



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

18th YEAR

WWW.THEINDIANPANORAMA.NEWS

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1 INDIAN AMERICAN WEEKLY : SINCE 2006

VOL 18 ISSUE 21 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • MAY 24 - 30, 2024

ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.news

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

Will bring out a special edition to mark the International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2024.



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Norway, Spain and Ireland recognize Palestinian state; Israel condemns move



Leaders of Norway, Spain and Ireland said they hoped their recognition would press Israel, the Palestinians and the international community toward a two-state solution to the conflict.

MAY 23, 2024
NEW YORK (TIP): The Spanish, Irish and Norwegian governments announced Wednesday, May 22, that they would recognize a Palestinian state, saying there would be no peace in the Middle East without it. Israel denounced the move as giving aid to its enemy Hamas.

The coordinated announcements are purely symbolic - but not without some power.

The leaders of the three countries said they hoped their recognition would press Israel, the Palestinians and the international community toward a two-state solution to the conflict.

"In the midst of a war, with tens of thousands killed and injured, we must keep alive the only alternative that

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Nikki Haley says she will vote for Trump in US presidential elections



Nikki Haley says she will vote for Trump in US presidential elections.

File photo

MAY 23, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former presidential hopeful Nikki Haley has said that she will vote for her ex-opponent and boss Donald Trump in the November US election, breaking her silence on the matter since exiting the Republican presidential primary more than two months ago. Haley, 52, however, stopped short of an official

endorsement. Haley, who once served as Trump's United Nations ambassador, was the last of his major rivals to drop out of the party primary contest, in early March. Interestingly, back in April 2021, Haley had said that she would not seek her party's nomination if former President Donald Trump opted to run a second time.

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UK Prime Minister Sunak announces election on July 4



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday, May 22, ended frenzied speculation by announcing that the UK's general election will be held on July 4, saying it is time for Britain to choose its future. - File photo: PTI

MAY 22, 2024

LONDON (TIP): Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday ended frenzied speculation by announcing that the UK's general election will be held on July 4, saying it is time for Britain to choose its future.

In an address from the lectern on the

steps of 10 Downing Street on a rainy London evening, Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian heritage confirmed a summer poll in six weeks' time and that the Parliament would soon be dissolved after he formally informed King Charles III of the election timeline. The 44-year-old leader laid out his record dating back to his term as finance minister during the Covid lockdowns in his pitch to the British electorate, who will soon give their verdict at the ballot box.

"Earlier today, I spoke with His Majesty the King to request the dissolution of Parliament and the King has granted this request and we will have a general election on the fourth of July," said Sunak. In his pitch to the voters, he said: "As I did then, I will forever do everything in my power to provide you with the strongest possible protection I can. That is my promise to you." (Source: PTI)

External Affairs Ministry processing request for cancellation of Prajwal Revanna's diplomatic passport



Hassan MP and JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna
Photo Credit: The Hindu

MAY 23, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is processing a request from the Karnataka government to cancel the diplomatic passport of absconding Janata Dal(S) MP Prajwal Revanna, who faces several allegations of sexual abuse, an official source said on May 23.

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GUEST COMMENT

Powerful symbolic value: On the recognition of Palestine

The recognition of Palestine by more nations is an indictment of Israel

The announcement by Ireland, Norway, and Spain, of their intent to formally recognize the state of Palestine, next week, is one more important sign of the changing tide of international opinion that Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cannot afford to ignore. In just the past month, in the UN General Assembly, 143 countries, including India, passed a resolution calling for the recognition of the Palestinian state by the UN Security Council, where the U.S. has vetoed such a move. Earlier this week, the International Criminal Court Prosecutor moved applications for arrest warrants for Mr. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for operations after October 7 in Gaza as well as the Hamas leadership for the terror attack that killed 1,200 in Israel, terming these as "war crimes". On May 24, the International Court of Justice will pronounce another verdict in the petition by South Africa calling for

additional measures in the prosecution of Israel for "genocide". The latest decision by the three countries, that have been vocal in their criticism of Israel - they join eight EU members that have already recognized Palestinian statehood - may not materially change the situation on the ground. But it is meant to be what the Irish Taoiseach Simon Harris referred to as an "act of powerful political and symbolic value" to Israel, especially as it essays what could be the "final assault" on Rafah. While practically every country has condemned Hamas's terror attacks, Mr. Harris said it would be a mistake to ignore the legitimate Palestinian government in the West Bank, saying that "Hamas is not the Palestinian people". Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said that the move aimed to support "moderate forces that are on a retreating front in a protracted and cruel conflict". Spain's action followed its denial of port facilities to a Danish-

flagged ship with explosive material from India meant for Israel, which it said was a firm policy now. Israel's response, however, has been to recall its envoys and summon the envoys of all three countries for a dressing down.

