to improve the lives of families in Detroit, in an effort that was modeled nationwide, according to his official profile.

Earlier in this career, he launched both tech and community-based ventures in Southeast Michigan. He also ran the Great Lakes Entrepreneurs Quest, Michigan's first statewide entrepreneurial support program, and founded the University of Michigan's Center for Social Impact at the Ross School of Business.

"Blending his dedication to social impact and community-centered investment with his expertise in the entrepreneurship space, Moudgil's new leadership role at MFF reflects his commitment to building networks, narratives and pathways to equitable economic access," the announcement stated. "I'm fiercely committed to supporting founders, regardless of their backgrounds, to pursue their dreams of building high-growth businesses here in Michigan, in any part of the state, while giving back to their local communities."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student missing in Chicago since May 2



Rupesh Chandra Chintakindi has been missing from the 4300 block of N. Sheridan Rd, the Chicago Police said.

MAY 9, 2024

CHICAGO (TIP): A 26-year-old Indian student has been reported missing in Chicago since May 2, India's mission in the US city said on Thursday, May 9, the latest case in the country as the community grapples with a string of such incidents involving students.

Rupesh Chandra Chintakindi has been missing from the 4300 block of N. Sheridan Rd, the Chicago Police said in a statement.

The Consulate General of India in Chicago said it was in touch with the police and Indian diaspora to locate/reestablish contact with Rupesh.

"The Consulate is deeply concerned learning that Indian student Rupesh Chandra Chintakindi has been incommunicado since 2nd May. The consulate is in touch with the police and the Indian diaspora hoping to locate/reestablish contact with Rupesh.

@IndianEmbassyUS @MEAIndia," the Consulate posted on X.

On May 6, the Chicago police in a statement asked people to provide information to the police if they locate Rupesh.

The incident is the latest in a string of troubling cases on the safety and security of Indian students in the US.

Earlier in April, a 25-year-old Indian student missing since March was found dead in the US city of Cleveland. Mohammad Abdul Arfath, hailing from Nacharam, Hyderabad, arrived in the US last year in May to pursue a Masters in IT from Cleveland University.

In March, a 34-year-old trained classical dancer from India, Amarnath Ghosh, was shot dead in St Louis, Missouri.

Sameer Kamath, a 23-year-old Indian American student at Purdue University, was found dead in a nature preserve in Indiana on February 5.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Veteran Indian American Hari Haran appointed as CEO by AgileThought

MAY 7, 2024

TAMPA, FL (TIP): Veteran Indian American digital transformation executive Hari Haran has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of AgileThought, a leading digital transformation and AI services firm.

Haran who joins AgileThought as a veteran in digital transformation services, IT products, software and engineering services, will lead the company's initiatives to accelerate value creation for its clients and drive growth, according to a company announcement.

Most recently, he was EVP of Digital Services for Denali Advanced Integration, a global technology integrator where he led the growth of a successful digital services division.

Haran was also previously President and Chief Revenue Officer at Xoriant, a leading global engineering services company with strong expertise in digital engineering and emerging technologies, where he was responsible for driving profitable growth.

Throughout his 30+ year career, Haran has held several sales, services and operational leadership positions for major companies including Sasken, Aricent, Persistent Systems, and Lucent Technologies. He is a global leader, having lived and worked in Latin America, Europe, and the USA.

"Hari has a track record for building great organizations. In each of his roles, he has created significant value for customers, shareholders, and employees. He combines cross-industry sector experience, deep technology expertise and customer-centric service" said Sumeet Gupta, who has served as Interim CEO since January 2024 and will transition to Chairman of the Board to continue supporting AgileThought with strategic initiatives.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Hari Haran has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of AgileThought, a leading digital transformation and AI services firm.

Miss Teen USA UmaSofia Srivastava relinquishes crown days after Miss USA resigns

MAY 8, 2024

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Miss Teen USA announced she's stepping down Wednesday, two days after Miss USA said she is resigning and relinquishing her crown.



Srivastava, 17, posted on Instagram she is stepping down because "my personal values no longer fully align with the direction of the organization."

UmaSofia Srivastava, 17, posted on Instagram: "After careful consideration, I've decided to resign as I find that my personal values no longer fully align with the direction of the organization."

Srivastava added: "I am grateful for all the support from my family, my state directors, my sister queens, and the fans who have cheered me on since I won my state title. I will always look back on my time as Miss NJ Teen USA fondly, and the experience of representing my state as a first generation, Mexican-Indian American at the national level was fulfilling in itself."

The resignation comes the same week Noelia Voigt relinquished her crown as Miss USA, citing her mental health.

Last week, the social media director for the Miss USA organization also announced she was resigning. Claudia Michelle said on Instagram she had observed Voigt's mental health "decline" and observed "disrespect" to Srivastava and her family.

"I feel the way current management speaks about their titleholders is unprofessional and inappropriate; I disavow workplace toxicity and bullying of any kind," Michelle wrote.

Laylah Rose, CEO and president of the Miss USA organization, said in a statement

to NBC News on Wednesday, May 8, that "the well-being of all individuals associated with Miss USA is my top priority."

"All along, my personal goal as the head of this organization has been to inspire women to always create new dreams, have the courage to explore it all, and continue to preserve integrity along the way. I hold myself to these same high standards and I take these allegations seriously," she said, without elaborating on what allegations she was referencing.

Srivastava said she will continue to advocate for education and acceptance.

She cited the response she has received, from both children and adults, about a children's book she wrote, "The White Jaguar," as having forged her legacy.

"This work has always been my TRUE purpose," Srivastava wrote.

According to a summary of the book, it's a story about a jaguar that is separated from her parents during a fire. The jaguar, which realizes it looks different from other jaguars, has to find its way home during a journey of self-love, the summary says.

Srivastava also said she's looking forward to finishing her junior year in high school and applying to colleges.

"Most importantly, thank you to those

who support me for who I am and have always been, not for who I've momentarily become," she said.

Voigt announced on Monday she was resigning as Miss USA to prioritize her mental health. Voigt, 24, who captured the crown in September, posted on Instagram that she was stepping down.

"Deep down I know that this is just the beginning of a new chapter for me, and my hope is that I continue to inspire others to remain steadfast, prioritize your mental health, advocate for yourself and others by using your voice, and never be afraid of what the future holds, even if it feels uncertain," Voigt said.

The Miss USA organization said in a statement on Monday that it respects Voigt's decision and has accepted her resignation.

"We respect and support former Miss USA Noelia Voigt's decision to step down from her duties," it said. "The well-being of our titleholders is a top priority, and we understand her need to prioritize herself at this time."

The pageant said it is reviewing plans for "the transition of responsibilities to a successor" and will make an announcement soon.



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26 NYC Health + Hospitals Doctors Recognized for Outstanding Patient Care at Annual Doctors' Day Celebration

Doctors across the health system are nominated by their Chief Medical Officer for the recognition

May 7, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals, on May 7, celebrated its Doctors' Day and recognized 26 doctors for their outstanding patient care. This year, for the first time, NYC Health + Hospitals is honoring three physicians at their new Gotham Health Centers of Excellence, which provide Long COVID services, as well as primary care services. The doctors were nominated by their facility's Chief Medical Officer to qualify for the achievement. This year's honorees include pediatricians, primary care doctors, emergency department physicians, an oncologist, a pathologist, a neurologist, an HIV specialist, an optometrist, and others. They come from a diverse array of nations such as Ukraine, Nigeria, China, Burma, Nepal, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Haiti, India, and Pakistan. Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mabelle Allen joined staff at The View at Battery Park to recognize outstanding doctors in the nation's largest municipal health system. Biographies of the 26 doctors recognized in this year's event are available here.

HONOREES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Dr. Sara Rostanski has led the Department of Neurology's stroke



NYC Health + Hospitals Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mabelle Allen and the 2024 Doctors' Day honorees

program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue since 2018. Under her leadership, the program developed a neuro-ICU for complex stroke patients as well as an advanced outpatient clinic - two of the advances that have made Bellevue the only NYC Health + Hospitals facility, and one of the few public hospitals in the country, certified by The Joint Commission as a comprehensive stroke center.

"My goal was to build a world-class stroke center at Bellevue," said Dr. Rostanski. "Flash forward six years, and after a lot of hard work with a dedicated multidisciplinary team and a tremendously supportive hospital administration, we obtained The Joint Commission certification. It was a

validation of the high-quality stroke care we provide at Bellevue for patients throughout the health system."

Dr. Cheryl Smith has been one of New York City's most dedicated HIV doctors for more than 30 years - not only serving the medical needs of those with HIV but advocating for critical social supports and helping lead the state's education and prevention efforts. Since 2014, she has brought that expertise to NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Sydenham. At Sydenham, she has about 150 HIV patients and virtually all are on antiretroviral therapy that keeps viral loads undetectable for most. Since 2008, Dr. Smith has also been an associate medical director at the New York State

Department of Health's AIDS Institute, where she founded and directs a program that uses digital technology to improve education and communication about HIV and epidemics.

"[Caring for patients with HIV] was just something that my heart gravitated to," said Dr. Smith. Now that patients mostly have their viral loads suppressed, her focus the focus of care has largely shifted from patients' physical health to the hardships they face beyond their disease, like housing. "The psycho-social determinants of health are tremendously important in every disease but they are particularly and critically important with HIV."

Dr. Boris Mashalov helped develop an adolescent clinic in his role as an attending physician at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx. It addresses issues like sexual health including pregnancy, mental health, and weight management. Among his proudest accomplishments is the successful implementation of the Adolescent Immunization Project, which resulted in 90 percent of North Central Bronx adolescent patients being fully immunized- roughly double the national average of 45 percent.

Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton Applauds Approval of \$15M Investment in Key District 11 Sewer Infrastructure Projects

MAY 7, 2024

GLEN COVE, N.Y. (TIP): The Nassau County Legislature's Rules Committee voted unanimously on Monday, May 6 to invest nearly \$15 million toward the completion of sewer system upgrades across the 11th Legislative District, Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) announced.

Monday's action culminated with the approval of a \$14,174,400 contract with R.J. Industries for general contractor services related to the full rehabilitation of the for the Knott Drive (Glen Head), Morgan Park, Viola Drive (both Glen Cove) and Roslyn pump stations, and the conversion of the Knott Drive ejector station into a submersible pump station. The term of the contract commences once Nassau's Department of Public Works (DPW) commissioner issues a Notice to Proceed.

The Rules Committee also authorized a \$772,455.84 construction management services contract with Gannett Fleming Engineers and Architects related to the Harwood Ejector Station and Southridge



DeRiggi-Whitton Applauded approval of \$15M investment in Key District 11 Sewer Infrastructure Projects

Pump Station improvement projects in Glen Cove. Gannett Fleming will be tasked with site supervision, management of costs, schedules, documents, safety, and more. The contract runs 14 months from the commencement date with an option for two one-year extensions.

Contracts are authorized by the Rules committee and require no further Legislative action.

Resources for the contracts are being drawn from the Pump Station Upgrades line of Nassau County's capital infrastructure plan.

"On a daily basis, Nassau County residents depend on reliable sanitary sewer service to maintain preserve public health and protect our water from nitrogen pollution," Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton, who serves as Ranking Member of the Rules committee, said. "I thank my colleagues on the Rules committee for supporting critical investments in our sewer infrastructure that will protect our quality of life and foster opportunities for continued economic growth in our communities."

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Overarching Indianness transcends differences among groups



BY M RAJIVLOCHAN

INDIA IS ONE OF THE FEW NATIONS IN THE WORLD THAT HAS RESOLVED THE PROBLEM OF SEPARATISM IN SO MANY STATES

"INDIANS CALL THEMSELVES - AND QUITE ASSERTIVELY - BENGALI, TAMIL, PUNJABI, CHRISTIAN, HINDU, MUSLIM, SIKH, JAIN, PARSIS, BUDDHIST, ETC. BUT FROM THIS, IT DOES NOT FOLLOW THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS INDIA. THOSE ARE ASCRIPTIVE IDENTITIES THAT DO NOT RULE OUT THE OVERARCHING IDENTITY OF BEING INDIAN."



What makes India unique is the desire of people to live together, which is manifested in the fact that not only do we survive but also make constant efforts to stay together - Photo / iStock

As electioneering in India becomes more strident and voters are wooed by a focus on the faultlines in society, it would do us good to recall the nature of our nationhood. Countries come into existence because we focus on what is common among us rather than what is different. The 'moral spirit of combination' holds a nation together; wrote Rabindranath Tagore in 1917, when he was worried about the war that was going on in Europe and soldiers being pulled from all over the world into the battleground. In an essay on India's nationhood, he said it was quite evident that this was a war of nations rather than that of tribes or religions. After all, Tagore wondered, being a nation was a much more evolved state for a society, since it enabled a much larger number of people to come together and harmonize their actions for the common good. Then, he penned down his thoughts on how different nations had been formed and the positive and negative consequences of it. The most visible negative consequence was that since 1914, European nations had been at war with one another, and millions of young men from India and Africa had been sent to Europe to fight. On the positive side, nations had ensured that people from diverse backgrounds - different from each other in language, religion and ethnicity - had come together and created a society and polity that benefited everyone.

Tagore noted that nations were the highest form of social evolution. Thereby lies a very important insight for us to understand our own existence in the present times.

Overcoming the natural differences of ethnicity, language and religion, nations came into being when their people

wished to live together. Diversity, faultlines due to ethnicity, religion and language - all these come with birth. The desire to live together does not; it is crafted by human beings. What makes India unique in the comity of nations is the perpetual desire of people to live together, which is manifested in the fact that not only do we survive, we also make constant efforts to stay together.

This has been so throughout history. There are ancient texts in which we referred to ourselves as the people of Jambudwipa, the land of the jamun tree. In the Kusa Jataka from the fourth century BC, Sakra, the king of the gods, gave the ugly Prince Kusha a necklace of pearls and told him to wear it, saying, "Tie this on you, then there will not be your equal for beauty in all Jambudwipa." In later times, with an increasing contact with the outside world, those across the Sindhu river were referred to as Al-hind. Later, various East India companies came into being, not 'South Asia companies'. India has been a singular civilization in history.

This continues to be the case even today. Statements made by leaders of various groups that have taken up arms against the Indian state in modern times are interesting.

Eno Rh Raising, the self-styled 'home minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim', said in 2015 that the Nagas were a separate people with a history different from that of Indians. The occasion was the signing of a peace accord with the Indian Union. On August 3, 2015, the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)-IM, the largest of the seven Naga insurgent groups, announced a historic peace

agreement with the Centre, agreeing to create mechanisms for greater autonomy for Naga tribes living in Manipur and decommissioning of arms held by the NSCN (IM). Neither the Nagas nor the media reporting these twin statements saw anything contradictory in the spectacle of the leader of a people with a history different from that of India signing a peace accord with the very entity they were fighting against, while at the same time asserting their separate identity.

Over the decades, Gorkhas, Sikhs, Nagas, Manipuris and Kashmiris - to name only the most well-known - have declared their disaffection with the Indian state to be such as to merit breaking away. No one ever followed up on this intention. India is one of the few nations in the world that has successfully resolved the problem of separatism in so many states.

Speaking at a public forum last year, Bipul Kalita, an ex-member of the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Asom), said they laid down arms when they realized that 98 per cent of the people of Assam did not support militancy.

The more simple-minded among intellectuals writing on India take these assertions of separateness literally to be a sign that the Indian Union barely exists, that it was brought into existence by the British; the presumption being that there was no entity called India before that.

For Westerners to see us like that makes sense to them. Perhaps they see nations as monolithic entities. For Indians to imbibe and regurgitate this merely shows a people unaware of their own strengths and their long civilizational memories. Abrahamic

OVER THE DECADES, GORKHAS, SIKHS, NAGAS, MANIPURIS AND KASHMIRIS - TO NAME ONLY THE MOST WELL-KNOWN - HAVE DECLARED THEIR DISAFFECTION WITH THE INDIAN STATE TO BE SUCH AS TO MERIT BREAKING AWAY. NO ONE EVER FOLLOWED UP ON THIS INTENTION. INDIA IS ONE OF THE FEW NATIONS IN THE WORLD THAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED THE PROBLEM OF SEPARATISM IN SO MANY STATES.

benchmarks of nation and religion are of little use to us. Unlike Europe - which was troubled by religious wars from the times of the Crusades right up to the 19th century, marked by mass killings every few years - Indians did not carry out large-scale slayings.

Exceptions prove the rule. The one fault line that resulted in the partition of the country expressed the one conflict that Indians were unable to resolve amicably. About this, the Congress Report on Communalism, published in 1931, mentioned that the so-called Muslim problem in India was entirely the creation of the British administration trying to divide India and Indians in ways that were not natural to the country. Subsequent events only substantiated the findings of the report. Even after Pakistan had been created as a country for Muslims, millions of them continued to live in India of their own volition. As a recent study by economist Shamika Ravi says, Muslims flourished in India. Their numbers went up from about 8 per cent in 1950 to around 14 per cent in the present times, even as the number of Hindus in Pakistan went down from 25 per cent to about 2 per cent in the same period.

Indians call themselves - and quite assertively - Bengali, Tamil, Punjabi, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Buddhist, etc. But from this, it does not follow that there is no such thing as India. Those are ascriptive identities that do not rule out the overarching identity of being Indian.

(The author is a Historian)

Students lead struggle for reinvention of democracy



BY SHELLEY WALIA

THE STAND TAKEN BY THE HEADS OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES HAS BEEN DEMORALIZING

"Student activism in the US, as seen since the days of protests against the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa or the Iraq War, becomes vital for resistance to political structures that take a stand against the freedom of expression and refuse to recognize basic human rights. The killing of innocent children and women in Gaza underscores the fragility of the notion of justice and respect for human life. Such a regressive milieu deepens the sense of estrangement and distrust between the students and the state with its deceitful politics, its civil aggression, the rampant academic repression or the pervasive acts of war. The student agitations compel us to revisit centers of higher learning where diverse interests and opinions underwrite a robust critical conversation. Let it be clear that institutions of higher education cannot be turned into programming centers where critical thinking and revolutionary pedagogies are scoffed at."

The police crackdown on university students has again roiled the US. The student protests of 1969 were against the Vietnam War, and this time, they are against the American backing of the Israeli war machinery targeting Palestinians.

Sadly, international agencies for peace and the defense of human rights remain moribund while a serious humanitarian crisis unfolds in Gaza, with more than 14,000 children killed. It is student activism that has drawn attention to the brutality of the war. They have been closely watching the massacre in Gaza and feel deeply frustrated that their country and their university are complicit in the ongoing genocide.

While the presidents of various colleges and universities support the police force for the maintenance of order and discipline, their moral bankruptcy is apparent from their deafening silence at the destruction of schools and universities across Palestine. Their role in bringing the police to the campus and repealing the age-old tradition of free assembly or disregarding the legitimate and moral aspect of the protest against genocide underscores misgivings about moral progress and mutual understanding.

Dissent and opposition to injustice underpin the student protests and evoke the spirit of democracy in an academic environment that has gradually become subservient to the conservative far-right. Undeniably,



Up in arms: Dissent and opposition to injustice underpin the student protests.

politics remains central to education. Education believes in and inculcates public participation in the affairs of the state - the mark of an egalitarian society in which open debate and difference of opinion invite a vigorous presentation of opposing viewpoints, enriching our understanding of the challenges we face or the meaningless wars we fight.

In any civil society, educational institutions are sites where complaints are freely heard, considered and swiftly resolved. Such a democratic environment rekindles a new hope at every step, giving the youth the stamina to take a peaceful position that is neither easy nor expedient. But this is far from the reality the world finds itself in. The decline has been steady over the years. Educational institutions across America, rather than facilitating the procedures of defense of fundamental rights and the promotion of a civil society, have gradually become pawns in the hands of right-wing ideologues. Citing anti-Semitism or invoking the question of law and order are lame excuses used to justify the crackdown on students. The dogmatic strain found in the reasoning resonates with the dominance of the Jewish lobby in the US that ignores the call for the end of the Israeli onslaught on the people of Palestine.

It is a fact of history that when governments fail to safeguard the democratic rights of citizens, it is often the students who become vigilant about the state's inadequacies or transgressions. As we have seen in the last few days, the attempt to scuttle dissidence and freedom of thought has grown in its ferocity across universities in the US. Nationwide alarm at the use of police force against demonstrators calling for the end of the war in Palestine and for divesting all links with companies that support Israel reflects an adversarial stand against the administration. A collective defense against the brutality of war and terrorism in West Asia has moral and intellectual legitimacy in a democracy.

We stand at a moment of crisis in world history when the free citizens of the world are livid at the return of McCarthyism, which uses the 'malaise' of communism to smudge critical education, university autonomy and public intervention in the policy decisions of a power-hungry state. Persecution and muzzling of the human spirit through the advocacy of irrevocably established stubborn thinking and institutionalized hegemonies amounts to the abrogation of social and moral obligations to the principles of a meaningful conversation.

Student activism in the US, as seen since the days of protests against the Vietnam War, apartheid in South

Africa or the Iraq War, becomes vital for resistance to political structures that take a stand against the freedom of expression and refuse to recognize basic human rights. The killing of innocent children and women in Gaza underscores the fragility of the notion of justice and respect for human life. Such a regressive milieu deepens the sense of estrangement and distrust between the students and the state with its deceitful politics, its civil aggression, the rampant academic repression or the pervasive acts of war. The student agitations compel us to revisit centers of higher learning where diverse interests and opinions underwrite a robust critical conversation. Let it be clear that institutions of higher education cannot be turned into programming centers where critical thinking and revolutionary pedagogies are scoffed at.

And though there is a lot of rage to go around, we also share hope for a better world and a commitment to bringing it into existence through those who dream, act and think deeply to subvert any kind of state control underpinned by violence and the manufacturing of fear. The voices of the students have begun to resound and reinforce each other in unison in the emancipatory struggle for the reinvention of democracy and its beleaguered educational institutions. The motivation is to oppose the tyranny of the state and spread the message that education must not be painted as a site of radical ideology out to overthrow social norms, community and national unity. The public must believe in the fact that, though demonstrations and strikes have always been put down, they nevertheless advance the cause of progressive movements. It is the power of the people to act and stand up before the state apparatus.