In the immediate future, the multiple messages of near-global consensus are meant to push Israel's government to rethink its plans for Rafah, to stop more civilian losses, and to allow humanitarian aid free access into Gaza. But in the longer term, they are meant to remind Mr. Netanyahu that even if he has disassociated himself from the "two-state solution", this is something the world believes is the road map to peace. By turning deaf to these messages, Mr. Netanyahu is only furthering his isolation, especially from an international community that came out in full sympathy on October 7, but has grown increasingly horrified by the military campaign since then.

(The Hindu)

Anti-BJP protests : Candidates facing farmers' ire in Punjab

The crackdown on protesting farmers at the Shambhu border in February is casting a shadow on the BJP's poll campaign in Punjab. Party leaders and candidates are being shown black flags and stopped from entering villages, particularly in Malwa and Majha. These disruptions prompted state BJP chief Sunil Jakhar to lodge a complaint with the state's Chief Electoral Officer last week, alleging that the AAP government had failed to ensure a level playing field for all candidates. The Punjab Police have claimed that they are taking steps to ensure the safety of the contestants, including those belonging to the BJP, but the latter is not convinced.

Farmers from the state had launched the Dilli Chalo agitation earlier this year, seeking a legal guarantee for the minimum support price (MSP). However, they were prevented from reaching the Capital by the authorities in BJP-ruled Haryana, which resorted to a heavy-handed approach. The MSP issue has remained unresolved despite a series of talks between the Centre and some farm unions.

The BJP has its task cut out in the state, where it is going solo after its efforts to mend fences with its old ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), proved futile. The SAD had parted ways with the NDA in 2021 amid the farmers' agitation over the contentious farm laws enacted by the Centre. Even the repeal of the laws did not help the BJP win over the state's farming community, as seen in January 2022, when protesters forced PM Modi to go back without addressing a poll rally in Ferozepur. With its nominees also facing the heat in parts of rural Haryana, the saffron party can't afford to ignore the anger and anguish of the region's farmers. At the same time, the alleged infringement of the candidates' right to campaign needs to be probed and accountability fixed for the lapses.

(Tribune, India)

Spice Crisis: Contamination Hits India's Global Market

The recent ban on Indian spices, imposed by Singapore, Hong Kong, Maldives, Australia, and Nepal due to alleged contamination of ethylene oxide (ETO) in products of popular brands MDH and Everest, could potentially reduce spice exports by up to 40 per cent, as warned by the Federation of Indian Spice Stakeholders. The presence of ETO, a toxic chemical, beyond permissible limits in spice mixes poses severe health risks, including cancer. This alarming development underscores the urgent need for India to enhance its food safety protocols and restore global confidence in its spice exports.

India's pre-eminence as the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices is at stake. The country exports over \$4 billion worth of spices annually, and its domestic market is valued at \$10 billion. Yet, recurring quality concerns have dented this reputation, jeopardizing a sector that significantly contributes to the economy. In 2014, lead was found in the food coloring used in spices like chili and curry powder. The US FDA has rejected 14.5 per cent of MDH spice shipments since 2021 due to bacterial contamination. Last month, authorities in Gujarat seized over 60,000 kg of adulterated spices.

Considering the serious health risks, it cannot be business as usual in the spice industry. The Indian government has responded with stricter quality controls, expanding inspections across manufacturing units. However, these steps must translate into tangible results and mitigation of further damage, for food quality affects everybody. People need reassurance that the spices they consume are safe. Nobody can be allowed to play with their health. Surprisingly, the government has failed to send out a message to consumers that the companies at fault are being scrutinized. They are left wondering whether they should consume spices. Transparent operations and proactive communication with international regulators are essential to safeguard our spice legacy.

(Tribune, India)

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Dr. Hari Krishna Shukla honored with Liberty Medal by the New York State Senate

MAY 23, 2024

ALBANY, NY (TIP): Dr. Hari Krishna Shukla, practicing Medicine in Flushing, Queens in New York for nearly four decades, serving thousands of young patients, was bestowed with the New York State Liberty Medal during a solemn ceremony on the New York Senate Floor in Albany, NY on May 15th, 2024.

The New York State Liberty Medal is the state's highest honor, presented to citizens, who have merited special commendation for the actions on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers and their community.

Dr. Shukla, whose discovery of the "Shukla's Formula" made him popular across the globe, was given the Liberty Medal by New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (11th SD- Queens), recognizing his life-saving work in the field of neo-natal pediatric medicine. Earlier, on March 26, 2024, the New York State Senate passed and adopted a resolution (Senate No. 2010) to honor Dr. Hari Krishna Shukla for his work in the field of Pediatric-Neonatal Medicine.

"Dr. Shukla has received international acclaim for his work in advancing the science of how doctors treat infants born prematurely," said Senator Toby Ann Stavisky. "Dr. Shukla is most renowned for developing a mathematical formula for ideal position of umbilical catheters in sick infants that helps to deliver critical fluids and medications more safely to premature children both intravenously and through the umbilical cord. Known as "Shukla's formula."

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky is New York state senator since 1999 and Chairwoman for higher education. This is the first time she has presented the Liberty Medal to any constituent. "Dr. Shukla's life's work in the field of neo-natal pediatric medicine warrants this honor," Sen. Stavisky said.

Since Dr. Shukla published his research article on the topic in 1986, millions of infants have benefited using Dr. Shukla's Formula worldwide. Dr Shukla's Formula is now being used worldwide in several countries, including the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and other European countries, Australia, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Korea, Middle East. Every year about fifteen million infants receive umbilical catheterization. Dr Shukla's equation is quoted in several



Dr. Hari K. Shukla poses for a photograph after receiving the Liberty Medal and the Citation

medical textbooks and manuals throughout the world.

Dr. Shukla developed a formula for rapid estimation of insertional length of Endotracheal tubes in infants. This formula is used widely in the hospitals in United States, and has been made as part of the required training in BLS, PALS and ACLS courses in United States, given to residents, fellows, physician assistants, nurse practitioners prior to commencing employment and in continuing medical education courses required for maintenance of licensure.

Additionally, Dr. Shukla's work has significantly contributed to the field of Pediatric Medicine. Dr. Shukla is the first US Physician to use surfactant in Preterm babies in the City of New York in 1986 under Investigational New drug (IND) protocol of United States Food and Drug Administration and NIH. The Surfactant therapy is now the standard mode of therapy for preterm infants with premature lungs all over the world. Dr Shukla received a Citation from United States Congress for being the first physician in New York to use surfactant.

Another area, where his contributions have helped are the patients with jaundice. His investigative research on how jaundice causes Kernicterus after his basic research



At Albany. L to R: Mrs. Kirti Shukla, Senate Majority leader Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Dr. Hari K. Shukla, and Senator Toby Stavisky



Senators felicitate Dr. Hari K. Shukla. L to R: Senator Leroy Comrie, Senator Toby Stavisky, Dr. Hari K. Shukla, Mrs. Kirti Shukla, Senator John Liu, and Senator Roxanne Persaud

on rats in an animal laboratory at the NYU School of Medicine was the first to demonstrate blood brain barriers for Bilirubin. This research helps in understanding how bilirubin reaches brain tissue and causes damage to Neurons.

His skills and love for the patients was witnessed during the Covid epidemic, when Dr Shukla treated over four hundred Covid positive children, from one-day-old to eighteen years old, with zero mortality.

Dr Shukla is the recipient of the "Pasteur, Merieu and Connought" (The Makers of Polio Vaccine) Award for his work toward eradication of Polio in the United States and India.

Dr Shukla has served as a Consultant Pediatrician for over 38 years for the Permanent Missions of numerous countries to the United Nations and

Consulate General of India. He is also the Civil Surgeon for the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service since 1990.