Understandably, interrogating power is fundamentally unsettling. Administrators across American campuses must understand that if there is a breakdown of communication between them and the students, the blame lies with the establishment's inadequacy in engaging in a discussion across the table on the relevant issues. Bureaucratic high-handedness or intimidation tactics of thought-policing higher education will never work. The stand taken by the heads of American universities has been demoralizing, especially because of the botch-up by the establishment to integrate 'student idealism' as well as activism into university policies.

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

Administrators across American campuses must understand that if there is a breakdown of communication between them and the students, the blame lies with the establishment's inadequacy in engaging in a discussion across the table on the relevant issues. Bureaucratic high-handedness or intimidation tactics of thought-policing higher education will never work.

Playing to the gallery in Telangana

PARTIES NEED TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT WHILE TALKING OF RESERVATION FOR MUSLIMS



BY SYED MOHMMED

"THIS ISSUE SEEKS TO PLAY TO THE GALLERY AND CREATE A SENSE OF RESENTMENT AMONG SCS, STS, AND OBCS AT THE EXPENSE OF MUSLIMS. MUSLIMS HAVE BEEN DEMONIZED THESE ELECTIONS, AS SEEN IN VARIOUS SPEECHES AND IN THE BJP4KARNATAKA'S RECENT POST ON X WHICH HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN DOWN AND HAS GARNERED 8.9 MILLION VIEWS SO FAR. THE POST SHOWS MUSLIMS BENEFITING FROM RESERVATION AND DISPOSSESSING SCS, STS, AND OBCS FROM A NEST. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT POLITICAL PARTIES EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR COMMENTS ON THE ISSUE UNTIL THE APEX COURT DELIVERS ITS VERDICT."

The question of reservation for Muslims has once again become a polarizing issue in the country, especially in Telangana. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly opposed reservation for Muslims. Days after he referred to Muslims as "ghuspeti (infiltrators)" and "those who produce many children," Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared at a public meeting in Zaheerabad that reservation for Muslims, at the expense of reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), will never happen in his lifetime.

Reservation for Muslims has been a contentious issue ever since its introduction in undivided Andhra Pradesh by the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR)-led Congress government in 2004. Those who oppose such reservation argue that it is based on religion and therefore unconstitutional, while those who favor it say it is accorded on the basis of backwardness of Muslims.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an election meeting in Medak, Telangana. - File Photo / Credit: The Hindu

Originally fixed at 5% in education and employment, reservation for Muslims was determined using Census data and was based on the community's socioeconomic status. The Backward Classes Welfare Department, in addition to the existing categories of A, B, C, and D, created a fifth category, E, of socially and educationally backward Muslims to accommodate them. This category encompasses 14 communities such as Achchukattalavandlus, Attar Saibulus, Dhobi Muslims, Faqeers, Siddis, Hajjams (barber), and Shaiks. Vocational Muslim communities such as the Laddafs were already included in category B (vocational).

In 2005, the YSR government passed an ordinance which was later replaced by a law providing 5% reservation for Muslims, but this was struck down by the Andhra Pradesh High Court as unconstitutional. The State government appealed against the verdict in the Supreme Court and a Bench issued a stay on the High Court order.

Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) promised to increase the quota from 4% to 12%, in proportion to the State's Muslim population (12.68%). The TRS constituted a Commission of Inquiry to study the socioeconomic conditions of Muslims. The Commission toured the districts of Telangana, interacted with the public, and gathered data and evidence from various sources, including the National Sample Survey Office, to make the case for increasing reservation for Muslims to 12%. Its report in 2016 also sought to evaluate the compatibility of these proposed reservations for Muslim communities and castes with the 11 criteria laid down in the Indra Sawhney case.

RESERVATION FOR MUSLIMS HAS BEEN A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE EVER SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION IN UNDIVIDED ANDHRA PRADESH BY THE Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY (YSR)-LED CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN 2004. THOSE WHO OPPOSE SUCH RESERVATION ARGUE THAT IT IS BASED ON RELIGION AND THEREFORE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, WHILE THOSE WHO FAVOR IT SAY IT IS ACCORDED ON THE BASIS OF BACKWARDNESS OF MUSLIMS.

In 2017, the TRS passed a Bill to increase reservation for STs to 10% and Muslims to 12%. While this Bill received support from the Congress and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), it was opposed by the BJP. It

was sent for the President's Assent.

Over the years, the BJP has continued to criticize the promise of 12% reservation for Muslims and described it as unconstitutional, religion-based, and an attempt to indulge in vote bank politics. Last year, Home Minister Amit Shah said in Chevella that the "BJP government in the State will scrap all such unconstitutional reservations if voted to power in the next Assembly elections". So, the party's campaign against the issue in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls is not an isolated case.

Mr. Modi's stance has invoked criticism from Hyderabad parliamentarian Asaduddin Owaisi. The AIMIM chief and his brother Akbaruddin Owaisi have contended that reservation for Muslims was accorded not on the basis of religion but backwardness. He has implied that the BJP and Mr. Modi are against the welfare of the community. Interestingly, the BJP's ally, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which is contesting both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, has batted for the continuation of reservation for Muslims.

This issue seeks to play to the gallery and create a sense of resentment among SCs, STs, and OBCs at the expense of Muslims. Muslims have been demonized these elections, as seen in various speeches and in the BJP4Karnataka's recent post on X which has not been taken down and has garnered 8.9 million views so far. The post shows Muslims benefiting from reservation and dispossessing SCs, STs, and OBCs from a nest. It is imperative that political parties exercise restraint in their comments on the issue until the apex court delivers its verdict.

(The author is a Reporter with The Hindu)

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LUNCH BY *Tom Wah*

June 2

INDIA ELECTIONS 2024: 19 APRIL 2024 TO 1 JUNE 2024

Led by Priyanka, how Cong is building its campaign in Rae Bareilly

As Rahul Gandhi prepares to contest the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat for the first time, the Congress is building his campaign around the Nehru-Gandhi family's 100-year connection to its pocket borough while conveying to voters that he will remain by their side — an attempt to counter the BJP's accusation that the party disappears from the seat every time after coming to power.

The two-pronged strategy — “Sewa ke sau saal” (100 years of service) and “Rae Bareilly ke Rahul” (Rae Bareilly's Rahul) — will soon be launched through publicity material and social media posts before Rahul begins his campaign here, said party sources.

Rahul's sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra — who is leading the campaign in the seat held for four terms by their mother Sonia — has been setting the tone for the strategy during her appearances.

Vadra, who addressed more than 25 nukkad (street corner) meetings in the past two days in Rae Bareilly's Bachhrawan and Rae Bareilly Sadar Assembly segments, has repeatedly invoked the January 7, 1921 Munshiganj massacre to show how four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family — right from Motilal Nehru and Jawaharlal Nehru — have stood with the people of the constituency.



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being welcomed by party leaders and workers during her election campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, in Rae Bareilly, Thursday, May 9, 2024. Photo | PTI

A Congress leader said: “The Nehru-Gandhi connection with Rae Bareilly has been a century old, starting from the days of Moti Lal Nehru and Jawahar Lal Nehru, who stood with farmers during the 1921 massacre by the police. It was during the era of non-cooperation movement, when protesting farmers were shot and later Jawahar Lal Nehru was also arrested offering support to farmers.”

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Bachhrawan and Rae Bareilly Sadar Assembly segments, has repeatedly invoked the January 7, 1921 Munshiganj massacre to show how four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family — right from Motilal Nehru and Jawaharlal Nehru — have stood with the people of the constituency.

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during the era of non-cooperation movement, when protesting farmers were shot and later Jawahar Lal Nehru was also arrested offering support to farmers.”

During her appearances, Priyanka has said that while mistakes were made, lessons were learnt too, citing the example of Indira Gandhi who was defeated from Rae Bareilly but won later. Since India's first election in 1952, Congress has held the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat for 66 of 72 years.

Another Congress leader said: “This campaign narrates the story of how Congress has always stood with farmers and not the rich as it is said that the police firing had started only after a taluqdar opened fire at the protesting farmers.”

On Thursday, just a few kilometres away from a nukkad meeting by Priyanka in Bachhrawan, BJP candidate Dinesh Pratap Singh and senior party leader Suresh Chand Tiwari told workers how the Gandhi family had “left Rae Bareilly and they would leave after election again”.

“It is Dinesh Pratap Singh, a local leader, who will remain with you in your good and bad days,” Tiwari said. Singh's publicity material projects him as the “light” of Rae Bareilly (main chirag hoon tumhara). Source: *The Indian Express*

Twist in India's election battle as Modi accuses rival of taking money from billionaires Adani and Ambani

Indian prime minister Narendra Modi has claimed without evidence that his chief rival took “truckloads” of illegal money from billionaires Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, in one of the most unexpected twists in the heated election battle.

Ambani and Adani, two of Asia's richest men, are said to enjoy close ties to the prime minister. Modi arrived in Delhi for his first inauguration as prime minister in 2014 on a private jet emblazoned with Mr Adani's logo, and his face accompanied frontpage advertisements announcing the formal launch of Ambani's telecoms company Jio, which has since rapidly risen to become a major player in a highly lucrative and competitive market.

Mr Modi's latest attack on Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party has triggered a debate about the sudden change of thrust in the prime minister's campaign speeches, with analysts speculating that his party was doubtful of its performance in the election so far.

Addressing a rally in southern Telangana state on Wednesday, Mr Modi accused Mr Gandhi of striking a deal with the billionaires.

“For five years, the Congress prince abused Ambani and Adani and now suddenly you have stopped. Meaning, you have accepted truckloads of illegal funds.



You will have to answer to the country about this,” Mr Modi said.

He was “sensing something fishy” as the Congress party's attack on the two billionaires had stopped overnight, the prime minister added.

Mr Gandhi responded in a video statement saying Mr Modi was “nervous” about how the election was going. He challenged the prime minister to send

investigative agencies to prove his allegation.

“Modiji, are you nervous? Normally you speak of Adani and Ambani in closed rooms. It is for the first time you have taken their names in public,” Mr Gandhi said. “You even know they send money in truckloads, is that your personal experience?”

“Send CBI, ED to them, get a thorough inquiry done as soon as possible,” he said, referring to federal agencies Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate, both of which Mr Modi's government has been accused of weaponising against opposition leaders.

“I want to repeat to the nation that the amount of money Modi has given to them, we are going to give the same amount to India's poor,” he added, referring to Mr Ambani and Mr Adani.

Mr Modi's attack came after Mr Gandhi's consistent swipes at the prime minister and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party for allegedly having close links with business tycoons and championing policies favouring the wealthy over the poor.

Mr Ambani and Mr Adani come from Mr Modi's home state of Gujarat where their multinational corporations maintain major business operations.

Source: *Independent*

This is Rahul Gandhi vs Modi election, says Amit Shah

HYDERABAD (TIP)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday, May 9, said the 2024 election is Rahul Gandhi vs Narendra Modi and that it is a contest between vote for development and “vote for jihad”.

Addressing an election rally in Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency of Telangana, he said the election is between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's “Bharatiya guarantee” against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's “Chinese guarantee”.

Describing the Congress, BRS and AIMIM as a triangle of appeasement, he said the parties don't let Ram Navami procession to take place and that they also oppose CAA.

“These people don't allow the celebration of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' (September 17). These people oppose CAA. These people want to run Telangana on the basis of Sharia and Quran,” he said.

BJP would secure nearly 200 seats in the three phases of Lok Sabha elections held so far and Telangana needs to vote to help the party cross the target of 400 seats, Shah said. Observing that BJP had won four of the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana in 2019, he asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to realise that BJP would win more than 10 seats in the present elections.

The double digit score in Telangana would make PM Modi cross 400 seats, he predicted. Referring to Congress'



allegation that BJP would change the Constitution and abolish reservations, he said Congress wants to fight elections by telling lies.

Congress says Modi would scrap quotas but he has not done so despite being in power for the last 10 years with full majority, he said.

But, Congress in Telangana robbed the reservations of SC, ST and OBCs by providing four percent reservation to

Muslims, he alleged.

Shah said BJP would end Muslim reservation and increase SC, ST and OBC quotas, if they came to power.

“Modi ji does what he says. The guarantees of Rahul baba (Gandhi) don't last even till sunset,” he said.

At the time of Telangana assembly polls, Rahul Gandhi had promised Rs two lakh farm loan waiver, Rs 15,000 every year for farmers, Rs 12,000 annually for agriculture

workers, Rs 500 bonus on MSP for paddy farmers, Rs five lakh loan to students without guarantee, 'scooty' to college going girls and international schools in every tehsil, but they have not been implemented, Shah said.

Congress withheld the construction of Ram temple for 70 years, but Modi, in just five years, won the case, performed 'bhumi puja' and later participated in the consecration, he said.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said that though people from Rajasthan and Telangana don't have anything to do with Kashmir, the people of Bhongir would be ready to sacrifice their life for the sake of Kashmir, he said.

Highlighting the abolition of Article 370, Shah also said Modi has ended terrorism, Naxalism and made the country secure.

He alleged that AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi, BRS and Congress are “ABC of appeasement”.

Modi removed triple talaq, but Congress, BRS and AIMIM want to bring it back, he said, adding that the parties also boycotted the consecration of the Ram temple.

He also alleged that Revanth Reddy made Telangana the “ATM” of Congress.

Shah highlighted the various development works undertaken by the Modi government in the Bhongir LS constituency, including establishment of AIIMS. *Source: PTI*

PM Modi ‘blatantly racist’ by bringing in skin color in poll debate, says Chidambaram

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress leader P Chidambaram on Thursday, May 9, accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being racist by bringing in skin colour in the poll debate, and said the opposition's support to Yashwant Sinha in the presidential election was not based on the colour of skin.

In a post on X, he said in the last election to the office of President of India, there were two candidates - Droupadi Murmu and Sinha.

While the BJP and its allies supported Murmu, he said 17 Opposition parties, including the Congress, supported Sinha.

“Support for a candidate was not based on the color of the skin. Opposition to a candidate was also not based on the colour of the skin. Support or opposition was a political decision, and every elector abided by the decision of his or her party,” the former union minister said.

“Why did the Hon'ble PM bring the colour of the skin into the election debate,” he asked.

“The PM's remarks are completely irrelevant and blatantly racist,” the



Congress leader alleged.

Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday, May 8, attacked the Congress over its former party leader Sam Pitroda's comments over skin color and asserted that the countrymen would not tolerate insult on the basis of skin colour.

Hitting out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Modi said he has now understood that the national party sought to defeat President Murmu in the presidential poll as her “skin colour is dark”.

Pitroda's comments that people in the eastern parts of the country resembled the Chinese, while those from the south looked like Africans had kicked up a row.

Will end drain of wealth from Indian families to crony corporates: Congress

The Congress on Thursday, May 9, accused the Modi government of aiding “drain of wealth” from ordinary Indians to crony corporates, and said it will end this practice if it comes to power at the Centre.

The Congress attack came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Rahul Gandhi had stopped “abusing” Adani and Ambani and whether his party received money from them in return.

“On June 4, as the Congress-led government takes power, we will rapidly accelerate economic growth while ensuring that ordinary Indian families are the biggest beneficiaries. We will end the ‘drain of wealth’ from Indian families to crony corporates,” Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

“The ‘Hum Do Hamare Do’ effect: Net household savings fell by 9 lakh crores in the last three years. Real household savings are at their lowest since 2014. PM Modi has overseen a ‘drain of wealth’ - from Bharat ke Parivar to Modi ka Parivar,” Ramesh also said in a post on X, while sharing his statement.

The Congress leader, in his statement, said 150 years ago, Dadabhai Naoroji's “Drain Theory” explained how the wealth of India's people was being taken away and sent to England.

“Since 2014, we have seen a similar ‘drain of wealth’ from Bharat ke Parivaar (India's families) to Modi ka Parivaar (Modi's family). This is the intentional effect of the prime minister's ‘Hum Do Humaare Do’ policy of favouring his cronies, he said.

UMC calls on US State Department to declare India a "Country of Particular Concern"

MAY 2, 2024

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (TIP): The General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC), which met in Charlotte, NC on April 30, 2024, overwhelmingly passed a resolution recognizing the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India by the Hindu nationalist movement and calling on the US government to take action.

The resolution focuses on the 2023 violence against tribal Christians in Manipur, India, where at least 120 people were killed by armed mobs operating with sanction of the state's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The UMC is the first denomination in the world to pass such a resolution. The resolution appeals to the US State Department to "designate India as a 'country of particular concern,' or CPC, for engaging in systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act."

The Rev. Scott Christy, President of the New Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM), who introduced the petition, said, "Too often, we mourn the loss of lives after a terrible tragedy has occurred. This particular resolution is an urgent plea to proactively prevent atrocious acts of violence against Christians in India on account of their religious belief. We hope other denominations also follow UMC's lead by passing similar resolutions."

"Religious minorities such as Christians and Muslims live under constant fear and threat in India, the largest democracy in the world," states the resolution. "Supported by the National and State governments, the Hindu Nationalist movement commits such religious violations in India."

According to Rev. Neal Christie, Executive Director of the Federation of Indian-American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA), "As a church committed to ecumenism and interfaith relationships, through this resolution we're calling on the State Department to look into the human rights situation in India and hold the government there accountable."

"As a missionary in Southeast Asia, I saw how Christianity, in general, is not recognized by the government," says Philippines-based UMC Bishop Israel



Painit. "Religious persecution anywhere is concerning because it infringes on basic human rights and religious freedoms, but it's particularly poignant when it happens in places like India, which prides itself on diversity and tolerance. Protecting religious minorities is essential for a just and inclusive society where all can live and worship freely."

"What's happening against Christians in India is that armed mobs of hundreds of people are invading church services, shutting them down, beating up the congregation and the clergy, and handing those people over to the police, who slap charges against the victims instead of the perpetrators," explains journalist and author Pieter Friedrich, who spoke at a NFAAUM lunch the day before the resolution passed. "There are ongoing rapes, people are being dismembered, burned alive. These are the sorts of attacks we're talking about."

"As the most populated country in the world, India is rich in so many ways through technology, culture, cuisine and its history of many religions living side by side in peace," says Rev. Audun Westad, a UMC pastor in Norway. "We appreciate all of this in Indian society, but we also know that religious minorities suffer there now. We stand with them and ask for better conditions, higher levels of acceptance, and that religion should not affect the possibilities you have as a human being."

Comparing the situation to his home in Nigeria, UMC

General Conference Delegate Amos Davidson says, "Because some states in northern Nigeria enforce Sharia law, Christian residents are systematically discriminated against and are effectively treated as second-class citizens. These communities are living under the constant threat of human rights abuses and injustice in courts of law. It is so reminiscent of what is happening in India, as Christians in both places face violent attacks during religious ceremonies and church worship while government officials either look the other way or actively participate."

"Persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in India matters to me since I'm a devoted follower of Jesus Christ," says Rev. Nelson Castorillo, an executive with UMC's Asian-American Language Ministries. "Their pain is my pain and their suffering is my suffering. I have to do something about it and all of us Christians, for that matter, should do something. We need to stop these atrocious attacks against Christians and religious minorities. Religious bigotry should be a thing of the past and we should learn to co-exist and live with respect and love for each other."

Friedrich explains that, in 2023, two states in India - Manipur and Chhattisgarh - saw attacks on Christians where tens of thousands were displaced, hundreds were murdered, and several hundred churches were burned down.

"When we learn what's happening against Christians in India (and it's also happening against other religious minorities in India), our responsibility as people of faith is to, first, become educated, but then, speak," says Friedrich. "Don't just cry about it silently at home. Pray, then put your prayers into some kind of action. That involves things like going to your church to get your congregation active and aware, trying to get your pastor taking the lead to speak on this, reaching out to US Congress, but especially getting the ecumenical Church - beyond the UMC or any denomination - coming together and talking about this to bring it to the forefront of our narratives."

"The worldwide UMC should condemn these atrocities and denounce religious persecution in India and around the world," concludes Rev. Castorillo. "This is what UMC is known for: championing the cause of Christianity through peace and justice."

Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar condemns vandalization of community center owned by him

MAY 6, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar (D-Detroit), on May 6, issued a condemnation in response to the vandalization of a community center owned by him. The graffiti depicted pro-Palestine sentiments, with his face painted over and the words "Shri racist" and "ceasefire in Gaza" spray-painted on the walls.

"As a member of Congress, I am always open to dialogue and debate," stated Thanedar. "Unfortunately, this vandalism of the community center is not an isolated incident, nor is it a productive form of communication. These acts create nothing but fear and division during a time that depends on open conversation and discourse."



Congressman Shri Thanedar has condemned the vandalization of his community center

This incident is not the first instance of aggression, Thanedar said. He recounted previous protests that turned violent, leaving individuals hospitalized and his family feeling unsafe.

"In this case, a place designed to bring our community together was vandalized in a way that seeks to drive it apart," he said. "I have had meetings about this with everyone that requested a meeting on my website. I have hosted town halls, held Zoom meetings, and spoken face-to-face with my constituents about this issue to make their voices heard in an appropriate and effective capacity. I am always open to productive and respectful dialogue, but this kind of vandalism is simply unacceptable."

US Ambassador Garcetti dismisses concerns about democracy in India

MAY 10, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Biden administration's top diplomat in New Delhi on Thursday, May 9, dismissed concerns being raised in certain quarters about democracy in India and observed that in many ways Indians are better than the Americans.

At an event organized here by the Council on Foreign Relations, a top American think-tank, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti told the audience he was confident that "10 years from now India is going to be a vibrant democracy as it is today in terms of free and fair elections".

"Again, there's things that probably are worse and there's things that are better. They have a law, you can't go more than two kilometers to vote. So, there'll be one guy who lives in the mountains as a monk (at) someplace. They will walk for two days to bring the voting machine, execute the vote," he said, responding to a question expressing concerns over the status of democracy in India.

He said that during elections times in India, there are people who check trucks

to make sure that nobody has cash going around.

"There's probably walk-in money, as they call it in some cities here in the United States, Philadelphia, that's like a tradition where cash kind of gets you votes and things like that.

So, I've been impressed with certain things they do that are better than us." He, however, added there are things that "we keep our eyes on. And I just disagree that we don't speak out about them", "We put them out.

It's not the only thing. I mean, some people want us to only say that. But this is too important a relationship to spend all day long only saying that over and over.

You're not going to get anything else done. It'll become a self-fulfilling prophecy that they will not be close to us. Whereas where we find the common ground, which I think is really human to human, very deep," he said.