Dr. Shukla, a triple Board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine & Forensic Medicine, is a Clinical Associate Professor at the New York University, School of Medicine and has nearly four decades of experience in training over 300 Residents and Fellows and he continues to provide state of the art care to preterm infants and children in the US and abroad.

Dr. Hari Shukla came to the United States in 1980 as a Rotary International exchange scholar from India. He is married to Kirti Shukla. The couple are blessed with two boys Mrugank and Mehoor, who are American Medical Graduates, practicing in New York.

Tributes Paid to Former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi on his 33rd Death Anniversary

MAY 21, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Sri Ponnambhakar, Hon'ble Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Government of Telangana, Sri Kailash Bastha, General Secretary TPCC, Sri Pradeep Samla, Working President, Indian Overseas Congress USA, and Mohammad Jaffer were joined by members of Telangana community to offer tributes to the former Prime

Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi on his 33rd death anniversary on May 21, 2024 at Times Square, New York City

Floral tributes were paid to Rajiv Gandhi, a former Prime Minister of India, on his 33rd death anniversary on May 21, 2024 at Times Square, New York City.

Photo : Mohammed Jaffer/ SnapIndia



Indian American Susheela Jayapal loses Congressional race, calls for campaign finance reform

MAY 23, 2024

OREGON (TIP): Susheela Jayapal, 62, lost her first bid for Congress from Oregon's third district. She was defeated by State Representative Maxine Dexter, a physician. In a statement, Jayapal expressed pride in her campaign and called for changes in how elections are funded.

"I just called and extended my congratulations to Maxine Dexter on her election to represent Oregon's Third Congressional District," she said.

Jayapal said her campaign was built on values like integrity, commitment, and justice. She envisioned a district and country where everyone is treated equally and with respect. "We were clear, from the beginning, that we were going to run a campaign based on values and on our vision for the country and the district," she said.

"I am so proud of running a campaign in which people who have never felt included, did. A campaign in which those who have fallen on the margins, weren't just at the table - were running the table," Jayapal said.

Jayapal once again called for campaign finance transparency. "This race showed so clearly why we need to have real campaign finance reform that allows for public financing. Outside super PACs came in and spent an unprecedented \$6M, even



Susheela Jayapal has lost her first bid for Congress from Oregon's third district

timing their contributions so that they wouldn't have to show who was trying to buy this election until well after the votes were cast," she said. "While we couldn't change that fact this time around, I remain committed to working to make our elections truly democratic. There is so much work to be done. And I will continue that work."

Susheela Jayapal is the older sister of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Earlier this month, through a joint statement with commissioner Eddy

Morales who was also running for the seat, Jayapal had accused her opponent Dexter of hypocrisy. "Voters deserve to know who is trying to buy this seat for a centrist candidate who doesn't even live in the district."

The 314 Action Fund, a group that supports Democrats with a background in science, has spent \$1.66 million to support Dexter. "This is by far the largest spender in this race, its largest investment in a primary to date, and one of the largest investments by the group, ever," the statement said.

"Maxine Dexter claims to be for

transparency in politics, but she and 314 Action are engaged in a dishonest and cynical ploy to obscure the donors propping up her campaign until just one day before the primary," the joint statement had alleged.

"We should all be united behind the need for clean and transparent elections and should decry the use of MAGA money in a Democratic primary."

Jayapal and Morales had called for Maxine Dexter to immediately call on her dark money backers to disclose their donors for April.

314 Action did not have to report their April donors until May 20th, the day before the primary, significantly hamstringing Oregon voters' education, the candidates claimed.

The Intercept, a non-profit that investigates individuals and entities to expose corruption, recently claimed that Jayapal is being targeted by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, which is secretly funneling money into the race through 314 Action.

"The pro-Israel community telegraphed its intent to target Jayapal early on, primarily for suspicion that her politics on Israel-Palestine may align with her younger sister Pramila Jayapal's, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus who called for a ceasefire early in the current war on Gaza," the report said.

Indian American financial services executive Salim Ramji named new CEO of Vanguard

MAY 21, 2024

MALVERN, PA (TIP): Salim Ramji, 53, a longtime Indian American financial services executive, has been named chief executive officer of Vanguard, the Malvern, Pennsylvania-based investment advisor, effective July 8.

Ramji succeeds Tim Buckley, who, as previously announced, will retire and step down as Chairman and CEO.

Ramji is a senior financial services executive with more than 25 years of experience in investments, capital markets and wealth management, including a decade as a senior leader at BlackRock Inc., leaving in January 2024, according to his company profile.

Most recently, Ramji was Global Head of iShares & Index Investing, where he was responsible for managing a majority of the firm's client assets and evolving the iShares platform to provide an even broader set of innovative low-cost products for investors globally.

His contributions led to expanded investment access for tens of millions of investors, a more central role for ETFs in



Salim Ramji has been named chief executive officer of Vanguard. He succeeds Tim Buckley.

retirement and wealth portfolios and a more efficient bond market with ETFs as an enabling technology.

At BlackRock, he led the implementation of a voting choice platform, which democratizes client access to the proxy voting process.

Prior to leading iShares, Ramji was the Head of US Wealth Advisory and began his BlackRock career as the Global Head of Corporate

Strategy. Before joining BlackRock, Ramji was a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company in charge of the firm's Asset & Wealth Management Practice. He started his career as a lawyer at Clifford Chance in London and Hong Kong.

Mark Loughridge, Lead Independent Director, said, "The Board welcomes Salim to the leadership team and looks forward to working closely with him as we strengthen and expand our mission and purpose, driven by serving the interests of individual investors. Vanguard's distinctive structure and culture have helped tens of millions of our investor-owners plan for their future and families.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin British businessman charged with bribing foreign public official

MAY 23, 2024

LONDON (TIP): British businessman of Indian origin wanted in connection with a multimillion-pound bribery investigation by the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) was charged with bribing a foreign public official in a London court on Thursday.

Peter Virdee, 50, also known as Hardip Singh, appeared at Westminster Magistrates Court, where he was charged alongside the company of which he is a director.

He has been released on bail to appear before Southwark Crown Court on June 20.

"It is alleged that between January 2015 and July 2017, he bribed Asot Michael, a Member of Parliament and Government Minister of Tourism, Economic Development Investment and Energy for Antigua and Barbuda, to benefit PV Energy Ltd, the company he is a director of," the NCA said in a statement.

"PV Energy Ltd was simultaneously charged with failing to prevent bribery in relation to the same offences," it said.

According to court papers, Virdee was charged with bribing a foreign public official contrary to Section 6 of the Bribery Act, 2010.



Salim Ramji has been named chief executive officer of Vanguard. He succeeds Tim Buckley.

PV Energy was charged with failing to prevent bribery contrary to Sections 7 and 11(3) of the Bribery Act, 2010.

PV Energy, between January 1, 2015 and July 26, 2017 failed to prevent Hardip Singh (aka Peter Virdee), a person associated with PV Energy Limited, from bribing another person, Michael, intending to obtain or retain business for PV Energy Limited or intending to obtain or retain an advantage in the conduct of business for PV Energy, according to the details of the bribery charge.

(Source: PTI)

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams set to fly into space for a third time next month

BOEING'S STARLINER FIRST CREWED SPACECRAFT IS EXPECTED TO BE LAUNCHED BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND 5

MAY 23, 2024

HOUSTON (TIP): Boeing's Starliner first crewed spacecraft to be piloted by Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams is expected to be launched between June 1 and 5 after the flight was postponed earlier this month due to a technical snag.

Williams, 58, will fly into space for the third time aboard the test flight.

A statement from NASA said: "Mission managers from NASA, Boeing and ULA (United Launch Alliance) continue to evaluate a path forward toward launching the agency's Boeing Crew Flight Test to the International Space Station. The teams are now working toward a launch opportunity at 12.25 pm on Saturday, June 1, with additional opportunities on Sunday, June 2, Wednesday, June 5, and Thursday, June 6."

Work continues to assess Starliner performance and redundancy following the discovery of a small helium leak in the spacecraft's service module, the statement said.

It said teams were in the process of completing a follow-on propulsion system assessment to understand potential helium system impacts on some Starliner return scenarios.