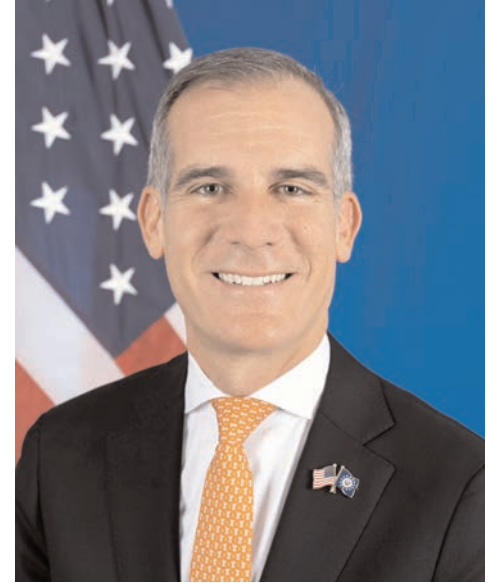
"You have a lot of leaders there who have come worked, been educated here, have an affinity. There's a huge positive polling of Americans. I told the president

before the state visit that Americans poll better in India than Americans do in America. They like us more than we like ourselves. That's rare in the world today," Garcetti said, adding that Poland is the only other country that comes close.

This is a huge advantage for the US, he said.

"... If you don't know state governments in India, which are as powerful as the center and are run by opposition parties, and there's plenty of criticisms you can make, too, about other parties that have been in power. If you look at history in India, there's not been some golden era where everybody's rights have been respected," Garcetti said.

"America's role is to stand up for the principles and the values that we have, to never retreat from those and talk about them. But is the relationship only that and those points of conflict? Absolutely not. It would be bad diplomacy; it would be bad policy. But in my heart, 100 percent, I believe, not only will this still continue to be one of the world's most vibrant democracies," Garcetti said.



US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti has said that he was confident that "10 years from now India is going to be a vibrant democracy as it is today in terms of free and fair elections".

"I 100 percent believe we can trust this relationship. It's going to be one of the defining relationships of the 21st century, the US and India together," he said. (Source: PTI)

America's tech industry cannot survive without Indians: SVC Chamber of Commerce CEO

MAY 5, 2024

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): Indians are one of the largest leaders of innovation in Silicon Valley, and America's tech industry cannot survive without them, the CEO of the Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce has said.

I don't have the new figures, but what matters is that we (Indians) are such impactful contributors," Harbir K Bhatia told PTI in an interview.

Indians are one of the largest leaders of innovation in Silicon Valley. At one point, the data was collected (according to which) 40 per cent of Silicon Valley CEOs or founders were from South Asia or India. That is so huge, she said.

Located in Santa Clara, the hub of Silicon Valley, the Chamber of Commerce is made up of a group of visionary business leaders from multiple cities that help grow and shape the future of Silicon Valley.

"Here you get to bring your whole self to work and have the opportunity to be creative, to be all that you want to be without the worry of your color, of your

skin, the religion you practice, the cast, the culture, anything, she said.

Bhatia said Indians are heading all the major corporations like Google, YouTube, Google Foundation and Microsoft.

"They're either at the CXO (Chief Experience Officer) level or they're the CEOs. That doesn't happen by chance," she said.

Bhatia said Indians bring some of the best values like hard work and productivity to the work.

"I can tell you this, if you get a 98 per cent in school, your mom and papa will always tell you, but why didn't you get a hundred per cent? That's our culture. That's who we are. It's never enough, and that craving and that aspiration is what separates us (from others)," Bhatia said.

I'm not saying other ethnicities don't believe this way, but as being one of the largest populations on the planet, this is something that is part and parcel of who we are...," she said.

Praising the Indian jugaad', a frugal and flexible approach to problem-

solving, she said: "If there's a problem, put a desi on it, you'll find a solution.

When asked about the relationship that Silicon Valley has with India, she said India has played a key role in its success.

Well, there are many relationships. Let's talk about the basics. The basics are the majority of outsourcing is still done in India. The tech industry is able to thrive in the United States because they can do the three-to-one model, which is the one employee in America costs three employees in India, Bhatia said.

I mean, let's be real about that. Who's running all the operations? Who's keeping all the lights on? It is our forces, our community that is in part and parcel and bread and butter of every tech company in some way. They cannot survive without us," she said.

America brings some of the brightest minds from India, she said.

"There's a reason why they keep trying to cap the visas because they know we're so well that they just have to put a limit. Otherwise, we could take up

all the jobs, she said.



Indians are one of the largest leaders of innovation in Silicon Valley, and America's tech industry cannot survive without them, Harbir K Bhatia, CEO of the Silicon Valley Central Chamber of Commerce has said.

Photo / LinkedIn

She said Indians can thrive in any profession be it tech, farming or healthcare.

(Source: PTI)

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Pakistan, Russian connections detected in Ahmedabad school bomb threat case

The Crime Branch has uncovered a Pakistani link to the bomb threats which targeted 38 schools in Gujarat's Ahmedabad on May 6, officials said on Friday, May 10. The officials said that this incident has links in Pakistan and a Russian server was used to create a sense of panic and fear in the city. The threat mail was sent from a Russian domain (.ru). More information is awaited.

The threatening emails received a day before the May 7 Lok Sabha polls caused widespread panic among the public.

The Crime Branch, Cyber Crime unit, Special Operations Group, and Ahmedabad Police launched an investigation soon after the threats. Despite the alarming nature of the threats, no suspicious or explosive materials were discovered after thorough inspections by bomb disposal squads and canine units. Director General of Police Vikas Sahay had said that the threats were a hoax and encouraged voters to proceed to the polls without fear. This incident follows a trend of hoax threats similar to those received by over 130 schools in the Delhi-NCR area.

Rein in pro-Khalistan elements on British soil, Ajit Doval tells counterpart

National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval expressed concern over rising Sikh radicalisation in Britain and the need for London to rein them while co-chairing the India-UK Strategic Dialogue with his UK counterpart Tim Barrow on Thursday. Doval had also flagged his concerns on the issue during earlier meetings with Barrow, especially during the strategic dialogue in July last year.

New Delhi is concerned over radicalisation, especially after the attack on the Indian High Commission by Khalistani elements and the allegations raised by radicals against India after the unnatural death of Khalistan Liberation Force leader Avtar Singh Khanda.

The focal point of their talks was the technology and security initiative, a pivotal bilateral platform aimed at bolstering collaboration in critical and emerging technologies between India and the UK, said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Both NSAs discussed a roadmap to take forward the initiative to address shared security challenges. They also deliberated on bilateral issues of mutual interest and exchanged views on regional and global matters, said Jaiswal. Later, Barrow met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who posted on X, "Good to meet UK NSA Tim Barrow today in Delhi. Discussed a range of regional and global issues of importance. Also reviewed the progress in our bilateral ties."

Karnataka sex scandal: Twist in case as woman claims was forced to file false case

BENGALURU (TIP)

In a twist to the sex video scandal in Karnataka involving JD-S MP Prajwal Revanna, the National Commission for Women (NCW) said on Thursday that one of the woman complainants in the case has claimed that she was forced by a group of people claiming to be cops to lodge a false complaint after being threatened with harassment.

Taking a cue from the NCW's allegation, former Chief Minister and JD-S state President HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday, May 9, night accused the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case of threatening the victims with prostitution to extract false statements.

The SIT officers are threatening the victims that if they don't make statements in favour of the Congress government, they will be charged with prostitution, the JD-S leader claimed.

"The investigating officers are going to the doorsteps of the victims and threatening them. Tell us, isn't it a fact that the SIT officers are threatening the victims with false prostitution cases against them? Is this how the



Prajwal Revanna

probe is being conducted," Kumaraswamy questioned Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who earlier described the sex video scandal as the biggest sex scandal in the world.

"Where have you kept the rescued woman who was kidnapped? Why is she not being produced before the court? Do you support the act of distribution of private videos of the victims," Kumaraswamy asked Gowda,

Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, and son of JD-S MLA HD Revanna, who has been arrested for his alleged role in the kidnapping of a victim of the sex scandal

involving his son. Kumaraswamy is the younger brother of HD Revanna.

Stating that there is no question of defending Prajwal Revanna, Kumaraswamy said, "Everyone should respect the law and the guilty should be punished. HD Deve Gowda has four sons and two daughters. We have our own businesses and families. I had gone to Hassan only at the time of the Assembly elections."

Meanwhile, Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara defended the SIT probe, saying that it is functioning efficiently.

The state government doesn't need to reply to all the allegations being levelled by the JD-S, he said.

"The SIT is conducting a probe and the state government has taken the matter seriously," he added.

"I can't answer everyone. If they have a complaint against the SIT, let them file it. The investigation is underway and once the report is submitted, all the details will be made available. If the victims are blackmailed over the videos, action would be initiated against the guilty," Parameshwara said. *Source: IANS*

Amid diplomatic row, India fully withdraws soldiers from Maldives

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In the midst of a diplomatic row, India has withdrawn all its soldiers from Maldives, the island country's government said in an official statement. Indian troops were withdrawn from Maldivian territory shortly before the May 10 deadline set by the latter's president, Mohamed Muizzu earlier.

President Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, had set May 10 as the deadline for the withdrawal of the Indian military personnel from his country. The withdrawal of Indian military personnel was one of the key promises of Muizzu's government during his presidential campaign last year.

Heena Waleed, president's office's chief spokesperson, confirmed to the media that the last of the Indian soldiers stationed in Maldives had been repatriated, without giving an exact number of troops. She added details about the number of the soldiers stationed would be disclosed later.

Maldives had earlier said in a government statement that 51 out of the total number of Indian troops stationed in the country were repatriated to India on Monday. The government earlier announced the presence of 89 Indian soldiers in the Maldives, citing official documents.

After Muizzu set the May 10 deadline, India agreed to withdraw its troops from the country before the last date to avoid any conflicts.

At a media briefing in New Delhi on Thursday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the first and the second batches of the Indian personnel returned to India and "now deputation of competent Indian technical personnel has taken place" to operate the three Indian aviation platforms.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

This development comes just a day after India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with his Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer. The two leaders had extensive talks on bilateral ties and regional security issues of India and Maldives.

Zameer said that the two foreign ministers also discussed the possibility of President Muizzu making a visit to New Delhi very soon.

The Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and occupies a special place in its initiatives like 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' of the Modi government.

Air India Express crisis ends as airline, staff strike truce

The Air India Express crisis appeared to have been averted on Thursday evening with official sources saying a section of the cabin crew had decided to call off the ongoing strike that had crippled the airline services resulting in the cancellation of nearly 170 international and domestic flights.

After a meeting between the Office of the Labour Commissioner (Central), Tata-owned AI Express management and disgruntled employees, sources said, a section of AI Express cabin crew had decided to withdraw their strike and return to duty as the management agreed to examine the issues raised by them and also recall termination letters issued to 25 striking employees.

The AI Express had earlier on Thursday issued termination letters after the employees failed to report for duty and went on mass sick leave. The cabin crew had gone on mass sick leave against alleged mismanagement at the airline and attempts by the Regional Labour Commissioner to impress the AI Express management to probe the matter had not borne fruit. The Regional Commissioner had on May 4 asked the AI Express management to constitute a high-level committee to examine the "genuine grievances of the employees and not disregard the complaints through idiotic interpretation of labour laws".

Sandeshkhali 'victim' withdraws sexual assault complaint

One of the complainants in the Sandeshkhali case has withdrawn the sexual assault and land grab charge against TMC's Sheikh Shahjahan, claiming she was forced to sign a piece of paper by people linked to the BJP.

The paper carried a fake complaint about TMC men sexually assaulting her, she claimed.

Talking to reporters, the woman, accompanied by others, claimed they actually wanted to complain about not receiving payment under the MGNREGA job scheme but were instead asked to sign a paper that stated they were raped. "No rape incident took place. We are not involved in those things. We are poor people and work hard to earn a living," she said. The BJP has rejected the claims made by the woman and slammed the Mamata Banerjee-led government for spreading misinformation.

"The TMC has now launched a systematic campaign to malign the victims of Sandeshkhali and weaken their movement for justice. First, an attempt was made to put out a fake, AI-generated video of Gangadhar Koyal, a junior BJP functionary, claiming the movement was orchestrated and funded by BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari. Koyal later denied saying anything like that and has now written to the CBI to include the fake video in its investigation," Amit Malviya, chief of BJP's IT cell, said.

Haryana crisis: Oppn pushes for floor test, BJP says it's ready

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

The Congress and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) on Thursday stepped up efforts to topple the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Haryana and wrote to governor Bandaru Dattatreya even as chief minister Nayab Singh Saini exuded confidence about his administration being safe despite losing the backing of three independent lawmakers this week.

Leader of Opposition and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the Congress sought an appointment with the governor to apprise him about the current political situation and alleged that the BJP government was trying to indulge in horse-trading after being reduced to a minority.

"On moral grounds, it (BJP) should resign. President's Rule should be imposed...we are demanding fresh elections in the state," he said.

Former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala wrote that it was evident that the incumbent government no longer commanded a majority in the legislative assembly.

"The JJP is not extending support to the present government and is open to supporting any other political party for government formation," said the letter, dated May 8. But he might face a rebellion in his own party as at least three lawmakers are in touch with the BJP, according to people familiar with the matter.

The BJP said it was safe with former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar saying the Opposition won't be able to



Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab Singh Saini.

muster even its own numbers in the event of a floor test.

"The opposition is doing vague calculations. During the floor test, if they can retain even 23 of their MLAs, it will be a big deal... I don't see any no-confidence motion being moved anytime soon, but if any such situation arises, we will have a floor test... Many JJP MLAs have given support to BJP. This is what I'm saying, they need to think beyond what meets the eye," said Khattar.

Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday that there is no danger to the government. He said that he has the numbers and is ready for a floor test, if required.

"Does Dushyant have the numbers? We have the numbers. I won the floor test in March and, if required, I will do it again. There is no threat to the government," Nayab Saini said.

The latest chapter of the crisis that sparked off in March began on Tuesday after three independent lawmakers — Randhir Golan from Pundri, Dharmpal Gonder from Nilokheri and Sombir Singh Sangwan from Dadri — said they

had decided to back Hooda of the Congress and written to Dattatreya pulling their support from the Saini government.

Assembly elections are scheduled in the state in October-November this year. All 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state go to the polls on May 25. In the 90-member assembly, two seats are vacant, of which Karnal is going for by-elections on May 25.

The BJP has 40 members, and has the support of two independents — Nayan Pal Rawat from Prithla and Rakesh Daulatabad from Badshahpur — and Gopal Kanda of the Haryana Lokhit Party. That takes it to 43, two short of the majority mark of 45 in the assembly that currently has a strength of 88.

The Congress has 30 lawmakers, the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) has 10, and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) has one. In addition, one independent legislator — Balraj Kundu from Meham — has not made his position clear.

If they all oppose the government, there will be 45 votes against the state government.

INLD also wrote to the governor demanding a floor test or imposition of President's rule in the state

Question marks hang over the JJP and its ability to command the support of all 10 of its legislators.

At least three MLAs — Barwala MLA Jogi Ram Sihag, Narnaund MLA Ram Kumar Gautam and Tohana MLA Devender Babli — are exploring ticket opportunities for the assembly elections and are in touch with the BJP leadership, said people familiar with the matter. *Source: HT*

Cine stars Vyjayanthimala, Chiranjeevi, late justice M Fathima Beevi conferred Padma awards

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Yesteryear actor Vyjayanthimala Bali, Telugu star Konidela Chiranjeevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court late M Fathima Beevi and "Bombay Samachar" owner Hormusji N Cama were among the eminent persons conferred Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday, May 9.

BJP leader O Rajagopal, Ladakh's spiritual leader Togdan Rinpochey, Tamil actor late "Captain" Vijayakant (both posthumous), group editor and CEO of Gujarati newspaper "Janmabhoomi" Kundan Vyas were also conferred Padma awards at a civil investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



While 90-year-old Bali and Chiranjeevi were given Padma Vibhushan, Beevi, Cama, Rajagopal, Vijayakant, Rinpochey and Vyas were conferred Padma Bhushan.

Family members of Beevi, Vijayakant and Rinpochey received the awards.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Union Home Minister Amit Shah were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The Padma awards, among the highest civilian honours of the country, are conferred in three categories -- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

The awards are given in various disciplines or fields of activities, such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service etc.

Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

India in history this Week

MAY 10 TO MAY 16

10 MAY

1526 After victory in the first battle of Panipat, Babur entered Akbarabad (Agra), the capital of erstwhile India.



2002 India's famous poet Kaifi Azmi passed away.

1993 Santosh Yadav became the first female climber to reach Everest, the world's highest mountain peak twice.

1857 The first battle of freedom struggle started from the cantonment of Meerut.

1857 Indian fighters started a revolt in Delhi from the British East India Company.

1946 Jawaharlal Nehru was elected the leader of the Congress party in India.

11 MAY

1784 Treaty between the British and Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore.

1951 President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the newly constructed Somnath Temple.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was elected the President of India. He succeeded Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

1998 India announced three nuclear tests at Pokaran in Rajasthan.

2000 According to the population clock, India's population reached one billion.

2007 The Bahujan Samaj Party secured a majority in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections and party leader Mayawati took over as the chief minister.

1960 The first contraceptive pill market was made available in 1960.

2005 In 2005, the World Bank appointed a neutral expert on the Baglihar project to settle Indo-Pak differences.

2011 India and Pakistan agreed to start a bus service between Lahore and Amritsar.

1918 India's famous classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai was born in 1918.

2002 Princess of Bhopal politics and India's first female pilot Abida Sultan died in 2002.

12 MAY

1459 Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur.

1666 Under the treaty of Purandar, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj reached Agra to meet Aurangzeb.

1915 The revolutionary Rasbihari Bose left India aboard the Japanese yacht Sanuki Maru.

1993 Famous Hindi poet Shamsheer Bahadur Singh passed away.

1921 The first National Hospital Day was celebrated.

1926 Airship Norgay became the first vessel to fly to the North Pole.

1949 Vijayalakshmi Pandit became the first foreign



woman ambassador of independent India.

13 MAY

1905 Birth of former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

1952 The first session of Parliament was called in independent India.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan became the second President of the country.

1978 The country's first flag carrier INS Delhi was relieved

1998 India conducted two more nuclear tests, regardless of the criticism and pressure around the world.



2001 The death of RK Narayan, one of the biggest names in Indian literature.

1648 Construction of the Red Fort in Delhi was completed.



2000 Lara Dutta of India was elected Miss Universe.

1956 Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the spiritual leader who founded the Art of Living Foundation, was born.

1918 The famous Bharatanatyam dancer T. Balasaraswati was born.

14 MAY

1992 India banned LTTE, a Sri Lankan rebel organization known as the Tamil Tigers. Apart from India, many other countries also banned the Tamil Tigers.

1944 British troops captured Kohima in 1944.

2001 Seven agreements in India and Malaysia.

2010 Considering 22 between India and Russia in 2010 in defense, nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment etc.

1923 Mrinal Sen, the famous producer and director of Indian films, was born.

1981 Indian inventor and computer scientist Pranav Mistry was born.

1943 Allah Baksh died during the British rule, was a zamindar, government contractor, freedom fighter and politician.

15 MAY

1907 Birth of freedom fighter Sukhdev Thapar.

1967 Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was born.



1817 Birth of social reformer Devendra Nath Tagore.

1242 Sultan of Delhi Muizzuddin Bahram Shah's army revolted and killed Sultan.

1933 India's First Army Commander in Chief Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa passed away.

2005 Indian aircraft landed in Canada after 20 years.

2008 Manjula Sood of Indian origin became the first Asian woman to become mayor in Britain.

1923 Indian comedian Johnny Walker was born in 1923.

1817 Eminent scholar and religious leader Devendranath Thakur was born in 1817.

16 MAY



2014 The demise of Indian industrialist Rustomji Homaji Modi.

1911 Construction of Tallah Water Tank in Calcutta (now Kolkata) completed. It was called the world's largest overhead water tank at that time.

1960 Start of international telex service between India and UK.

1975 Sikkim was incorporated into the Indian Union as the 22nd state.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as the tenth Prime Minister of India.

2008 The Supreme Court rejected the decision of the Kolkata High Court to ban the 27% OBC quota in postgraduate courses of central educational institutions.

A tribute to mothers on their special day

MOTHER'S DAY IS A TIME TO CHERISH AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROFOUND IMPACT THAT MOTHERS AND MATERNAL FIGURES HAVE ON OUR LIVES. ANNUALLY CELEBRATED ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF MAY, HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Mother's Day is a global celebration that honors mothers and motherly figures, recognising the sacrifices and invaluable contributions they make to their families and society.

This day serves as a heartfelt tribute to motherhood and the remarkable influence mothers have on our lives and a time to reflect on the tireless efforts and unwavering devotion of mothers, who selflessly dedicate themselves to nurturing and supporting their loved ones.

History

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

Anna Jarvis Turns Mother's Day Into a National Holiday

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.



After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

Traditions and Celebrations

While versions of Mother's Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand, for example, Mother's Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit.

Another alternate observance of Mother's Day can be found in Ethiopia, where families gather each fall to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

In the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also

celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

At times, Mother's Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968 Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King Jr., used Mother's Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children. In the 1970s women's groups also used the holiday as a time to highlight the need for equal rights and access to childcare.

In India, on Mother's Day, families come together to honour the invaluable role that mothers play in their lives, celebrating the selfless love and sacrifices of mothers nationwide. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, children often present their mothers with flowers and cards as tokens of affection.

In Japan, the carnation gifted to mothers symbolises love and gratitude, while Ethiopian families gather for large celebratory feasts. Mexicans honour mothers through serenades and poetry readings, and in Nepal, a special religious festival called Mata Tirtha Aunsi is observed.

Regardless of the specific customs, the essence of Mother's Day thus remains universal: it is a time to cherish and acknowledge the profound impact that mothers and maternal figures have on our lives.

Role mothers play in our lives

This Mother's Day, the biggest tribute one can pay to their mother is to convey the heartiest thanks for everything they have done and have been doing for us.

Raising her kid

The first and foremost role a mother plays in this world is taking the responsibility of bearing her child. This is honestly an obligation that can never be repaid to her. It is said that it is easy to bear a child but it is extremely difficult to raise them well. But haven't our mothers performed these tasks beautifully? It is certainly impossible to thank her enough.

Her love and care is completely irreplaceable

Nobody on this planet can match up to the love and care that a mother showers upon you. From being teary-eyed when we get hurt in childhood to waiting for us to eat food before her, a mother offers unconditional love and support. Be it any age and phase of your life, we all need mom's words to overcome a bad situation.

Proper environment for the right development

There is no denying that a mother is responsible for what kind of environment her child is growing up in, since the very beginning. This has a direct or indirect impact on the kid's mental health development. It is the mother, who needs to make sure that her child is getting an appropriate space for creativity, and studies.

Behavioural development

A mother has to make sure that her kid is getting the proper opportunity to explore his likeness and interests. It is only the mother who is very well versed with her child's behaviour. She has to be all ears whenever her kid is speaking his heart out.

Imparting routine and discipline

Since day one of your school life, it is your mother who has told you to go to bed when it is bedtime. She has woken you up for school. These are very simple ways how a mother makes your routine. Once you are back from school, she tells you to sit for your homework before going out to play. These may seem like small things but they end up playing a big role instilling discipline.

Famous mothers in history

Many famous women throughout history have been mothers, but motherhood isn't often a key reason for their fame. This article will look at some women for whom it is. Some are admired for their love and devotion, while others are noted for their fierce determination to protect their lineage. All have left



their mark on history.

The Virgin Mary

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary is Christianity's ideal mother. She is not only the mother of God but also the mother of all of humanity, for she participated in the redemption of humankind. Her unique fate is intertwined with fascinating historical glimpses into her era. She offers a feminine perspective on all major events throughout Jesus's life.

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy was the matriarch of a large Irish-Catholic family, and she raised her children for greatness. Her father was a politician, and her husband was an ambassador for several years. She is the only woman in history to have had three sons serve in the U.S. Senate. (And one of them, John F. Kennedy, became president.) Their success, however, had terrible consequences—two of the three were assassinated. Rose Kennedy died in 1995 at the age of 104, having lost four of her nine children to violent circumstances.

Adriana Iliescu

In 2005, a 66-year-old single woman in Romania caught the world's attention. That was the year Adriana Iliescu gave birth to a daughter conceived by in vitro fertilization (IVF), thus becoming the world's oldest woman to give birth. While this record has since been surpassed, Iliescu's story sparked the ongoing medical and ethical debate surrounding age and motherhood.

Catherine de' Medici

Queen consort to King Henry II of France, Catherine de' Medici made her mark on history as the mother of three successive kings and two queens. During her husband's reign, she remained relatively unknown, but she gained significant political clout after his death in 1559. As queen mother, she assumed the regency several times and wielded considerable influence for nearly 20 years, playing a major role in shaping 16th-century Europe.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

In addition to being an accomplished pilot and writer, Anne Morrow Lindbergh was widely known for being married to the pioneering aviator Charles Lindbergh. The couple's lives were upended in 1932 when their infant son was kidnapped, creating a media sensation. Anne subsequently became known as the mother of "the Lindbergh baby." In the wake of their son's tragic death the Lindberghs lived in Europe for several years



Sushmita Sen with her adopted daughters.

and welcomed five more children. Anne returned to her love of flying and writing, publishing novels, essays, poetry, nonfiction, letters, and diaries.

Margaret Beaufort

Margaret Beaufort was born into English royalty. She gave birth to her only child, Henry Tudor, when she was just 13 years old and endeavoured to make him a king. Amidst great political upheaval, Beaufort succeeded in making the alliances needed to achieve her goal. On October 30, 1485, her son was crowned Henry VII. She became a central figure in the monarchy. In addition to advising her son during his reign, she tutored the grandson who would later be crowned Henry VIII up to the moment of his coronation.

Jacinda Ardern

Jacinda Ardern, former prime minister of New Zealand, is the second woman in modern history to give birth while in office, after Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto. While political unrest compelled Bhutto to conceal her pregnancy, Ardern announced she was pregnant months in advance and took six weeks of maternity leave after her daughter was born. For working moms around the world, she became an inspiration. In 2018, she took baby Neve, then three months old, to a United Nations summit in New York, marking another historic first.

Josephine Baker

Josephine Baker, the famed Missouri-born French singer and dancer, had a strong maternal instinct. After undergoing an emergency hysterectomy in the 1940s, she went on to adopt 12 children from all over the world, raising them in the spirit of brotherhood and

universalism. Baker's "Rainbow Tribe," as she called her large family, reflected her stance as an anti-racist activist. She wanted to show people that "adopting children of every colour [...] is in fact possible; that children from different races, raised together as siblings, have no animosity; that racial hate is not natural. It's an invention by mankind."

Lady Diana Spencer

One of the things that endeared the young Princess of Wales to the public in the 1980s and 1990s was her close relationship with her sons, William and Harry. Lady Diana Spencer broke with royal parenting tradition on many occasions, including by being the first mother in the royal family to breastfeed her children. She rearranged her schedule to spend as much time with her boys as possible, and she wasn't afraid to be affectionate with them in public. She also fought to protect her children from the media. After her death in 1997, the British press noted that she had injected candor and emotion into civic life.

Agrippina the Younger

Born into a powerful family, Agrippina the Younger is perhaps best known for being the mother of the emperor Nero, a direct descendant of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Thanks to her scheming, which included at least one assassination, Nero ascended to the throne in the year 54. Although Agrippina exerted considerable influence at the beginning of her son's reign, he later viewed her as a threat and had her killed. In a clearly dramatized version of events, she is alleged to have told her killers to stab her in the womb that bore her murderer.

Estela Barnes de Carlotto

Estela Barnes de Carlotto is president of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo. Every Thursday since 1977, the women of this organization have held demonstrations in Buenos Aires' Plaza de Mayo square to protest the kidnapping of their children and grandchildren under Argentina's military dictatorship (1976-1983). De Carlotto lost her daughter, who was pregnant at the time, and her son-in-law to the brutal regime in 1978. In 2014, she was reunited with her grandson (photo), who had grown up knowing nothing of his origins.

Marie Curie

Marie Curie is a very good example of best moms around the world. She is remembered as the pioneer in researching radioactivity. Even after losing her husband, she worked stoically and set a world of her own with her daughter and work. She is the only Nobel Prize winner of her Nobel Prize winner daughter - Irène Joliot-Curie.

Angelina Jolie

She is a blend of motherhood, talent and immense possession. Jolie is a woman who values her relationship and believes her children are the best thing ever happened to her. Angelina being a mother of two adopted kids; Maddox and Zahara and her own daughter Shiloh Nouvel (with partner Brad Pitt) feels life should be led by making own ways. She loves different elements of life and knows how to manage both work and family. Recently, the couple has adopted a Vietnamese kid named Pax Thien and increased their family size.

Madonna

Another famous mom we come across is Madonna. She is not only an icon but also a loving mother. Madonna always created special principles for her and her daughters. She is a singer, author, actor and a perfect mother. Madonna has disclosed her identity as a strict mother for her sweet daughter. She thinks certain rules are implied on kids for their secure and good future.

Jennifer Garner



Angelina Jolie with her kids.

Jennifer Garner has emerged as a star with being a mom. Married to Ben Affleck for a over a year and mother to one-year-old Violet, Jennifer has made having a family above having her name in the tabloids. Jennifer strictly believes in keeping her mom priorities above than anything. The couple has kept their sweet little daughter away from media speculation. Jennifer wants to be a truly devoted mother with a refreshing change in her life.

Sushmita Sen

She is the embodiment of grace, intelligence, and beauty! When Sushmita Sen was crowned Miss Universe in 1994, the world was introduced to her. Her commitment and persistence made her one of the world's most attractive ladies, and the rest, as they say, is history! Sushmita has been in the headlines for various reasons, including her personal life and actions. She became a mother at the age of 24 when she adopted a girl and named her Renee. While many ridiculed her and said harsh things, nothing stopped Sushmita from becoming a single mother at the age of 24, and she adopted another girl, Alisah, after a few years. If you look at the actress's social media accounts, you will notice her life revolves around her girls.

Tarabai: The Guiding Force Of Maratha

The 4th Chhatrapati of the Maratha Clan was an infant when the kingdom was handed over to him after the death of Rajaram. Taking the responsibility to protect the Maratha Empire from the Mughals, the mother of Shivaji II decided to become regent of him. And with her great administrative skills, strategic decisions, great fighting skills, and courage Tarabi saved the empire many times. One of the prominent battles she fought was against the Aurangzeb. She was held captive by the Mughal troops but she fled bribing one of their soldiers. Without her, the Mughals would have destroyed the Maratha country. Praising her one of the prominent historians said, "Tarabai was the guiding force for the nation till 1707 and it was she who protected the country from crisis."

Putlibai: The Spiritual Teacher Of Gandhi

"The Outstanding Impression That My Mother Has Left On My Memory Is Saintliness"

-Mahatma Gandhi

These words from the autobiography of Gandhi reflect how great and inspiring she was. She was religious, spiritual, and a figure of compassion. It was she who instilled the practice of fast in him which later played a crucial role in the struggle for independence.

Besides this, she also taught him that sacrificing one's life for another is the greatest form of love. Putlibai also had a strong understanding of all things

political. These traits of her mother inspired Gandhi very much and sowed the seed of gentleness and greatness.

Jijabai: The Instrumental Figure in Shivaji's Life

One of the inspiring Indian mothers of history is the backbone of Chhatrapati Shivaji. The Maratha King was the reflection of Jijabai Shahaji Bhosale. She was his great advisor and encouraged him to take some of the greatest decisions during his reign.

Popularly known as Rajmata Jijabai, this fierce and powerful Indian mother was also a figure with a great personality trait. Nobody could stand against her on the battlefield as she could defeat even the skilled fighters with her sword.

With the help of her, Shivaji established Hindavi Swaraj and succeed in uniting the entire Maratha clan.

Rani Lakshmbai: The Fierce Protector

When it comes to highlighting the story of bravery and motherhood, the name of Rani Lakshmbai has to be at the top. She showed how precious a child is for a mother and how important a country is for a patriot. Though Damodar was her adopted child, Lakshmbai loved and protected him till her last breath. Indeed, she was the rarest of rare women in the history of India.

The list is just beyond these famous inspiring Indian mothers. Many famous personalities like Abraham Lincoln considered their mother to be the life-changing persons of their life. And to express their greatness, we have another list of all those famous mothers around the world.

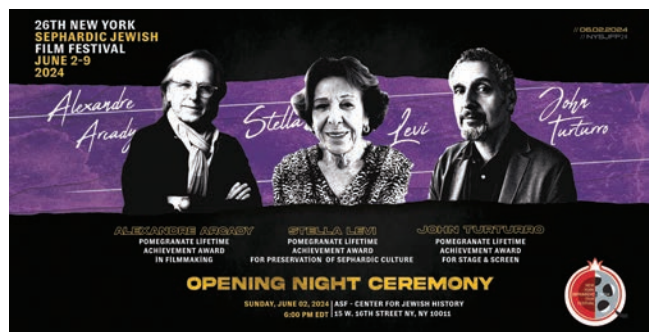
Princess Diana

Princess Diana is not popular for her elegance and charm but was also a wonderful mother. She never let royalty steal the normalcy from her kid's life.



TOLERANCE AND DIVERSITY FIND PLACE WITHIN THE VIBRANT SEPHARDIC CULTURAL MOSAIC AT THIS YEAR'S FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Honorees, poster

Credit: americansephardi.org

The 26th edition of the Sephardic Jewish Film Festival, ensures a captivating week-long cinematic journey of untold stories of tolerance and diversity within the vibrant Sephardic cultural mosaic. The festival takes place June 2-9, at the American Sephardi Federation - Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY, 10011.

This year's festival promises to be truly extraordinary, as it includes NY, US and international premiere films, world-renowned filmmakers and actors receiving the Pomegranate Awards and the return to the American stage, hand in hand with the ASF, of the iconic internationally acclaimed singer and songwriter Enrico Macias.

OPENING NIGHT

HONOREES & PERFORMER

Opening Night includes a mesmerizing performance by Enrico Macias and the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony honoring acclaimed filmmaker Alexandre Arcady, cultural icon Stella Levi, and celebrated actor and director John Turturro.



Enrico Macias, poster

Credit: americansephardi.org

JOHN TURTURRO

John Turturro, one of cinema's finest talents, will be honored with the Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award at the 26th NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival's Opening Night, on Sunday, 2 June at 6:00PM. Mr. Turturro previously received the Cannes Film Festival's Caméra d'Or, Sundance Film Festival's Vision Award, a Primetime Emmy Award, and Venice Film Festival's Award of the City of Rome, amongst other honors.

Although he isn't of Jewish descent, Turturro has played and written numerous Jewish characters in his career and has been considered by many as "the greatest non-Jewish portrayer of Jews":

"My wife is Jewish, and I've grown up with black and Jewish people my whole life. And people always think I'm Jewish. Especially since I started playing Jewish characters with Joel and Ethan [Coen]. I played Primo Levi, I played Herb Stempel [in "Quiz Show"], I played Barton Fink. Some of the best characters I've played. One Italian guy told me once, 'You only play Jewish guys!'" (Washington Post, 2014)

Turturro grew up Catholic, but says "I'm not really religious, dogma-wise." What he finds most interesting about Judaism is "the debate that goes on. There's something healthy about that. I've always had, maybe not an attraction to the religion, but to the mind-set."

John Turturro will also join the Festival on Closing Night on June 9 at 7PM for a 10th anniversary screening of *Fading Gigolo*. The film features performances by Sharon Stone, Vanessa Paradis, Liev Schreiber, and Sofia Vergara.

TICKETS : The following Festival Packages, Passes, & Tickets are available:

VIP Sponsorship Festival Package : VIP Sponsorship Festival Package includes access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night Private Meet & Greet Receptions) and VIP seating at all Movie Screenings; Name listed as Festival Sponsor in the Catalog.

FESTIVAL PASS : Includes Opening and Closing Night Ceremonies, all Movie Screenings, Q&As, and Special Daytime Events

Opening Night Ticket

Includes Opening Night Awards Ceremony, Performance by Enrico Macias, and light reception.

Access nysjff26.eventive.org/passes/buy/vip_festival_pass to purchase your choice of Pass.

The American Sephardi Federation - Center for Jewish History

For updates and film schedule, visit americansephardi.org

THE GOLDEN AGE OF AL-ANDALUS EXHIBIT IS INAUGURATED

BY MABEL PAIS



Executive Director, Jason Guberman speaks

Credit: americansephardi.org

To celebrate the 'Golden Age of the Jewish community of Al-Andalus,' on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 pm, the Embassy of Spain to the United States, the Consulate of Spain at New York, Centro Sefarad-Israel, Instituto Cervantes, the World Jewish Congress - North America, and the American Sephardi Federation inaugurated the Exhibit, "The Golden Age of the Jews

of Alandalus" | "La Edad de Oro de los judíos de Alandalus" at the ASF - Center for Jewish History.

The event featured remarks by

Ángeles Moreno Bau, Ambassador of Spain to the United States

David Dangoor, President of the ASF

Jason Guberman, Executive Director of the ASF

Matt Gatton, a Sephardic Scholar and author of *The Shadows of Socrates*

Dr. Hélene Jawhara Piñer, ASF Broome & Allen Scholar, award-winning author of *'Sephardi: Cooking the History'* (Recipes of the Jews of Spain and the Diaspora from the 13th Century to Today) and *'Jews, Food, and*

Spain: The Oldest Medieval Spanish Cookbook and the Sephardic Culinary Heritage'

Dr. Vanessa Paloma Duncan-Elbaz, ASF Broome & Allen Fellow, Research Associate at Cambridge University, and award-winning scholar and singer

Jaime Moreno Bau, General Director of the Centro Sefarad-Israel, delivered the keynote address.

Dvir Avnon-Klein, ASF Sephardi House Fellow and talented multi-instrumentalist, performed classical Sephardic songs on the violin as guests entered.

Guests enjoyed kosher delicacies prepared by Dr.



Reception

Hélene Jawhara Piñer at the TriBeCa Synagogue from recipes by or related to the writings to the RAMBAM

Dr. Vanessa Paloma Duncan-Elbaz closed the program by performing a Ladino Romansa.

TICKETS

This was an in-person ticketed event.

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

FILMS, VIDEOS AND EVENTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

GRACE AUSTIN, TEXAS

BY MABEL PAIS

The Austin-based Cine Las Americas International Film Festival (CLAIFF) has the film and events lineup for its 26th Anniversary edition. This takes place at several locations, May 15-19. Cine Las Americas will once again present screenings at AFS Cinema (6259 Middle Fiskville Rd.), and Austin PBS (Clayton Lane/Wilhelmina Delco Dr.), with additional special events at We Luv Video (100 North Loop Blvd E), and Nepantla Art Gallery (1209 East Cesar Chavez Street).

As it has for over a quarter century, Cine Las Americas will serve as one of the primary showcases in the United States for films and videos from Latin America (North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean) and the Iberian Peninsula. The film festival celebrates films and videos made by or about Latinx in the U.S. or the rest of the world, with films and videos by or about indigenous groups of the Americas also featured. CLAIFF also features inclusiveness in the programming among the films representing over 15 countries throughout Ibero-America.

2024 CINE LAS AMERICAS FILM AND EVENTS LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT

GOING VARSITY IN MARIACHI

Dir: Sam Osborn, Alejandra Vasquez; USA; 1h 44m



Opening Night Credit : cinelasamericas.org

In a South Texas high school auditorium, trumpets ring out, thick guitarrón strings thrum, and violin bow hairs snap and swing wildly through the air. This is the world of competitive scholastic mariachi. This energetic documentary captures the highs and lows of Edinburg North High School's Mariachi Oro as a green team strives for state championship.

CLOSING NIGHT

LA CONTADORA DE PELÍCULAS (THE MOVIE TELLER)

Dir: Lone Scherfig; Spain/Chile/France; 1h 56m

The 1960s. María Margarita is the youngest of four siblings from a family living in a mining town in the Atacama Desert in Chile. Their most special time of the week is Sunday, when they all go to the cinema to enjoy stories that transport them to other worlds. With standout



Closing Night Credit : cinelasamericas.org

performances from Academy Award® nominee Bérénice Bejo, BAFTA nominee Daniel Brühl, and multiple-time Goya Award winner Antonio de la Torre, 'The Movie Teller' is a celebration of our capacity to defy even the harshest circumstances, to find love, community, inspiration, and hope where there seems to be none.

NARRATIVE FEATURES - COMPETITION

A LITTLE FAMILY DRAMA

Dir: Nadia Zoe; USA; 1h 27m



Itu Ninu (Where the Corn Fields Are)

Credit : cinelasamericas.org

ITU NINU (WHERE THE CORN FIELDS ARE)

Dir: Itandehui Jansen; Mexico/UK; 1h 72m

MILONGA - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Dir: Laura González; Uruguay/Argentina; 1h 46m

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES - COMPETITION

CATAPUM: NO TENGO DÓNDE CAER (CATAPUM: NOWHERE TO FALL)

Dir: Palu Abadia; Colombia/United States; 1h 12m

IGUALADA

Dir: Juan Mejía Botero; Colombia/Mexico, USA; 1h 21m

THE STRIKE

Dir: JoeBill Muñoz, Lucas Guilkey; USA; 1h 26m

SHOWCASE: NARRATIVE FEATURES

ATÉ QUE A MÚSICA PARE (UNTIL THE MUSIC IS OVER)

Dir: Cristiane Oliveira; Brazil/Italy; 1h 37m

BAJO TERAPIA (UNDER THERAPY)

Dir: Gerardo Herrero; Spain; 1h 33m

BOCA CHICA

Dir: Gabriella A. Moses; Dominican

Republic; 1h 37m

EL OTRO HIJO (THE OTHER SON)

Dir: Juan Sebastián Quebrada; Colombia/Argentina/France; 1h 26m

LA EXTORSIÓN (THE EXTORTION)

Dir: Martino Zaidelis; Argentina/United States; 1h 46m

PEDÁGIO (TOLL)

Dir: Carolina Markowicz; Brazil/Portugal; 1h 42m

PENAL CORDILLERA (PRISON IN THE ANDES)

Dir: Felipe Carmona; Chile/Brazil; 1h 45m

PONYBOI

Dir: Esteban Arango; USA; 1h 43m

Sujo

DIRS: ASTRID RONDERO, FERNANDA VALADEZ; MEXICO/UNITED STATES/FRANCE; 2H 5M

Voy a Desaparecer (I'm Gonna Disappear) - North American Premiere

DIR: CORÉ RUIZ; SPAIN; 1H 43M

SHOWCASE - DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

HAIL TO THE BREADSTICKS! - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Donick Cary; USA; 1h 26m

SUGARCANE

Dir: Julian Brave NoiseCat, Emily Kassie; Canada/United States; 1h 47m

HECHO EN TEJAS SHOWCASE FEATURE

GOD SAVE TEXAS: LA FRONTERA

Dir: Iliana Sosa; USA, Mexico; 56m

PRECEDED BY:

WHAT WASHES ASHORE

Dir: Harold Nieves Fisch; USA; 14m

HECHO EN TEJAS SHORTS - NON-COMPETITION

TACO MAFIA: LEGADO

Dir: Alex Wolff, Joe Rocha; USA; 27m

HECHO EN TEJAS SHORTS COMPETITION

FLOODPLAIN

Dir: Samuel Diaz Fernandez; USA; 16m

NARRATIVE SHORTS - COMPETITION

LA BENDICIÓN (THE BLESSING) - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Brandy Frausto; USA; 15m

MARIA

Dir: Sebastian Valdivieso; USA,

Ecuador; 15m

MASU Y MASA - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Macey Moser; USA; 7m

SOFT BREATH - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Fumiya Hayakawa; United States/Japan; 15m

NARRATIVE SHORTS - COMPETITION

THERE ARE SIX NARRATIVE SHORTS IN COMPETITION.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS - COMPETITION

THERE ARE SIX DOCUMENTARY SHORTS IN THE COMPETITION.

8TH ANNUAL FEMME FRONTERA SHOWCASE LINE-UP

**COMUNIDAD (COMMUNITY) - SCREENS PRIOR TO FEMME FRONTERA FILMMAKER SHOWCASE

Dir: Noelia Lacayo; Nicaragua; 8m

AS LEAVES IN THE WIND

Dir: Sofia Luz; Spain

AURORA AND THE HOUSE OF LIGHTS

Dir: Ángela Matiz, María Matiz; Colombia

BAILARINA

Dir: Verónica Palofox; Mexico

CON VISTA AL RIO

Dir: Persia Campbell; Mexico

THE LITTLE DEATH

Dir: Autumn Palen; USA

THE WORDS IN-BETWEEN

Dir: Katia Kalei Barricklow; USA

US IN OCTAVES

Dir: Alex Mastoon; USA

EMERGENCIA - ALL AGES

THIS CATEGORY FEATURES TEN.

EMERGENCIA - 14+

THERE ARE FIVE IN THIS CATEGORY.

EMERGENCIA - 18+

THERE ARE TWO IN THIS CATEGORY.

MUSIC VIDEOS - COMPETITION

THERE ARE 9 MUSIC VIDEOS IN THE COMPETITION.

CINE LAS AMERICAS

Learn more at cinelasamericas.org

FEMME FRONTERA

Learn more at femmefrontera.org

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



Here's why Madhuri Dixit took a break from acting

Actress Madhuri Dixit Nene has spoken about her decision of taking a break professionally to start a family with her husband Shriram Nene. On the show Kiska Brand Bajega, Madhuri spoke about her decision, "For me, it was one of the dreams I had for myself."

Madhuri got married in 1999 with Shriram, a cardiovascular surgeon from Los Angeles. They welcomed their first born, named Arin, in 2003. It was two years later that they had their second son Ryan.

Madhuri shared that having a family and children was always something she looked forward to. About whether she was worried about her time off, the actress shared, "I am going to have kids, and this is going to be fun was the only thought." Madhuri, who made her comeback to acting in 2022 with The Fame Game, emphasised the fact that choosing to have a family was a no-brainer for her.

Salman asked to pick between Aishwarya Rai and Katrina Kaif; his reply goes viral

Bollywood producer and director Karan Johar put Salman Khan in the spot by taking Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Katrina Kaif's names in a video going viral. Salman has had romantic history with Aishwarya and Katrina. While Salman was in a public relationship with Aishwarya, the actor was rumoured to be dating Katrina at certain point in the past. However, he married neither of them. Regardless of the fate of the relationships, Salman has time and again shown respect to his past relationships and alleged girlfriends.

A video of the same has surfaced on Reddit. The clip was taken from one of Salman's appearances on Koffee With Karan. In the video, Karan asked Salman to pick the more stunning actress: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan or Katrina Kaif. He picked Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and then added Katrina Kaif. He also poked fun at her then-single status. "We'll see what surname adds up," he teased.

Aishwarya Rai dated Salman after the starred in Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam and broke up a few years after. She then met Abhishek Bachchan and dated for a brief period of time before getting married in April 2007. They welcomed their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan in November 2011. Abhishek and Aishwarya have starred together in multiple movies such as Dhoom 2 (2006), Guru (2007) and Raavan (2010), among others.



On the other hand, Katrina was rumoured to be dating Salman on and off. However, in December 2021, she tied the knot with Vicky Kaushal in an intimate but lavish ceremony at Six Senses Fort Barwara, Rajasthan on

December 9, 2021. It was the much-talked about Koffee 'manifestation couch' where Katrina named Vicky as the one actor she was looking forward to working with the most and the rest, as we know, is history.

'Jolly LLB 3' will be full of suspense, you will have to identify the real and fake lawyer

The shooting of the film Jolly LLB 3 has started and this time both actors Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi will again be seen in the role of lawyers in this film. The story of this film will be full of suspense because in this film, while both the lawyers will fight the case, they will also clash with each other over who is the real Jolly.

Actually, Arshad Warsi was in Jolly LLB and Akshay Kumar was seen in Jolly LLB 2. Now both these actors will be seen together in the film Jolly LLB 3. The suspense regarding the story of this film is that who among the two Jolly is the real one and who is the duplicate. According to information, Akshay Kumar has shared a video giving the update of this film and in this video, Arshad Warsi is first seen

claiming to be the real 'Jolly'. Arshad Warsi says 'Jagdish Tyagi alias Jolly, BA LLB. Beware of duplicates.

After this Akshay Kumar enters and he says 'Jagdishwar Mishra, BA LLB. The original is from 'Jolly, Lucknow'. After this, 'Saurabh Shukla' is seen who is playing the character of 'Judge Sunderlal Tripathi' in this film and he is holding a placard in which it is written that Jolly LLB 3 Shoot Begins. According to this update, this time the fight between two real and fake jollies will be seen in this film with Kes.

Arshad Warsi was in the role of Jagdish Tyagi in the 2013 film 'Jolly LLB'. After this, Akshay Kumar was seen in the role of Jagdivar Mishra alias Jolly in 'Jolly LLB 2'. Both these actors acted well and people liked this film very much.





Robert Downey Jr to debut on Broadway with McNeal

Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr is set to make his Broadway debut with McNeal, a new play by Pulitzer Prize-winner Ayad Akhtar. Downey Jr, who recently won his maiden Oscar trophy for Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, will play the titular author in the play, which is being staged by Broadway giant Lincoln Center Theater at its Vivian Beaumont Theater. Directed by Bartlett Sher, McNeal is described as a 'startling and wickedly smart examination of the inescapable humanity — and increasing inhumanity — of the stories we tell'.

"Good writers borrow, great writers steal. Jacob McNeal (Downey Jr) is a great writer, one of our greatest, a perpetual candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature. But McNeal also has an estranged son, a new novel, old axes to grind and an unhealthy fascination with Artificial Intelligence," the official synopsis read.

Downey Jr will also produce the stage show through his banner Team Downey in collaboration with Lincoln Center Theater. McNeal will begin previews on September 5, and will play a strictly limited engagement from September 30 to November 24.

A radiant teenage road trip in 'Gasoline Rainbow'

In sibling directors Bill and Turner Ross' latest, "Gasoline Rainbow," five Oregon teens just out of high school make their meandering way some 500 miles to reach the coast for what's been billed as the "End of the World" party.

They are like countless young protagonists before them: on the road to find out. But while they share much of the same yearnings and anxieties of American road travelers from "On the Road" to "Easy Rider," the circumstances of their particular coming of age are uniquely theirs — and what's on the radio dial is, too. "Dude, I want to listen to some Shakira, bro," one says from the backseat of their van.

This being the Ross brothers — the makers of the Texas-Mexico border portrait "Western" and "Bloody Nose, Empty Pockets," in which they brought 22 people to a Las Vegas dive bar and asked them to act as though it was closing the next day — we are in a hybrid film world, part documentary, part fiction. Our characters — Micah, Nathaly, Nichole, Tony, Makai — are nonprofessional actors and their journey is a loosely constructed series of encounters that mostly unfold naturally.

It's a filmmaking approach that can, in its weaker moments, result in the worst of both worlds: the rambling narrative of documentary and the manufactured



quality of fiction. But on the whole, the Ross brothers' observational, immersive filmmaking gets close to something bracingly real.

In the case of "Gasoline Rainbow," which opens in theaters Friday, much is expressed by the land the teens traverse. Whether by car or on foot, their travels

take them under highway overpasses, through sprawling train yards and along long rows of wind turbines. Global warming is mentioned only once, but it hovers over their uncertain future. They make their way across barren, dry lands and industrial blight. The name of that party is no coincidence. *Source: HT*

AI-generated pictures of Katy Perry at Met Gala 2024 go viral

A realistic AI-generated photo of Katy Perry at Met Gala 2024 went viral despite the pop star skipping out on the A-list event of the year, reported Page Six.

The fake photo of the singer circulated on X, depicting her on the stairs of The Metropolitan Museum of Art dressed in a light beige embroidered gown with flowers and a moss border for the subject 'Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion'. Her beautiful black hair reached her waist and was styled light waves with a middle part.

Perry, 39, was also seen sporting little makeup and a light red lip in the lovely simulated image.

More than 9.6 million people have watched the photo, with 56,000 resharing it.

According to Page Six, fans were convinced the singer made a statement at the event, most missed that the carpet in the photo matches the cream and red design from the 2018 Met Gala rather than the cream and green carpet from this year.

"I can't at everyone falling for this, this isn't even the same carpet," one person



commented under the snap.

Perry also took to Instagram to mock

the AI-generated photo, captioning it, 'Couldn't make it to the MET, had to

work.'

She also shared a screenshot of a text exchange with her mother, Mary Perry, in which the matriarch was similarly duped.

'Didn't know you went to the Met,' Mary wrote. 'What a gorgeous gown, you look like the Rose Parade, you are your own float.'

'lol mom the AI got you too, BEWARE!' Katy responded.

Despite the photo being fake, several agreed Katy's altered look was their favourite of the night.

'My favorite [look] so far,' a fan wrote. 'She understood. Gorgeous,' a second chimed in.

'This is AI, but would have definitely been one of the best looks if it were real,' another added. The 'American Idol' judge hasn't attended the Met Gala since 2022 when she turned heads in a black Oscar de la Renta gown.

Katy has been known to attend the event in outrageous looks, such as a cheeseburger and a chandelier in 2019.

While she was the victim of this year's AI mishap, Selena Gomez experienced the same thing the year before.

BOEING PLANE CARRYING 85 PEOPLE CATCHES FIRE AND SKIDS OFF THE RUNWAY IN SENEGAL, INJURING 10

DAKAR (TIP): A Boeing 737 carrying 85 people caught fire and skidded off a runway at Senegal's main airport, injuring 10 people including the pilot, the country's transport minister said on May 9.

Passengers were evacuated from the burning aircraft and some described "complete panic" as they scrambled for their lives.

The Air Sénégal flight operated by TransAir was headed to Bamako, in neighboring Mali, late Wednesday with 79 passengers, two pilots and four cabin crew, when the crash happened at Blaise Diagne International airport, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from Dakar.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the Boeing 737-300 to catch fire and skid off the runway. The injured were being treated at a hospital, while the others were taken to a hotel to rest, the minister added.

Passengers jumped down the emergency slides at night while flames engulfed one side of the aircraft and screams were heard all around, recounted Malian musician Cheick Siriman Sissoko, who filmed the passengers' ordeal on his phone.

"I saw my life flash before my eyes," he said. "I thought about my mother, my wife, my kids," Sissoko, 39, told The Associated Press from the hotel where passengers were recovering from the shock. "Only the slide on one side opened, so there was complete panic during the evacuation," he added. Ibrahim Diallo, 20, a Malian citizen aboard of the flight, said the plane had attempted to take off earlier that night but failed.

"The pilot told us everything was under control and that we're going to try to take off again," he told the AP. "The second time, smoke started coming from one of the wings."

Boeing referred all request for comment to the airlines. "Carriers operate and maintain their airplanes for upwards of 30 to 40 years," its statement said. "We will provide any requested support to our customer."

Air Sénégal posted a statement on the social media platform X, saying that flights between Dakar and Bamako were rescheduled, but did not respond to requests for comment.

It was the third incident involving a Boeing airplane this week. Also on Thursday, 190 people were safely evacuated from a plane in Turkey after one of its tires burst during landing at a southern airport, Turkey's transportation ministry said. The company has been under intense pressure since a door plug blew out of a Boeing 737 Max during an Alaska Airlines flight in January, leaving a gaping hole in the plane. (AP)

Tens of thousands of Palestinians flee Rafah amid Israeli bombardment

GAZA (TIP): Tens of thousands of Palestinians attempt to flee Rafah as Israel shells eastern area of city sheltering some 1.5 million people, Al Jazeera reports.

Israel's continued closure of the Rafah border crossing is "choking off the entry of life-saving aid into Gaza", Al Jazeera said quoting the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The Guardian, citing UN officials said that more than 100,000 people have fled Rafah after Israel intensified its bombardment.

The Guardian said that humanitarian officials are tracking the number of people fleeing Rafah where more than 1 million people displaced from elsewhere in the territory have been sheltering.

The numbers are expected to rise, with deep concern among aid officials on Thursday that the newly displaced people will end up in makeshift encampments without any services, living in the rubble of their former homes without "basic essentials necessary for life", The Guardian said.

There are roughly 200 Palestinians that are being forcibly displaced from Rafah every hour, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on May 8.

According to The Associated Press, the past three days, streams of people on foot or in vehicles have jammed the roads out of Rafah in a confused evacuation, their belongings piled high in cars, trucks and donkey carts. All the while, Israeli bombardment has boomed and raised palls of smoke.

"The war has caught up with us even in schools. There is no safe place at all," said Nuzhat Jarjer. Her family packed on



Wednesday to leave a UN school-turned-shelter in Rafah that was rapidly emptying of the hundreds who had lived there for months, AP report said.

Professor John Maynard, a surgeon from the UK who has spent the last two weeks operating on Palestinians in Gaza, highlighted complications from a direct result of malnutrition, reports Middle East Eye.

"I had two patients, 16 and 18, both of whom had survivable injuries, [and] both of whom died last week as a direct result of malnutrition."

His colleague Dr Kahler, according to Middle East eye, also spoke of a "tipping point" after six-eight months, "the immunological system breaks down".

"It is at that time when infections and complications from malnutrition will start," he added.

A famine, one aid worker explained,

requires three thresholds: a sustained, severe lack of access to food, high levels of child malnutrition, and highly elevated mortality as a result of famine and disease.

All thresholds have been passed in the north.

"If there is a Rafah invasion, this will certainly push things past the tipping point, and we will see a skyrocketing mortality related to the famine," he was quoted as saying by the report.

Israel on Monday issued evacuation orders for eastern parts of the city, home to some 100,000. It then sent tanks to seize the nearby Rafah crossing with Egypt, shutting it down.

At least 34,904 Palestinians have been killed and 78,514 injured in Israel's military offensive in Gaza since October 7, Gaza's Ministry of Health said on Thursday (AP)

South Korea president admits 'shortcomings' in rare address

SEOUL (TIP): South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol held a rare press conference on May 9, admitting "shortcomings" after his party's recent electoral defeat, and laying out policies on issues from the country's low birthrate to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The press conference was the president's first in nearly two years, and comes after his party suffered a drubbing in legislative elections last month. On Ukraine, Yoon vowed to keep strong ties with Kyiv while maintaining a smooth relationship with Russia, ruling out direct weapons shipments and telling reporters that it was his "firm stance" not to send lethal arms to countries at war.

On South Korea's birthrate, one of the world's lowest, he unveiled plans to create a ministry to tackle the issue, which he described as "a national

emergency". His party's defeat in the April 10 parliamentary elections prompted calls for Yoon to change his policy direction and leadership style, as his approval ratings languish less than halfway through his five-year term.

Yoon said he has "pondered a lot over what have been the shortcomings" of his administration.

"Communication to explain policy drives and the extent of change people have felt has fallen short," he said.

Yoon won the 2022 presidential election by the narrowest margin in South Korean history, and his term has been hampered by a series of scandals and his party's lack of a parliamentary majority. The president also issued an apology for what he called the "unwise conduct" of his wife, first lady Kim Keon Hee, after hidden camera footage last year appeared to show her accepting a

luxury handbag in violation of government ethics rules.

But Yoon said the opposition's call for a special probe into the first lady was "politically motivated".

His plan to fix the country's woeful birthrate comes after it hit a record low in 2023, despite the government pouring billions of dollars into efforts to encourage women to have more children and maintain population stability.

South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol speaks during a press conference marking two years in office at the presidential office in Seoul on May 09, 2024. Yoon said he would ask lawmakers to cooperate "to set up the Ministry of Low Birth Rate Counter Planning",

"We will be creating a low-birth planning department in order to establish a more aggressive and powerful control tower," he said. (AP)

3 Indians accused of Hardeep Nijjar's killing appear before Canadian court

India says Canada has not shared any specific evidence or information yet

MAY 9, 2024

SURREY, BC (TIP): Members of the Sikh Community from British Columbia crowded a Surrey courtroom on Tuesday, May 7, as three Indian nationals accused of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing made their first court appearance by video, according to Globe and Mail, a Canada-based news website.

As the trio, dressed in orange jumpsuits, appeared before court, pro-Khalistani protesters chanted slogans and held placards, outside the Surrey provincial court, blaming India's government for the killing Judge Delaram Jahani questioned the three suspects, Karan Brar, Karanpreet Singh, and Kamalpreet Singh, in brief.

Through their attorneys, Brar and Karanpreet Singh decided to appear again on May 21. The court, however, is yet to decide on a new date for Kamalpreet Singh who has sought legal counsel, the Globe and Mail reported.

The three men were taken into custody in Edmonton last week on Friday and are accused of first-degree murder and murderous conspiracy in connection with the June 2023 shooting of Nijjar, which severely damaged Canada's relations with India. India and Canada are dealing with an unprecedented diplomatic crisis, after the Canadian Prime Minister accused agents of the Indian government of killing Nijjar. However, India has dismissed the accusations as "absurd" and "motivated."

Nijjar was shot and killed after he stepped out of a gurdwara in Surrey, in Surrey a suburb in Vancouver, in June last year. A video clip of his killing reportedly surfaced in March this year, purportedly showing Nijjar being fatally shot by assailants, in what was claimed to be 'contract killing'.

Canadian police, last week, released photographs of all three persons arrested in the killing of India-designated terrorist, Nijjar last year amid an ongoing probe into alleged connections of the Indian government.

Along with photographs of the three accused, the Canadian police also released the photographs of the car believed to have been used by the suspects in the time leading up to the homicide, in and around the Surrey area.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) of Surrey, RCMP had said that on the morning of May 3, IHIT investigators, with the assistance of members from the British Columbia and Alberta RCMP and the Edmonton Police Service, arrested the three men for the June 2023 killing of Nijjar.

On May 4, Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh levelled a fresh allegation of India's hand in the killing of Nijjar. However, the Canadian police administration did not share any evidence linked to India's involvement in the killing of the Khalistani leader.

Jagmeet's party backs the Liberal



Kamalpreet Singh, Karanpreet Singh and Karan Brar accused of Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing appeared before Canadian court

minority government led by Trudeau in exchange for support on some key bills. After the Canadian Police announced the arrest of three alleged accused in the killing of Nijjar, Jagmeet renewed his claim of an Indian hand in the incident.

"The Indian government hired assassins to murder a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil - at a place of worship. Today 3 arrests were made. Let me be clear - any Indian agent or state actor that ordered, planned or carried out this murder must be exposed and met with the full force of Canadian law. For Canada, democracy and free speech - there must be Justice for Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Jagmeet posted from his X handle.

In 2023, the Canadian PM alleged an Indian hand in the killing, a claim that was vehemently denied by India which called it 'absurd and motivated'. The Canadian Police have also not given any evidence linking India to the killing.

Meanwhile, India says Canada has not shared any specific evidence or information yet. India on Thursday, May 9, said Canada has informed it about the arrest of three Indian citizens in the case of killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar but it has not provided any "specific" evidence or information in the matter yet. "Let me first make it clear that no specific or relevant evidence or information has been shared by the Canadian authorities till date," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"You will therefore understand our view that the matter is being pre-judged," he said at his weekly media briefing.

Last week, Canadian authorities charged three Indian nationals with the murder of Nijjar. It is reported that they entered Canada on student visas.

"Obviously, there are political interests at work. We have long maintained that separatists, extremists and those advocating violence have been given political space in Canada," Jaiswal said.

"Our diplomats have been threatened with impunity and obstructed in their performance of duties," he said.

"We have also pointed to the Canadian authorities that figures associated with

organized crime with links with India have been allowed entry and residency in Canada," he said.

Jaiswal said the two countries are currently engaged in discussions on issues such as the activities of pro-Khalistan elements and threats against Indian diplomats in Canada.

He said many of India's extradition requests are pending with Canada.

"We are having discussions at the diplomatic level on all these matters," he said. India on Tuesday hit out at Canada for providing "safe haven" and political space to criminal and "secessionist" elements, in a sharp reaction to pro-Khalistan elements displaying an effigy of the Indian prime minister in an offensive manner at a parade in Ontario's Malton area.

India also accused Canada of allowing "celebration and glorification" of violence and expressed concerns over the security of Indian diplomats in that country and that it expects Ottawa to ensure that they are able to carry out their responsibilities without fear.

India's strong reaction came two days after the 'Nagar Kirtan' parade in Malton displayed a "float" that contained an effigy of the Indian prime minister reportedly within a cage.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

New Delhi rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd". Last week, Canadian authorities arrested Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22) and Karanpreet Singh (28).

Days after Trudeau's allegations in September last, India asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in the country to ensure parity.

Subsequently, Canada withdrew 41 diplomats and their family members from India. India has been asserting that its "core issue" with Canada remained that of the space given to separatists, terrorists and anti-India elements in that country.

(With inputs from IANS and PTI)

SLOVENIA LAUNCHES PALESTINE RECOGNITION PROCEDURE

LJUBLJANA (TIP): Slovenia's government on May 9 passed a decree on recognising a Palestine state that will be sent to parliament for approval by mid-June.

"The decree for the recognition of Palestine is part of the government's efforts to end as soon as possible the atrocities in Gaza," Prime Minister Robert Golob told a news conference adding the final decision could be adopted earlier than a June 13 target date.

In March, Slovenia joined Spain, Ireland and Malta in a joint statement announcing the EU countries were "ready to recognise Palestine" once the conditions for setting up a state were met.

"We will continue to follow the progress concerning peace talks, the release of hostages and the reform of the Palestinian authority and, if it proves to be faster, we might end the recognition process earlier," Golob said.

Slovenia has urged Israel to stop its offensive in Gaza and warned that a threatened attack on the city of Rafah will worsen the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territory.

Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon said she was "glad over the decisive and irreversible step towards recognition", in a message posted on X, the former Twitter.

A simple majority is needed to approve a decree in the 90-seat parliament where Golob's centre-left coalition holds 51 seats.

Almost 60 percent of Slovenians back recognition of a Palestine state while 20 percent oppose it, according to an April poll of 600 people published by the Dnevnik daily.

Some 100 Ljubljana University students on Wednesday started a pro-Palestinian protest, demanding that Slovenia recognise the Palestinian state.

Some 137 of the 193 member states of the United Nations have recognised a Palestinian states, according to a Palestinian count. (AFP)

FIVE MORE INDIAN SAILORS ON SHIP SEIZED BY IRAN RELEASED

IRAN (TIP): Nearly a month after the MSC Aries cargo vessel was seized by Iranian authorities, five more Indian sailors were released on May 9 and are on their way back home. Eleven Indian sailors remain in Iran.

"These five sailors on MSC Aries have been released and are on their way to India. We appreciate the Iranian authorities for their close coordination with the Embassy and Indian Consulate in Bandar Abbas," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Thursday. (NIE)

SIX KILLED IN PAKISTAN SUSPECTED ETHNIC ATTACK

QUETTA, PAKISTAN (TIP): Six migrant workers were shot dead in southwestern Pakistan, police said May 09, in a region where militants have long waged ethnic violence against outsiders.

The men were killed late Wednesday at their home, 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Gwadar in Balochistan province where major Chinese investment has funded a deepwater port.

Police said the men, who had migrated to the region and were working as barbers, were likely targeted for being Punjabi, the most populous and influential ethnic group in Pakistan.

"We are investigating the matter at the moment but apparently it looks like they were attacked because they were Punjabis," said Muhammad Mohsin, a senior police official in Gwadar, adding that six were killed and one was injured.

A second police official Zohaib Ahmad confirmed the death toll and said they were shot dead inside their home.

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest but poorest province, despite an abundance of natural resources.

Militants have in the past targeted ethnic Punjabis and Sindhis, as well as foreign interests that they believe are exploiting the impoverished region without sharing its riches.

Punjabis in particular are perceived to dominate the ranks of the military which is locked in a battle to quash Balochistan's armed factions.

Last month 11 Punjabi labourers were killed in the region when six gunmen stopped a bus near the city of Naushki in Balochistan province.

Beijing is Islamabad's closest regional ally, frequently offering financial assistance to support its often-struggling neighbour and pouring more than \$2 trillion into infrastructure projects.

The security of Chinese workers, however, is a major concern to both countries. (AFP)

BANGLADESH GETS DRAFT APPROVAL FOR IMF PAYOUT OF ALMOST \$1.2 BN

WASHINGTON (TIP): IMF staff and Bangladesh have reached an agreement to unlock close to \$1.2 billion in financing as the South Asian country grapples with declining foreign exchange reserves, the Washington-based institution said May 08. Following two weeks of talks in the capital, Dhaka, the International Monetary Fund said a "staff-level agreement" had been reached to pay out the latest portion of three ongoing programs -- subject to board approval. (AFP)

Afghan diplomat caught smuggling gold into India left for US before tendering resignation

NEW DELHI (TIP): The lone Afghan woman diplomat in India who was caught smuggling 25 kgs of gold last month has allegedly fled to the US.

Zakia Wardak, a US citizen, served as the first female Consul General of Afghanistan in Mumbai and an advocate for inclusion and women's rights.

The 58-year-old was apprehended by the Department of Revenue intelligence (DRI) with 25 kgs of gold that she allegedly smuggled from Dubai to Mumbai on April 25th.

The gold was stitched to her inner clothing and carried it in the inner layers of her jacket, her leggings and body were strapped with gold worth Rs 18.6 crore.

Accompanied by her son, Wardak brought in these gold bars each weighing



900 gms.

However, Wardak wasn't arrested as she had diplomatic immunity.

Interestingly, in her resignation letter, which she shared on social media, she attributed her stepping down from her post to personal attacks on her ethnicity.

"It is with great regret that I announce my decision to step down from my role at the consulate and Embassy of Afghanistan in Mumbai effective May 5th," said Wardak on Saturday.

Wardak in her resignation went on to say that during the past year she had faced personal attacks aimed at her and her family.

"It had become increasingly clear that the public narrative is unfairly targeted the only female representative within this system, rather than focusing on constructive assistance and support," said Wardak in her resignation. (NIE)

Civilian casualties rise in Myanmar's civil war as resistance forces tighten noose around military

BANGKOK (TIP): Six months into an offensive against Myanmar's military government, opposition forces have made massive gains, but civilian casualties are rising sharply as regime troops increasingly turn toward scorched-earth tactics in the Southeast Asian country's bitter civil war.

There is pressure on all fronts from powerful militias drawn from Myanmar's ethnic minority groups and newer resistance forces. Troops are retaliating with air, naval and artillery strikes on hospitals and other facilities where the opposition could be sheltered or aided.

"When the mass of people rise up against them, I think it terrifies them," said Dave Eubank, a former US Special Forces soldier who founded the Free Burma Rangers, a humanitarian aid organization that has provided assistance to both combatants and civilians in Myanmar since the 1990s.

"They know that hospitals, churches, schools and monasteries are important places for human care, and gathering, and symbols — and they hammer them," said Eubank. "That's new."

Military forces now control less than half the country, but are holding on tenaciously to much of central Myanmar including the capital, Naypyidaw — recently targeted by drone attacks — and largest city, Yangon, and is far better armed than the resistance forces, with support from Russia and China.

"People have been saying that the regime was on the brink of collapse since two weeks after the coup," in February 2021, said Morgan Michaels, an analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies who runs its Myanmar Conflict Map project.



"On the other hand, obviously the regime is weaker than it's ever been.... so there's no doubt that it's in serious, serious trouble," he said.

Thet Swe, a spokesman for the military government, denied that troops were targeting buildings and areas where civilians were sheltering, blaming their destruction instead on the opposition forces, without citing evidence.

"The military never harmed hospitals, churches and civilians in our country," he told The Associated Press in an email. "They did not use that strategy and are fighting the rebels only for the sovereignty of our country."

As the fighting has moved into more populated areas, about 1 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the start of the offensive in October, contributing to the more than 3 million internally displaced people in the country of some 56 million, according to the UN's humanitarian aid agency.

With the collapse of its health care

system and food supplies dwindling, 18.6 million people are in need, up 1 million from a year ago, including 6 million children, the agency said.

Opposition in Myanmar, also known as Burma, had been growing since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, but it gained new momentum in October when major militias known collectively as the Three Brotherhood Alliance launched a joint offensive.

Together, the Arakan Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army — among the most powerful militias formed by Myanmar's ethnic minorities — made quick advances.

As they captured huge swaths of territory largely in the north and northeast, including economically important border crossings with China and several major military bases, other ethnic armed groups sensed momentum and joined the fighting. (AP)

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What women miss about being single

It may be a cliché to say that people always want what they don't have, but when it comes to relationships, sometimes that's the cold, hard truth.

Those who are single want to find someone who makes their heart dance and can officially take them off the market (aka the dating apps).

Those who are in a relationship, married or even married with kids like to flirt with the idea of kicking it all to the curb and downloading a dating app, where they can swipe themselves to a new life and a new lover.

Here's what married women who wish they were single had to say:

I miss sleeping alone

There's nothing like sleeping by yourself. That's something you don't get to do when you are in a relationship or even married, like I am, for four years. I miss the days when I could have the whole bed and even apartment to myself. Sharing is tough. Being single and selfish has such a giant appeal to me some days when I just need some alone time, or desperately want to go to sleep and stretch out on the bed.

I never got to use a dating app

I see all my friends swiping on these dating apps, and it just seems like something I wish I tried. I met my husband the old-fashioned way: in person at a coffee shop. Sure, it feels like a romantic movie, but a part of me wishes I was dating now, when there are more options and meeting people is easier. I seriously wonder if he and I would have matched on one of these dating apps



or what our profiles would have looked like. It would be kind of cool to test that out and see if in today's world, if we would be together with the help of one of these apps.

Going out to clubs would be more fun

I used to love going out for a girls' night at a club, having a group of guys pay for our bottle service and dance with us all night. Now I go, and guys see my wedding ring and automatically think I'm boring. I miss being single and able to flirt with an outrageously hot guy at a club until 4 am.

There's nothing like new love

Ah, I miss the spark of new love. There's nothing like those first couple of dates with someone and all the anticipation over whether they like you, when they are going to kiss you or just watching their name pop up on your phone. I miss all those

feelings. Everything is calm and predictable when you're married.

I'd feel young again

Marriage makes me feel old. Maybe it's because I gave up on trying to look nice all of the time, or maybe it's because I don't feel nice when I don't get attention from random guys like I did when I was single or looking. That's the only reason I wish I was single, to feel young and good about myself again.

I'd get the chance to start over

I'll be honest and say I'm not in a good marriage. I'm not happy, and hope to get a divorce soon. The one thing I can look forward to is the chance to be single again and start from scratch. It's hard to reset a relationship that's just all wrong and making you miserable. It's easier to start things off on a good note with a new person.



Get rid of pimples fast

Instead of shelling out for expensive acne treatments, learn how to get clear skin with these natural at-home remedies.

Green Tea

Green tea has antimicrobial and antioxidant compounds that can help fight acne. To get its effects, use a cooled cup of green tea as a face wash or lay the bag over the affected area.

Honey

Honey's antibiotic properties can help improve acne. Apply a teaspoon of honey to affected areas, or make a mask by mixing 1/2 cup of honey with 1 cup of plain oatmeal and leaving it on for 30 minutes.

Mint

Mint can help remove pore-clogging oil. To help clear acne before it begins, mix 2 tablespoons of finely chopped fresh mint with two tablespoons each of plain yogurt and oatmeal (use a blender to pulverize the oatmeal to powder). Leave the concoction on your face for 10 minutes, then rinse off with water.

Echinacea

Echinacea is traditionally used to speed wound healing and prevent colds and flu, but its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties can help with acne as well. Use echinacea tea as a daily face wash by soaking a cloth with it, or put a few drops of tincture on a cotton ball and dab it on blemishes.

Aspirin

The salicylic acid in aspirin is a go-to for acne treatments, and the aspirin can dry up pimples and reduce inflammation. To take advantage of its benefits, form a paste by mashing aspirin in a little water, or dissolve four pills in 2 tablespoons of water.

FOOD CORNER

Mughlai Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons Ghee, 10 Cashewnuts, 4 large Onions, finely chopped, 6 Garlic Cloves, peeled, 1 inch piece Ginger, peeled, 3 Green Chillies, 2 Cardamom Pods, 1 Bayleaf, 3 Cloves, 1 inch Cinnamon stick
- 1/2 kg bone-in Chicken (cut into medium sized pieces)
- 1/2 teaspoon Turmeric Powder
- 1 teaspoon Coriander Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Chilli Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Garam Masala Powder
- 2 tablespoons Cream
- Salt to taste

Method

- To start with, soak cashewnuts in hot water for 10 minutes. Also rub turmeric powder all over the chicken. Set both things aside.
- Heat a tablespoon of ghee in a pan, and add the onions.



Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon salt over the onions and mix. Reduce the flame, cover and cook the onions till they

are deep brown in colour. During the process of browning the onions, stir them around every 5-6 minutes to prevent them from sticking to the bottom and burning. This whole process of caramelizing the onions should take about 20 minutes.

- Once the onions are brown, transfer them to a food processor along with the soaked cashewnuts, garlic cloves, ginger, green chillies and 1/4 cup water. Grind to a smooth paste.
- Heat the remaining ghee in the same pan, and add cardamom pods, bayleaf, cloves and cinnamon. Saute for a minute or two and add the onion paste. Cook the onion paste on medium high heat, while stirring occasionally for 4-5 minutes. Add coriander powder, chilli powder, garam masala powder and salt and saute for another 2-3 minutes.
- Add chicken to the pan along with 1/4 cup water. Cover and cook the chicken for 20 minutes or till cooked through, while stirring the curry occasionally. This will be a thick gravy, but if you like your thinner, feel free to add a little water and bring the curry to a boil.
- Taste for seasoning, and finish it up by stirring in the cream. Switch off the flame. Let the curry sit for 10 minutes before serving with parathas and jeera rice.

Excessive consumption of fruits can be harmful

In recent years, fruits are being given a lot of importance in the diet. It is believed that consuming it keeps you fit and healthy. It plays a big role in maintaining healthy weight. It contains vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants, so it is considered an important component of a balanced diet. Some people, in order to lose weight, start consuming excessive fruits. But do you know that consuming excessive fruits can also harm you.

Compared to other food items, the amount of calories in fruits is very low, but consuming too much of it can cause weight gain. Actually, it contains sugar which can be responsible for weight gain.

Fruits contain the natural sugar fructose, some fruits have higher amounts of it. In such a situation, consuming it repeatedly can cause the blood sugar level to spike. Especially for people who already have diabetes, it can be even more dangerous.

If you consume too many fruits, it can cause damage to your teeth. The natural sugars and acids present in it can contribute to tooth decay and enamel erosion.

Fruits have a high amount of fiber which promotes digestion, however, if you consume fiber in excess, it can disturb your digestion and cause bloating and digestive discomfort.

According to experts, anything is beneficial only if it is eaten in balanced quantity. If you want to be healthy by eating fruits, then eat your fruits by pairing them with protein i.e. nuts, curd or chia seeds, avocado.

The excessive consumptions of fruits affect several body organs:

Liver

The excessive fructose in the body turns to fat. This extra fat accumulates in the liver, which can lead to Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). Every year, 20 percent of cases of NAFLD in the world's population are reported. It is a common liver disease. Fructose is the main cause of this disease. Excessive consumption of fructose can also cause inflammation of the liver.

Brain

Recent studies have shown that consumption of excessive fructose can harm brain health. It leads to



neuroinflammation, brain mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress. Excessive consumption of fructose over a longer period can affect the ability of the brain to function.

According to reports, the intake of excessive fructose can lead to insulin resistance, increased obesity and can also affect the health of the heart. Continuous consumption of fructose disturbs the balance of the leptin hormone, which results in the accumulation of fat in the body.

It also increases the amount of glucose. It increases the level of fat called triglyceride in the body, which gets deposited in the liver.

Heart health, obesity and diabetes

High fructose consumption also leads to insulin resistance, obesity, and diabetes. Regular function of leptin, the hormone that regulates body weight is affected by excess fructose consumption resulting in fat accumulation, insulin resistance and glucose intolerance.

A 2016 animal study reported that a two-month fructose supplementation caused triglycerides accumulation in the liver and impaired insulin function. Similarly, a 7-day high fructose diet led to the accumulation of Very Low-Density Lipoprotein (VLDL) triglycerides and increased the risk of cardiovascular diseases as reported by a 2009 study.



Repurposed cancer drug to help replace insulin therapy for diabetes

A drug used for the treatment of pancreatic cancer can be repurposed to replace insulin therapy among people with diabetes, scientists have found. Without enough insulin, diabetics could be at risk for hyperglycemia, or high blood sugar that can damage blood vessels and organs as well as cause heart attacks, strokes, and other serious complications.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, suggested that Focal Adhesion Kinase (FAK) inhibitors, known to reduce tumour burden in pancreatic cancer, could be a new avenue as a replacement for insulin therapy in diabetic patients.

In an experiment in mice that started in 2016, the team from the University of Pittsburgh deleted one of two copies of the gene encoding an enzyme called FAK.

Both the pancreas as well as a cluster of cells in the organ looked weird. While the pancreas looked "like it was trying to regenerate after an injury", the cells were "expressing both insulin and amylase".

The cluster of cells looked like a combination of acinar cells—that manufacture amylase, a digestive enzyme, and beta-cells—which produce the blood sugar-regulating hormone insulin.

"There were three possible explanations for what we saw in the mutant mice," said Esni. "It could have just been an artefact of our experiment, beta cells could have started making amylase or acinar cells could have started producing insulin—which would be the holy grail."

The team further showed that a "FAK-inhibiting drug, which has been studied in cancer treatment, converted acinar cells into acinar-derived insulin-producing cells and helped regulate blood glucose in diabetic mice and a single non-human primate".

New Covid variant 'FLiRT' capable of evading the immune system: Experts

The new Covid-19 variant 'FLiRT', which is spreading fast in the US, is capable of evading the immune system due to a trans substitution of amino acids between two spike proteins, the experts have said.

FLiRT, which belongs to Omicron's JN1 lineage, is rapidly replacing the previous variant, Eris, in the US, the UK, New Zealand, and South Korea, according to Rajeev Gupta, Director of Internal Medicine at the CK Birla Hospital® in Delhi.

"A recent increase in hospitalisation rates in these countries has been attributed to this variant. However, it has remained a relatively small wave. The overall mortality rate has not increased,"



Gupta said. According to the Infectious Disease Society of America, the nickname 'FLiRT' is based on the technical names for their mutations.

The World Health Organisation has reclassified it as a variant of interest and advised close monitoring. According to Dhiren Gupta, a Pediatric Intensivist at Sir

Ganga Ram Hospital, these new strains will keep emerging.

"Fortunately, none of the Omicron lineage is able to induce significant lung damage as delta strain did but limited to the upper respiratory tract. The surveillance and vigilance should be kept for major drift in virus," he said.

According to the experts, the increased use of monoclonal antibodies could be driving this mutation.

The symptoms of the new variant are similar to those of other Omicron sub-variants, such as sore throat, cough, fatigue, nasal congestion, runny nose, headache, muscle aches, fever, and possible loss of taste and smell, the experts mentioned.

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Google to use Gemini AI to tackle advanced cyber threats

In a bid to better protect enterprises from cyber incidents, Google on Tuesday launched a new threat intelligence solution that is powered by its Gemini AI.

The 'Google Threat Intelligence' AI-driven Gemini provides conversational search across its vast repository of threat intelligence, enabling customers to gain insights and protect themselves from threats 'faster than ever before'.

'We're launching Google Threat Intelligence from Google Cloud to help cybersecurity professionals get better visibility of global threats,' Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai posted on X. 'It uses Gemini's advanced AI capabilities, plus expertise and insights from Mandiant and VirusTotal,' he added.

The company said it protects 4 billion devices and 1.5 billion email accounts and blocks 100 million phishing attempts per day.

Now, Gemini 1.5 Pro has been integrated with 'Google Threat Intelligence' so that it can assist security professionals in combating malware. "Gemini 1.5 Pro offers the world's longest context window, with support for up to 1 million tokens. It can dramatically simplify the technical and labour-intensive process of reverse engineering malware," said Google.

Gemini AI was able to process the entire decompiled code of the malware file for 'WannaCry' in a single pass, taking 34 seconds to deliver its analysis and identify the 'killswitch'.

What risks do advanced AI models pose in the wrong hands?

The Biden administration is poised to open up a new front in its effort to safeguard U.S. AI from China and Russia with preliminary plans to place guardrails around the most advanced AI models, Reuters has reported.

Government and private sector researchers worry U.S. adversaries could use the models, which mine vast amounts of text and images to summarize information and generate content, to wage aggressive cyber attacks or even create potent biological weapons.

DEEPPAKES AND MISINFORMATION

Deepfakes – realistic yet fabricated videos created by AI algorithms trained on copious online footage – are surfacing on social media, blurring fact and fiction in the polarized world of U.S. politics.

While such synthetic media has been around for several years, it's been turbocharged over the past year by a slew of new "generative AI" tools such as Midjourney that make it cheap and easy to create convincing deepfakes.

Image creation tools powered by artificial intelligence from companies including OpenAI and Microsoft, can be used to produce photos that could promote election or voting-related disinformation, despite each having policies against creating misleading content, researchers said in a report in March.

Some disinformation campaigns simply harness the ability of AI to mimic real news articles as a means of disseminating false information.

While major social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have made efforts to prohibit and remove deepfakes, their effectiveness at policing such content varies.

For example, last year, a Chinese government-controlled news site using a generative AI platform pushed a previously circulated false claim that the United States was running a lab in Kazakhstan to create biological weapons for use against China, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said in its 2024 homeland threat assessment.

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, speaking at an AI event in Washington on Wednesday, said the problem has no easy solutions because it combines the capacity of AI with "the intent of state, non-state actors, to use disinformation at scale, to disrupt democracies, to advance propaganda, to shape



perception in the world." "Right now the offense is beating the defense big time," he said.

BIOWEAPONS

The American intelligence community, think tanks and academics are increasingly concerned about risks posed by foreign bad actors gaining access to advanced AI capabilities. Researchers at Gryphon Scientific and Rand Corporation noted that advanced AI models can provide information that could help create biological weapons.

Gryphon studied how large language models (LLM) – computer programs that draw from massive amounts of text to generate responses to queries – could be used by hostile actors to cause harm in the domain of life sciences and found they "can provide information that could aid a malicious actor in creating a biological weapon by providing useful, accurate and detailed information across every step in this pathway."

They found, for example, that an LLM could provide post-doctoral level knowledge to trouble-shoot problems when working with a pandemic-capable virus.

Rand research showed that LLMs could help in the planning and execution of a biological attack. They found an LLM could for example suggest aerosol delivery methods for botulinum toxin. *Source: Reuters*

Scientists find evidence of hidden water ice on Moon: 'About 5-8 times larger'

In a new study, scientists bring hope for finding more water ice in the polar craters of the Moon. Additionally, the study reveals that there's twice as much water ice in the northern polar region compared to the southern polar region.

The study, conducted by scientists from the Space Applications Centre (SAC)/ISRO, along with researchers from IIT Kanpur, University of Southern California, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, indicates that there could be 5 to 8 times more subsurface ice in the first couple of meters compared to what's on the surface, in both the northern and southern poles, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a blogpost. This finding underscores the importance of drilling on the Moon to extract or study this ice for future missions and potential long-term human presence.

Regarding the ice's origin, the study supports the theory that the main source of subsurface water ice in the lunar poles is the release of gases during volcanic activity in the Imbrian period.

The findings also suggest that the distribution of water ice is probably influenced by volcanic activity in the Mare regions and specific impact crater



formations. The research team used seven instruments, including radar, laser, optical, neutron spectrometer, ultraviolet spectrometer, and thermal radiometer, aboard National Aeronautics and Space Administration or NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter to investigate the origin and distribution of water ice on the Moon.

Accurate knowledge of the distribution and depth of water ice occurrence in the lunar poles, as presented in the investigations, is crucial for constraining the uncertainties in selecting future landing and sampling sites for missions aimed at exploring and characterising lunar volatiles, ISRO said.

Apple working on own Artificial Intelligence chips for data centres: Report

As the race for Artificial Intelligence (AI) chips intensifies, Apple has joined the bandwagon and is now reportedly working on its own chips for data centres.

The aim of the iPhone maker is to run AI software in data centre servers to give the company an edge, The Wall Street Journal has reported.

Tech giants like Microsoft, Google, Meta and OpenAI are working on developing custom server hardware to power AI models.

According to the company's CEO Tim Cook, Apple is making "significant investments" in generative AI.

Apple is likely to soon share "very exciting things" with customers.

Cook said last week that "We have advantages that will differentiate us in this new era, including Apple's unique combination of seamless hardware, software and services integration, silicon and neural engines".

Apple is also reportedly integrating OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini into its upcoming iPhones.

'We believe that we have advantages that set us apart there. And we'll be talking more about it as we go through the weeks ahead,' according to Cook.

Oil set for weekly gain as demand signs, geopolitics seen as positives

Oil rose on Friday, May 10, set for a weekly gain, as data this week from the U.S. and China, the world's two largest crude users, pointed to higher demand and continuing uncertainty over the Gaza war supported prices.

Falling U.S. crude inventories spurred by higher refinery runs coincided with data released on Thursday showing China's oil imports in April were higher than last year on signs of improving trade activity. Negotiations to halt the fighting between Israel and Hamas have yielded no results, keeping alive concerns of potential Middle East supply disruptions.

Brent futures rose 58 cents, or 0.6%, to \$84.41 a barrel 0514 GMT and are set for a weekly gain of 1.7%. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed 58 cents, or 0.7%, to \$79.84, set for a weekly increase of 2.2%. China's exports and imports returned to growth in April after contracting in the previous month, signalling an improvement in demand.

"Ongoing signs of strength in demand in China should see commodity market remain well supported," ANZ Research said in a note.

Israeli forces bombarded the city of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, Palestinian residents said on Thursday, while an Israeli official said indirect negotiations with Hamas had ended. As the conflict continues, it raises the potential for other Middle Eastern countries to become involved, particularly Hamas' main supporter Iran, a key producer.

Biden set to impose tariffs on China's electric vehicles, strategic sectors

President Joe Biden is set to announce new China tariffs as soon as next week targeting strategic sectors including electric vehicles, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The full announcement, which could take place as soon as Tuesday, is expected to largely maintain existing levies, according to one of the people. An announcement could also be pushed back, the person said.

Specific sectors were also set to include semiconductors and solar equipment, according to one of the people.

Details on the precise value or categories of tariffs that would be imposed were sketchy, but the administration was said to have zeroed in on areas of interest within strategic competitive and national security areas, one of the people said.

The US Trade Representative's office made their recommendations to the White House weeks ago but a final announcement was delayed as the package was debated internally, according to one of the sources and an additional person familiar with the matter.

Biden, a Democrat seeking re-election in November, is looking to contrast his approach with that of Republican candidate Donald Trump, who has proposed across-the-board tariffs that White House officials see as too blunt and prone to spark inflation.

The White House and the office of the US Trade Representative declined to comment. Bloomberg News first reported the story.

The measures could invite retaliation from China at a time of heightened tensions between the world's two biggest economies.

Trump's broader imposition of tariffs during his 2017-2021 presidency prompted China's retaliation with its own levies.

Biden has said he does not want a trade war with China even as he has said the countries have entered a new paradigm of competition.

Both 2024 candidates have sharply departed from the free-



trade consensus that once reigned in Washington, a period capped by China's joining the World Trade Organization in 2001.

In 2022, Biden launched a review of the Trump-era policy under Section 301 of the US trade law. Last month, he called for sharply higher US tariffs on Chinese metal products but the targeted products were narrow in range, estimated at more than \$1 billion of steel and aluminum products, a US official said.

Biden also announced launching an investigation into Chinese trade practices across the shipbuilding, maritime and logistics sectors, a process that could lead to more tariffs.

The Biden administration has also been pressuring neighboring Mexico to prohibit China from selling its metal products to the United States indirectly from there.

China has said the tariff measures are counter-productive and inflict harm on the US and global economy.

Source: Reuters

Sensex tanks 1,062 points amid poll jitters, across-the-board selloff

MUMBAI (TIP)

Equity benchmark Sensex on Thursday, May 9, crashed over 1,000 points while the Nifty dived below the 22,000 level due to across-the-board selloff amid general election uncertainties.

Besides, persistent foreign fund outflows and heavy selling pressure in HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Reliance Industries weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

Declining for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 1,062.22 points or 1.45 per cent to settle at 72,404.17. During the day, it tanked 1,132.21 points or 1.54 per cent to 72,334.18.

The NSE Nifty dived 345 points or 1.55 per cent to 21,957.50. It tumbled 370.1 points or 1.65 per cent to 21,932.40 during the session.

"The broader market witnessed volatility, underscoring caution on account of Q4 earnings and general



election uncertainties, which led investors to stay on the sidelines. We expect the trend to continue in the short term as the market slid below the physiological level of 22,000. The global indices are trading with mixed cues ahead of US inflation figures due next week," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 2.41 per cent and midcap index dropped 2.01 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 6,669.10 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

India's exports to 115 nations see uptick

India's exports have increased to as many as 115 countries out of the total 238 destinations during 2023-24 despite the global economic uncertainties, according to commerce ministry's data.

These 115 export destinations, which account for 46.5 per cent of India's export basket, include the US, UAE, Netherland, China, UK, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany and Italy.

The country's merchandise exports dipped by 3 per cent to \$437.1 billion in the last fiscal. However, services exports rose to \$341.1 billion in 2023-24 as against \$325.3 billion in 2022-23. The data showed that despite persistent global challenges, overall exports (goods and services together) hit the highest level in 2022-23.

Overall exports reached \$778.2

billion in 2023-24 as compared to \$776.4 billion in 2022-23, registering a marginal growth of 0.23 per cent.

The share of India's merchandise exports has also increased marginally from 1.70 per cent in 2014 to 1.82 per cent in 2023. India's rank in world merchandise exporters too has improved from 19th to 17th during the same period.

Further, India's export to its top 10 destinations witnessed a 13 per cent year-on-year increase in 2023-24. The UAE has emerged as the primary destination, with a substantial 12.71 per cent growth in export value at \$35.6 billion.

Similarly, exports to Singapore that surged by 20.19 per cent to \$14.4 billion, to the UK (up 13.30 per cent to \$13 billion), and to China (up 8.70 per cent to \$16.7 billion) also recorded healthy growth.

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Sikh History This Week

MAY 10 TO MAY 16

10th May

1479 Prakash Utsav, Third Patshah, Guru Amar Das Ji.
1887 Maharaja Dalip Singh sought help of Russian ruler Alexander III to fight against the British government.



1924 6th Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Prem Singh of Kokri, started its march to Jaito.
1930 Master Tara Singh arrested for marching in support of atrocities against Pathans.



1955 Agitation launched against the imposition of ban on the slogan Punjabi Suba Zindabad was launched. 10,000 courted arrests. This is known as a small agitation for Punjabi Suba.
1984 Giani Pratap Singh, Jathedar Sri Akal Takht is murdered.

11th May

1835 Dost Mohd. agitated over Sikh occupation of Peshawar in 1834 made war preparation but left battle field at Attock. Dost Mohd., agitated over Sikh occupation of Peshawar, wrote to Maharaja Ranjit Singh to hand over Peshawar or be prepared to face a war. Ranjit Singh sent an equally strong rejoinder. Dost Mohd. made a religious issue to incite fellow tribals against Sikhs and made elaborate preparations. Maharaja Ranjit Singh sent a large force under Hari Singh Nalwa but also played the diplomatic game of breaking away minor tribal chiefs with money and allurements. Gulab Singh and Avitabile were sent to Kohat and Venfura joined Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Attock. Dost Mohd. realising his weakness left the field with bag and baggage during night on this day.
1922 Sunder Singh Makhsuspuri and Arjan Singh of Sundh were arrested and Kishan Singh Gargaj narrowly escaped.
1981 Akali party passed resolution Sikhs are a Nation. The Akali Party passes the resolution Sikhs are a Nation. On Mar. 25, 1981 the SGPC unanimously passed the resolution Sikhs are a nation. With the passing of such a resolution by the Sikh Parliament and with the ratification of this resolution by the Jathedar of the Akal Takht on April 21, 1981, the issue stood

finally decided by the whole of the Sikh nation. On May 11, 1981, the Akali Party also passed a resolution to that effect.

12th May



1710 Battle of Chaaper Chheri in which Nawab Wazir Khan was killed.
1979 Calcutta Gurdwara Burnt.
1984 Murder of Sri Ramesh, editor of Hind Samachar.

13th May



1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur reached Bilaspur. Guru Tegh Bahadur accompanied by his mother Nanaki, and members of his Darbar reached Bilaspur. Guru Sahib was attending the bhog ceremony of Bilaspur's ruler at the urgent request of his wife Rani Champa Devi.
1673 Gobind Rai married Jitan at Chak Nanaki.
1710 Famous battle of Chapar Cheri fought near Sarhind. Banda Bahadur defeated and killed Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind.

Having won the battle of Chapar Cheri, the Khalsa army seigned the city of Sirhind. Before entering the city, on this day, the Khalsa army had to face another severe battle. Five hundred Sikhs lay martyrs to the fort guns. The city, however, fell to the Khalsa army in the afternoon. destruction of life and property in the city was boundless. Various descriptions mention that the city was reduced to ruins. Whole families were killed. Large amounts of wealth plundered not only by the victorios army but also by robbers and dacoits.

Banda Singh ransacked Saharanpur and renamed it Bhanagar. Banda Bahadur established his camp at Mukhlispur (a small fortress constructed by Mukhlis Khan for camping during hunts in the Shivalik Hills.) Banda Bahadur repaired the fortress and renamed it Lohgarh. Banda Bahadur truck coins and adopted a seal for his order. The coins were issued in the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.
1835 Maharaja Ranjit Singh surrounds the forces of Mohammad Khan.

14th May

1710 Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind. Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind and established a Sikh government. Baz Singh was appointed governor and Baba Ali Singh got Naibship (joint Governership). The Khalsa kesri flag was hoisted over Sirhind fort.

15th May

1629 Mukhlis Khan reaches Amritsar with his forces to fight Guru Har Gobind Sahib.
1765 Conquest of Lahore by the Khalsa Forces. Ahmad Shah reached Lahore via Eminabad during his 7th invasion. Sikhs attacked his outposts conquered Lahore and assembled at Amritsar.
1850 Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Singapore aboard ship named "Mohammed Shah" guarded by soldiers of the 70th regiment. Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketmen and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmir Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

16th May

1765 Sikhs assembled at Amritsar and passed a Gurmatta to regain more territorits, occupy Lahore and strike coins in the name of their gurus as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa.
Lahna Singh, Gujjar Singh, and Sobha Singh occupied Lahore and divided the city into three administrative zones under each Sardar. Silver rupee was struck from Lahore mint.

Misl Bhangian, one of the twelve Sikh Misl, was organized by Sardar Chhaju Singh of Panjwar Dist. Amritsar. Sardar Hari Singh and Bhuma Singh, etc., the leaders of this Misl captured Lahore in 1765. This Misl also ruled over Ambala, Ferozpur and Amritsar (See description below for details on Sikh Misl).

1848 Maharani Jindan was imprisoned in the fort at Benaras.





BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 13 TO MAY 19, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

may increase in jobs. Expenses will be high, but you will not feel any problem in maintaining your sources of income. You may receive an invitation to meet a relative. Your hard work in business is going to get favorable results. You will get benefits in work related to the government sector. Being good at communication will enable you to build good relationships with others.

seen in the coming days. Therefore, be completely dedicated to your work. Some auspicious situations are also being created for employed people. There will be a presence in the family, hence it is important to change your habits. There will be an atmosphere of happiness after receiving some good news regarding the house.



ARIES

Ganesha says that there is a possibility of getting good news from India and abroad this week. Attraction towards new things will increase. You may get a proposal related to the partnership. Accepting this will be beneficial for you. Employed people need to do their work very carefully. Be cautious about your health. Your spouse's contribution will be very good in making all your work successful. Married life is going to be blissful.



LEO

Ganesha says that this week you may have to face financial loss. You will be successful in defeating your rivals at the workplace. Your faith in God will increase. Your proper working system will maintain good order in the business. The financial situation will be better. The office environment will also be peaceful for employed people. You will also enthusiastically participate in any auspicious work. This week you will get positive results in the workplace.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says that You will get good support from your loved ones this week. You will get good profits in your work area by being clever. Keep doing your work in a planned manner, you will be successful. Do not interfere in the affairs of others in the job. You are a happy person. Your intellectual power will be good. Students will study diligently. You are one to think deeply about any field.



TAURUS

Ganesha says that this week a situation of profit is being created in the field of business. Great news will come to you and you will be blessed with good fortune. Employed people are likely to get information related to a change of location. Circumstances are in your favor. Be careful in collecting your pending payments. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in married life, you will have a good time with your spouse.



VIRGO

Ganesha says that this week your inclination will be towards religious activities. Family members will be ready to help as much as they can. The advice given by you will be useful to others, which will give you respect and prestige. And organize your daily routine carefully. There will be momentum in import-export-related business. Important contacts will be established with remote areas. You are a person who has faith in God and is introspective.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says that whatever work you do with family members this week, you will be successful in it. Plans related to the buying and selling of property will be made. You will also get success. The situation in business will be somewhat better. You may need cash, so think about taking a loan. Disagreements may be seen in married life. This week you will receive good news from your children.



GEMINI

Ganesha says that there will be business trips this week, in which positive results will be seen. You will get respect as well as wealth and happiness in the workplace. You will make a special contribution to maintaining family happiness and peace. It is necessary to change the business system and system according to time. Activities like politics can take place in the office environment. Be a little careful. You will complete any task easily. The happiness of married life will remain better. You will get pleasant support from your wife and children.



LIBRA

Ganesha says that this week there will be normal conditions in the workplace. You will get great support and cooperation from colleagues and people in higher positions. Being intelligent, you will experience success in the workplace. Will spend most of the time in social and political activities. There is a need to advertise related to your work in the workplace. You will get respect in the society. Being devout and charitable, you will have faith in God and help others.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says that this week you will have a good time with your family. And you will suddenly feel inner peace. Reconsider your plans to change your working system. Plans are likely to get spoiled due to campaigns and stress. There will also be a light feeling in the body. You will get many chances to earn money. You will get increased love, respect, and support from family members.



CANCER

Ganesha says that this week there will be sweetness in married life. Profit opportunities will come. The business will be profitable. Rights



SCORPIO

Ganesha says that you will not be successful in business this week. Good relations will be established with people holding high posts. Good results of the hard work done at this time will be



PISCES

Ganesha says that this week will be very auspicious for you and you will receive good news from all sides. Friends and relatives will also appreciate your intelligence. Due to busyness in family activities, business will not get much attention. Relations will be established with highly placed people. You will get the happiness of profit in business and profession, the mind will be happy due to auspicious events in the family.



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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 13 TO MAY 19 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 13

Ganesha says you have good control over your work, and as a result, it earns you praise and rewards. However, you should monitor your tendency to act jealous and vindictive at times. This day will provide financial success and recognition for those working in the arts and other creative fields. For those who qualify, matrimonial unions. Despite the fact that your health will be fine, it will be crucial to take the appropriate safety measures. The accomplishments of children will fill you with pride. You'll prioritize travelling for pilgrimage or other long-distance purposes.

MAY 14

Ganesha says a day full of honors and gifts. Your confidence and spirit will be boosted by new proposals and assignments. You'll make good returns on your property transactions, and they'll also enable you to raise money. Later in the day, some people will be married, while others will discover romance to keep them going. Patients with chronic conditions require further attention for their health. Travel will be done in order to make money and develop significant relationships. For some people, an

overseas trip or commercial transaction will happen. Avoid borrowing and lending money.

MAY 15

Ganesha says achievements and awards are anticipated in the upcoming time. Entrepreneurs will diversify their businesses into new, lucrative fields. Your moods will be lifted by some exciting news from your kids. Travel abroad or international financial operations will pay off. Property conflicts will be resolved to your satisfaction. There will undoubtedly be a greater emphasis on health. Yoga and meditation should be performed for spiritual growth.

MAY 16

Ganesha says you have a kind heart and are very helpful, but in order to be successful in your endeavors, you must learn to control your tendency to act impatiently and with a short fuse. Thanks to the assistance supplied by your family members, the entire period will be one of success and enjoyment. Investments will produce profitable outcomes. Due to your improved abilities and skills, you will also become more respected by your peers. Although you may work long hours at the

office, your health will improve.

MAY 17

Ganesha says different sources will provide financial rewards. Your financial situation will be improved by finding new sources of revenue, and ongoing initiatives will see a significant boost. It is advised to invest in certain stocks and a home. Your thoughts will be bothered by unforeseen costs brought on by a family member's health issue. Legal issues will cost money. The purchase of a home or a vehicle will be high on your priority list. Work-related travel will be advantageous and extremely gratifying.

MAY 18

Ganesha says you glow with fresh confidence and vigor during a stable phase of progress and wealth. It will bring consolation and relief to receive a saint's blessing. Long-term investment is also advised, but speculation will likely be more lucrative. You'll feel relieved when long-standing issues are resolved. Avoid interacting with extra-friendly strangers and be understanding of those who ask you for money. You'll feel quite confident. Though demanding, friends will be encouraging.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 19

Ganesha says you will invite your close ones to celebrate your accomplishments at any five-star restaurant. Your family's needs come first, and you always think about how to meet them. A reward or incentive may be waiting for you in your mailbox as compensation for your long-term contribution to the company. It won't be long before you experience inner peace, which is what the world needs right now. Spending quality time with your spouse will make for a long and fulfilling existence.

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Akshaya Tritiya: A day of prosperity & abundance

The Akshaya Tritiya festival is also known as Akti or Akha Teej. This festival is an auspicious festival of Hindus and Jains. This festival falls on the third day of the Shukla Paksha of the Vaishakh month. This festival is celebrated as an auspicious time by Hindus and Jains in India and Nepal. According to the mythological texts, whatever works are done on this day, they get a auspicious result. Hence this day is called Akshaya Tritiya.

In Sanskrit, 'Akshaya' means hope, prosperity, joy and success and 'Tritiya' means third. Every month the tritiya comes on the Shukla Paksha, but during the Shukla Paksha in Vaishakh, the tritiya is considered auspicious. This day holds special significance as the most celebrated muhurat. On this day, any auspicious work can be done - such as a wedding, home entrance, buying clothing, jewelry, houses, land and vehicles etc.

It is believed that on this day, pind daan or any kind of donation made for the Pitros results in renewable. Taking a bath in the Ganges on this day can get rid of all sins. The war of Mahabharata had ended on this day and the Dwapar Yuga had also ended on this day.

Ganga bathing has a special importance in Hinduism and after taking Ganga bath in Brahma Muhurta on the day of Akshaya Tritiya, one should worship Lord Vishnu and Lakshmi and offer barley or wheat sattu, cucumber and gram dal. Brahmanas should eat food and donate to them.

Akshaya Tritiya History

There are many legends associated with the spring festival. According to a legend, Akshaya Tritiya is the birthday of the sixth avatar of Lord Vishnu, Parasurama. In some regions, the festival is celebrated as Parasurama Jayanti. He is a revered deity in Vaishnava temples. Another legend suggests that on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, sage Vyasa started reciting the Hindu epic Mahabharata to Lord Ganesha.

There is another event linked to Akshaya Tritiya. It is believed that it was on this day that river Ganga descended to earth. Temples Yamunotri and Gangotri opened on this day. Some stories suggest that the temples were opened during the Abhijit Muhurat of Akshaya Tritiya.

A lot of people invest in precious metals like gold and silver on this day. This is because of the legend linked to Lord Kubera. It is believed that Lord Kubera was appointed as the God of wealth on this day.

Akshaya Tritiya Celebrations Across India

The festival is celebrated across the country with utmost zeal. Akshaya Tritiya is celebrated in many regions of India in different ways.

Members of the Jain community who observe year-long alternate-day fasting (varshi-tap) break their fast on this day by drinking sugarcane juice. It is done after visiting pilgrimage sites like Palitana (Gujarat). The festival is known as Varshi Tapa in the Jain community.

In Odisha, it is the beginning of the rice paddy sowing season. The day starts with farmers sowing seeds, worshipping Mother Earth, bullocks and farm equipment for blessings of a good harvest.

Women in Maharashtra fast and pray for the well-being and long life of their husbands. As a ritual, women exchange turmeric and vermilion and worship Goddess Gauri.

In North India, idols of Lord Krishna get covered with sandalwood paste and ladoos made of sattu are offered. In some areas, people buy new utensils, gold and silver as it is considered auspicious and believed to



bring success and prosperity.

Interesting Facts

People across the country wait for this day all-year long to start their new ventures as the day is believed to bring in success. Akshaya Tritiya is also the day when the maximum number of weddings take place in the country. A lot of couples pick the date as it is believed to be 'shubh muhurat' according to astrology. A lot of people also take up acts of charity on this day and distribute food, clothes and other essentials to the needy. It is believed that on this day Sudama, Lord Krishna's best friend visited him after he became the king.

Why Buy Jewelry on This Day?

Buying jewelry is considered an auspicious and traditional practice in Hindu culture. There are several reasons why people choose to buy jewelry on this occasion:

- Good fortune and prosperity: This day is believed to be an auspicious day for new beginnings, wealth, and prosperity. Buying jewelry is believed to bring good fortune and success in one's personal and professional life.
- Investment and savings: Gold and jewelry are considered valuable assets and a good investment

“Everyone thinks how to become a better son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister, husband or wife, and man or woman. But no one puts actual thoughts on that they are all HUMAN and how to become a better HUMAN. What can we do to learn how to be a better human? ”

-- Arish K Sahani

option in India. Buying jewelry on this day is seen as a way to invest in something that will appreciate over time and provide financial security for the future.

- Religious and cultural significance: Jewellery has a special place in Hindu culture and is often associated with religious and cultural traditions. On Akshaya Tritiya, buying jewelry is seen as a way to honor these traditions and celebrate the festival in a meaningful way.
- Gift-giving: Akshaya Tritiya is also a popular occasion for gift-giving. Buying jewelry as a gift for loved ones is a common practice on this day. It is believed to bring them good fortune and blessings.

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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.”

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

US won't supply weapons for Israel to attack Rafah: President Biden

militants. Biden's comments and his decision last week to pause a shipment of heavy bombs to Israel are the most striking manifestations of the growing daylight between his administration and Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Biden said on Wednesday that Israel's actions around Rafah had "not yet" crossed his red lines, but has repeated that Israel needs to do far more to protect the lives of civilians in Gaza.

The shipment was supposed to consist of 1,800 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs and 1,700 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs, according to a senior US administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter. The focus of US concern was the larger explosives and how they could be used in a dense urban area.

"Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centers," Biden told CNN. "I made it clear that if they go into Rafah - they haven't gone in Rafah yet - if they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities, that deal with that problem."

"We're not walking away from Israel's security," Biden continued. "We're walking away from Israel's ability to wage war in those areas."

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin earlier Wednesday confirmed the weapons delay, telling the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense that the US paused "one shipment of high payload munitions."

"We're going to continue to do what's necessary to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself," Austin said. "But that said, we are currently reviewing some near-term security assistance shipments in the context of unfolding events in Rafah."

It also comes as the Biden administration is due to deliver a first-of-its-kind formal verdict this week on whether the airstrikes on Gaza and restrictions on delivery of aid have violated international and US laws designed to spare civilians from the worst horrors of war. A decision against Israel would further add to pressure on Biden to curb the flow of weapons and money to Israel's military.

Biden signed off on the pause in an order conveyed last week to the Pentagon, according to US officials who were not authorized to comment on the matter. The White House National Security Council sought to keep the decision out of the public eye for several days until it had a better understanding of the scope of Israel's intensified military operations in Rafah and until Biden could deliver a long-planned speech on Tuesday to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Biden's administration in April began reviewing future transfers of military assistance as Netanyahu's government appeared to move closer toward an invasion of Rafah, despite months of opposition from the White House. The official said the decision to pause the shipment was made last week and no final decision had been made yet on whether to proceed with the shipment at a later date.

US officials had declined for days to comment on the halted transfer, word of which came as Biden on Tuesday described US support for Israel as "ironclad, even when we disagree."

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, in an interview with Israeli Channel 12 TV news, said the decision to pause the shipment was "a very disappointing decision, even frustrating." He suggested the move stemmed from political pressure on Biden from Congress, the US campus protests and the upcoming election.

The decision also drew a sharp rebuke from House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who said they only learned about the military aid holdup from press reports, despite

assurances from the Biden administration that no such pauses were in the works. The Republicans called on Biden in a letter to swiftly end the blockage, saying it "risks emboldening Israel's enemies," and to brief lawmakers on the nature of the policy reviews.

Biden has faced pressure from some on the left - and condemnation from the critics on the right who say Biden has moderated his support for an essential Mideast ally.

"If we stop weapons necessary to destroy the enemies of the state of Israel at a time of great peril, we will pay a price," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., his voice rising in anger during an exchange with Austin. "This is obscene. It is absurd. Give Israel what they need to fight the war they can't afford to lose."

Reacting to threatened US arms holdup, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said Israel 'will stand alone' if it has to. 'If we need to, we will fight with our fingernail', he said.

His remarks in a statement issued Thursday, May 9, came after President Joe Biden said the United States would not provide offensive weapons for Israel's long-promised assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah. (With inputs from agencies)

India becomes first country to get over \$100 bn in remittances: UN

Speaking a few weeks later, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had welcomed the prognosis.

"India was well above the rest, receiving more than \$111 billion. Mexico was the second-largest remittance recipient in 2022, a position it also held in 2021 after overtaking China, which historically had been the second-biggest recipient after India," said the World Migration Report. (Source: TNS)

Trump promised oil CEOs protection to fossil fuel industry in return for \$1 billion to his campaign: report

the condition of anonymity to describe a private conversation.

Trump promised at the dinner to immediately end the Biden administration's freeze on permits for new liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports - a top priority for the executives, according to three people present. "You'll get it on the first day," Trump said, according to the recollection of an attendee.

The roughly two dozen executives invited included Mike Sabel, the CEO and founder of Venture Global, and Jack Fusco, the CEO of Cheniere Energy, whose proposed projects would directly benefit from lifting the pause on new LNG exports. Other attendees came from companies including Chevron, Continental Resources, Exxon and Occidental Petroleum, according to an attendance list obtained by The Post.

Trump told the executives that he would start auctioning off more leases for oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, a priority that several of the executives raised. He railed against wind power, as The Post previously reported. And he said he would reverse the restrictions on drilling in the Alaskan Arctic.

"You've been waiting on a permit for five years; you'll get it on Day 1," Trump told the executives, according to the recollection of the attendee.

At the dinner, Trump also promised that he would scrap Biden's "mandate" on electric vehicles - mischaracterizing ambitious rules that the Environmental Protection Agency recently finalized, according to people who attended. The rules require automakers to reduce emissions from car tailpipes, but they don't mandate a particular technology such as EVs. Trump called them "ridiculous" in the meeting with donors.

The fossil fuel industry has aggressively lobbied against the EPA's tailpipe rules, which could eat into demand for its petroleum products. The American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, an industry trade group, has launched a seven-figure campaign against what it calls a de facto "gas car ban." The campaign



includes ads in battleground states warning that the rule will restrict consumer choice.

"Clearly, if you are producing gasoline and diesel, you want to make sure that there's enough market there," said Stephen Brown, an energy consultant and a former lobbyist for Tesoro, an oil refining company. "I don't know that the oil industry would walk in united with a set of asks for the Trump administration, but I think it's important for this issue to get raised." (with inputs from Washington Post)

'Narendra Modi is not becoming PM again': Rahul Gandhi says 'election is slipping' out of his hands

This comes a day after Mr. Modi alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had stopped "abusing" industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani and hinted at a deal.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1788513694051361165>

In a new video, Mr. Gandhi said that Mr. Modi would resort to "drama and distraction" in the next few days since the election is slipping out of his hands. "Unemployment is the biggest issue and Narendra Modi ji had promised you [the youth] two crore jobs every year. He lied, instead announced demonetization and implemented a flawed GST but did everything for the benefit of people like Adani," Mr. Gandhi said in his video.

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi asked whether Mr. Modi was speaking from his "personal experience" about money being sent by businessmen, after the Prime Minister first levelled the allegations against the Congress leader.

In another statement, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also accused the Modi government of draining wealth from ordinary Indians to crony corporates. Loans to households have increased from 7 lakh crore to 14 lakh crore in last three years and in September 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin showed India's net financial savings at just 5.1% of the GDP, he said.

P. Chidambaram, another Congress leader, also jumped in and took to X to highlight the Congress manifesto's promise on the economy to support the private sector and every kind of enterprise -- large, medium, small, and micro.

The next four phases of the general election will be on May 13, 20, 25, and June 1. Counting is scheduled for June 4.

Karnataka is a treasure trove of many wonders – a state that is many worlds at once. From Karwar in the north to Someshwar in the south, the coastline of this beautiful land stretches over three-hundred kilometres, with every major beach offering a unique experience. The scope of these experiences is not just limited to the scenery, but spans across aspects like culture and cuisine.

Besides inviting beaches, coastal Karnataka is also popular for its range of ancient temples. While, some temples in Coastal Karnataka are small, others are big and empowering. While some tourists visit Karnataka's holy places along with other places/attractions, many visit Udupi/Mangalore districts exclusively for its places of worship. Some are in the city, while others are far away amidst the Western Ghats. All these temples have long-standing history and the power of these gods and goddesses are feared and respected by the devotees. In this article, let us familiarise ourselves with some of the popular temples in Karnataka. On your next visit to Karnataka, do not forget to seek divine blessing from these places.

KOLLUR MOOKAMBIKA TEMPLE

Mookambika Devi Temple in Kollur is about 130 km from Mangaluru and 440 km from state capital Bengaluru. It is located amidst the hills of Kodachadri in Western Ghats, next to river Souparnika. Mookambika Temple in Kollur is believed to be over 1200 years old. As per the legend, Parvathi came down to earth to eliminate a demon named Kamasura, who with his devil mischief was creating lots of trouble to the local people. Goddess made him dumb first to rein him (Mooka in Kannada) but when his trouble making habit didn't stop, he was eventually killed. Thanking Goddess Parvathi for relieving them from the trouble of Kamasura, local people started worshipping Parvathi devi and the temple was formed in Kollur. Kollur temple celebrates its annual festival during Navarathri and attracts lakhs of devotees during this period. Temple complex offers free meals to all visitors. During special occasions when crowd is large, special queue for darshan is facilitated for those who can pay extra. Lots of budget accommodations are available in Kollur. KSRTC runs buses to Kollur from Bengaluru and other major cities. Kundapura is a nearby city. Private buses are also available in large numbers. However, after 8 pm it will be difficult to get public transportation.

KATEEL DURGAPARAMESHWARI TEMPLE

At a distance of just about 20 km from Mangaluru is the popular Durgaparameshwari Temple in Kateel. This holy temple is located in the middle of River Nandini. The name Kateel is derived from two words? 'Kati' meaning waist and 'Ile' meaning earth. Kateel means the central area of earth.

History: Arunasura was a demon growing strong with powers and was

The many wonders of coastal Karnataka



disrupting peace on earth. Gods were helpless as Arunasura had secured special powers from Brahma that he cannot be killed by any two or four legged creatures. When Arunasura's bad deeds grew beyond control, Adhishakti came down on earth as a beautiful woman, lured him and teased

Arunasura to agitate him. An angry Arunasura tried to kill Adhishakti, she turned herself into a rock. Arunasura tried to break open the rock, during which a series of big furious bees emerged and stung him repeatedly till his death, thus eliminating one more bad soul on earth. On this success,

saints and sages performed abhishekam to lord Adhishakti who later took the form of a linga in the middle of river Nandini. Thus the Durga Parameshwari Temple is built around this. Kateel is well connected by public transportation and accommodation is available. Mangalore is the nearest town.

UDUPI SRI KRISHNA TEMPLE

Udupi is considered as the final resting place of Lord Krishna. Sri Krishna Temple and matha was set up in the 13th century by Madhvacharya. Legend has it that once Kanakadasa, a worshipper of Lord Krishna was denied entrance into the temple. Determined to see god, Kanakadasa kept praying hard from the outside itself. Impressed by his devotion, it is believed that Lord Krishna's idol turned to face Kanakadasa and a small hole formed on the wall so that Kanakadasa can get a glimpse of Lord Krishna. This spot is now known as Kanakana kindi (window of Kanaka). Apart from Sri Krishna temple, there are two other temples in Udupi? Chandreshwara and, Anantheshwara. Once in every two years, a grand festival named 'Paryayotsava' is held in Udupi. During this time, temple management changes hand from one of the 8 mathas (Asta matt) to another. When in Udupi, do not miss to enjoy mouth watering Gadbade ice cream at Diana. Udupi is well connected by road and rail from all over Karnataka. Maple Beach, St Mary's Island, Manipal End point, Kapu light house are some of the other attractions near Udupi. Mangalore airport is about 60 km away.

SRINGERI SHARADA TEMPLE

Goddess Saraswati resides in Sringeri, a temple town some 100 km away from Mangaluru and 330 km from Bengaluru. To foster the sacred tradition of Sanatana Dharma, Jagadguru Sri Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada established the first of the four vedic Peethams at Sringeri in 14th century. The hills around Sringeri was used by Sage Rishyashringa who performed strong Tapas. Adi Shankara Acharya was very confident about the divine power of the land. It is also believed that on the banks of River Tunga, a cobra was spreading its hood to cover a frog, (which is Cobra's meal in the food chain), who was in labour pain and cobra was giving it protection from harsh sun above. Such sanctity inspired acharya to set up his first math here in Sringeri. Sringeri also serves as a centre for vedic learnings. Temples of Horanadu is nearby. Agumbe hills, Kundadri hills, Kuppalli are nearby attractions. Sringeri is well connected by public transportation and basic accommodations are available in town. Shivamogga, Udupi and Chikmagalur are the major towns closer to Sringeri.

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Wrestling world governing body suspends Bajrang Punia

Wrestling's world governing body UWW has suspended Bajrang Punia till the end of this year following NADA's decision to hand him a provisional suspension for refusing to undergo a dope test. However, in a surprising decision, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned close to Rs nine lakh for his training abroad despite being well aware of NADA's order. Bajrang was suspended by NADA on April 23 after being served a whereabouts failure notice on April 18. In his defence, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist said he never refused to give his sample for testing but merely asked the Dope Control Officer to explain the presence of expired kits which were brought to take his sample.

Bajrang said he has not received any communication from the UWW about his suspension but the world body mentions that he stands suspended. "Suspended for the following reason until Dec 31, 2024," reads the update on Bajrang's profile. "Provisionally suspended by NADO IND for alleged ADRV (Anti-Doping Rule Violation)," was the reason mentioned.

Interestingly, the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), in its April 25 meeting, was informed that Bajrang has been sanctioned Rs 8,82,000 plus air fare (actual) for his proposal to train at Dagestan, Russia, from May 28.

Bajrang's initial proposal was for a 35-day trip from April 24 but, as per the minutes of the MOC meeting, due to "conflicting travel dates due to his whereabouts failure, he chose to defer the travel plans from 24th April, 2024 to 28th May, 2024."

"I am surprised that SAI cleared it. I have cancelled my plan, I am not going anywhere," Bajrang said, adding that his lawyer has filed the reply to NADA.

Source: PTI



IPL 17

Bowlers complement Kohli, Patidar as RCB crush PBKS

DHARAMSALA (TIP)

Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar conjured up superlative fifties before the bowlers joined the party as Royal Challengers Bengaluru kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a huge 60-run win over Punjab Kings in the IPL here on May 9.

Kohli's 47-ball 92 was the cornerstone of RCB's innings as he starred in two partnerships -- 72 off 32 balls with Patidar (55 off 23 balls) and 92 off 46 balls with Cameron Green (46 off 27 balls) to propel RCB to 241/7.

In reply, Rilee Rossouw put up a show with a 27-ball 61-run knock but Karn Sharma's twin strike triggered a collapse as PBKS were all out for 181 in 17 overs.

This was a fourth successive win for RCB and it took them to 10 points, while PBKS (8) were knocked out of the playoff race as they can reach a maximum of 12 points from the remaining two games.

Swapnil Singh (2/28), Karn (2/36) and Lockie Ferguson (2/29) took two each, while Mohammed Siraj (3/43) claimed three wickets for RCB.

Chasing a stiff target, PBKS lost Prabhsimr Singh (6) early but Rossouw looked unstoppable as left-arm spinner Swapnil Singh was carted for two fours before Siraj was belted for three fours and a six.

Yash Dayal and Ferguson were then hit for 16 and 14 runs by



Jonny Bairstow (27) and Rossouw as PBKS scored 75 runs in six overs.

Once Bairstow was removed by Ferguson, Rossouw turned his attention on Green, blasting two fours and a six on way to his fifty off 21 balls.

Jitesh Sharma was then cleaned up by Karn, while Swapnil got rid of Liam Livingstone (0) as Punjab slipped to 126 for 5 in 12th over.

They couldn't recover from those blows and it was all over when Shashank Singh (37), Sam Curran (22) and Ashutosh Sharma (8) returned to the dugout.

Earlier, Kohli, who was dropped

on 0 and 10, timed the ball nicely, used his feet and wrists to bring up his sixth IPL fifty this season. He reached his mark in 32 balls, before slamming another 40 in his next 15 balls. He cracked seven fours and six maximums.

Patidar, who was also given two lives, provided the early momentum as he slammed six maximums and three fours during his 23-ball 55.

After Patidar's dismissal, Kohli and Green continued the onslaught to take RCB past the 200-mark. Green hit five fours and a six before being caught in the final ball as RCB scored 77 in last five overs.

Source: PTI

Neeraj Chopra to power up for Paris, starting with Diamond League

DOHA (TIP)

Olympics champion Neeraj Chopra's Paris Games preparations will be put through a stern test when he begins his season in the first leg of the Diamond League against a star-studded but familiar field.

The 26-year-old javelin superstar, who is also the reigning world and Asian Games champion, will be up against the likes of former world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada and Olympics and world medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic.

Asian Games silver medallist Kishore Jena will also be in the fray as he makes his Diamond League debut. Jena has a personal best of 87.54 metres while Chopra's all-time best is 89.94m, which is also the national record.

"I think I am ready for tomorrow. I really like to be consistent, it is one of my greatest weapons. I will throw over 90m but consistency is more important," Chopra said.

European champion Julian Weber of Germany, fourth in the Olympic Games and World Championships, will also compete in the 10-man field.



The league will then move to Morocco on May 19.

Chopra is also the defending champion as he had set

the tone for his title-laden 2023 season with a victory ahead of Vadlejch and Peters. Chopra has won three individual legs of Diamond League and lifted the champion's trophy in 2022.

'Too many functions at home'

After this event, Chopra will compete at home for the first time in three years at the National Federation Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from May 12 to 15. Jena will also be taking part in the event.

Based abroad for training most of the time, Chopra has acknowledged that his stardom sometimes comes in the way of training and competing in India.

"For me more important is my sport. It's good for my profile if I play in India but there are too many functions, marriage functions. I also want to join my family and friends but more than that, I want to train in an Olympics year," said Chopra, who has spent the better part of the last few months training in South Africa, Turkey and Switzerland.

"Before Tokyo (Olympics), I always trained in India but right now I just want to focus on my game. I will train in India later," added.

Source: PTI



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History This Week MAY 10 - 16

MAY 10

May 10, 1869 - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage. It is said that he missed the spike on his first swing which brought roars of laughter from men who had driven thousands upon thousands of spikes themselves.



May 10, 1889 - A riot erupted outside the Astor Place Opera House in New York as British actor William Charles Macready performed inside. Angry crowds revolted against dress requirements for admission and against Macready's public statements on the vulgarity of American life. The mob then shattered theater windows. Troops were called out and ordered to fire, killing 22 and wounding 26.

May 10, 1994 - Former political prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.

MAY 11

May 11, 1862 - To prevent its capture by Union forces advancing in Virginia, the Confederate Ironclad Merrimac was destroyed by the Confederate Navy. In March, the Merrimac had fought the Union Ironclad Monitor to a draw. Naval warfare was thus changed forever, making wooden ships obsolete.

May 11, 1969 - During the Vietnam War, the Battle of "Hamburger Hill" began. While attempting to seize the Dong Ap Bia Mountain, U.S. troops repeatedly scaled the hill over a 10-day period and engaged in bloody hand-to-hand combat with the North Vietnamese. After finally securing the objective, American military staff decided to abandon the position, which the North Vietnamese retook shortly thereafter. The battle highlighted the futility of the overall American military strategy.

Birthdays - Songwriter Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was born (as Israel Isidore Baline) in Tyumen, Russia. At the age of four, Berlin moved with his family to New York City and later began singing in saloons and on street corners to help his family following the death of his father. Although he could not read or write

musical notation, he became one of America's greatest songwriters, best known for songs such as God Bless America, White Christmas, There's No Business Like Show Business, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Puttin' On the Ritz, and Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning.



Birthdays - Modern dance pioneer Martha Graham (1893-1991) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She began her dance career at age 22 in the Greenwich Village Follies. She later incorporated primal emotions and ancient rituals in her works, bringing a new psychological depth to modern dance. In a career spanning 70 years, she created 180 dance works. She performed until the age of 75.

MAY 12

May 12, 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, the current reigning monarch.

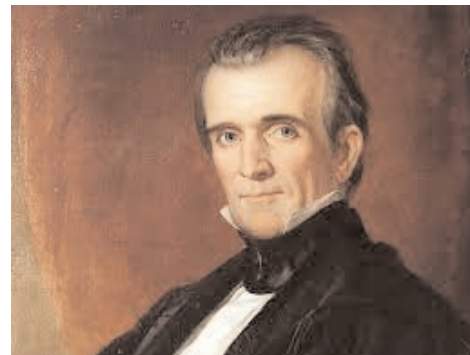
May 12, 1949 - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade began on June 24, 1948 and resulted in the Berlin airlift. For 462 days - from June 26, 1948, until September 30, 1949, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies to two million isolated West Berliners. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from 11 Allied staging areas in West Germany. The planes were nicknamed "candy bombers" after pilots began tossing sweets to children. They also flew out millions of dollars worth of products manufactured in West Berlin.



Birthdays - British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale

(1820-1910) was born in Florence, Italy. She volunteered to aid British troops in Turkey where she improved hospital sanitary conditions and greatly reduced the death rate for wounded and sick soldiers. She received worldwide acclaim for her unselfish devotion to nursing, contributed to the development of modern nursing procedures, and emphasized the dignity of nursing as a profession for women.

MAY 13



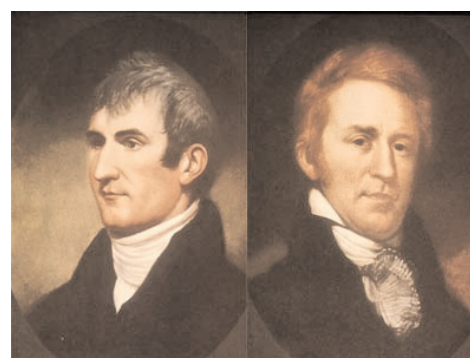
May 13, 1846 - At the request of President James K. Polk, Congress declared war on Mexico. The controversial struggle eventually cost the lives of 11,300 U.S. soldiers and resulted in the annexation of lands that became parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. The war ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

May 13, 1943 - During World War II in North Africa, over 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in the last few days of the Tunis campaign. British General Harold Alexander then telegraphed news of the victory to Winston Churchill, who was in Washington attending a war conference. The victory re-opened Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean.

May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of a Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.

MAY 14

May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.



May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific

coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

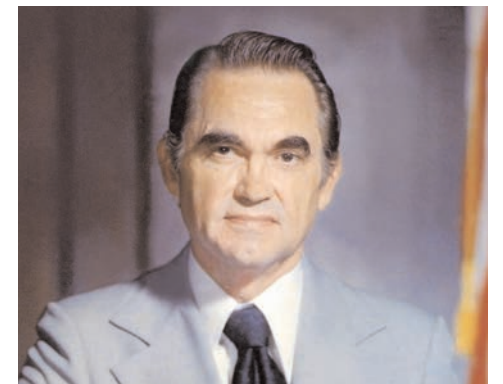
May 14, 1796 - Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England. He coined the term vaccination for the new procedure of injecting a milder form of the disease into healthy persons resulting in immunity. Within 18 months, 12,000 persons in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

May 14, 1942 - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.

Birthdays - German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736) was born in Danzig, Germany. He introduced the use of mercury in thermometers and greatly improved their accuracy. His name is now attached to one of the major temperature measurement scales.

Birthdays - British landscape and portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk, England. Among his best known works: The Blue Boy, The Watering Place and The Market Cart.

MAY 15



May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

MAY 16



May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.