Starliner will carry Williams and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station, marking what could be a momentous and long-awaited victory for the beleaguered Boeing programme.

An attempt to launch the first crewed test flight for the International Space Station from Cape Canaveral in Florida was postponed on May 6 after a technical snag was discovered moments before the



Indian-origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams set to fly into space for a third time next month

File Photo: PTI

take-off. NASA will also conduct a Delta-Agency Flight Test Readiness Review to discuss the work that was performed since the last CFT launch attempt on May 6 and to evaluate issue closure and flight rationale ahead of the next attempt as part of NASA's process for assessing readiness, the statement said.

The statement said Williams and Butch Wilmore continued practicing in Starliner simulators to prepare for flight, and the crew, which remains quarantined, will fly back to NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida closer to the new launch date.

The mission has been delayed for several years because of setbacks in the

spacecraft's development. If it is successful, it will become the second private firm able to provide crew transport to and from the ISS, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX. Such a scenario - with both SpaceX's Crew Dragon and Starliner flying regularly - is one for which the US space agency NASA has long waited. This is Boeing's second flight to the International Space Station and third Starliner flight test overall, following a second Orbital Flight Test, the uncrewed mission also known as OFT-2, in May 2022.

Boeing also completed a pad abort demonstration in November 2019, according to NASA.

SpaceX and Boeing developed their respective vehicles under NASA's Commercial Crew Programme, a partnership with private industry contractors. From the outset, the space agency aimed to have both companies operating at once.

The Crew Dragon and Starliner spacecrafts would each serve as a backup to the other, giving astronauts the option to keep flying, even if technical issues or other setbacks grounded one spacecraft.

Williams received her commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy from the United States Naval Academy in May 1987.

Williams was selected as an astronaut by NASA in 1998 and is a veteran of two space missions, Expeditions 14/15 and 32/33.

She served as a flight engineer on Expedition 32 and then commander of Expedition 33.

While on board, she established a world record for females with four spacewalks totaling 29 hours and 17 minutes. Astronaut Peggy Whitson subsequently broke the record in 2008 with a total of five spacewalks.

Williams spent four months conducting research and exploration aboard the orbiting laboratory.

Williams was born in Euclid, Ohio, to Indian-American neuroanatomist Deepak Pandya and Slovene-American Ursuline Bonnie (Zalokar) Pandya.

She holds a physical science degree from the US Naval Academy and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Florida Institute of Technology. (Source: PTI)

India American Jaya Badiga appointed judge in Sacramento County Superior Court



Jaya Badiga, a certified family law specialist, has been appointed as a Judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court

PARMINDER AUJLA
MAY 23, 2024

SACRAMENTO (TIP):

Indian American attorney Jaya Badiga, a certified family law specialist, has been appointed as a Judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court. Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, made the appointment of Badiga, who has earlier served as a Commissioner at the Sacramento County Superior Court since 2022. Badiga, born in Vijayawada city of Andhra Pradesh, fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Robert S. Lapham. Badiga, a member of the Democrat Party, also served as an Attorney at the California Department of Health Care Services in 2020 and at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services in 2018. Badiga earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and International Communications from Boston University.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin scientist Shrinivas R Kulkarni wins prestigious Shaw Prize in astronomy for 2024



Shrinivas R Kulkarni who is the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and Planetary Science, Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects.

Planetary Science, Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy at the California Institute of Technology.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

MAY 22, 2024

PASADENA, CA

(TIP): Shrinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin professor of astronomy from the US will be bestowed the prestigious Shaw Prize in astronomy for his ground-breaking discoveries about millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transient astronomical objects.

Apart from Kulkarni, who is the George Ellery Hale Professor of Astronomy and

Indian-origin student dies in bike accident in New York

MAY 23, 2024
NEW YORK

(TIP): In a tragic incident, an Indian student here has died after he met with a bike accident.

Shri Belem Atchyuth from Andhra Pradesh was a student at The State

University of New York (SUNY) and passed away in a bike accident Wednesday evening.

"Saddened to learn about the untimely demise of Shri Belem Atchyuth, a student at SUNY who met with a bike accident and passed away yesterday evening," the Consulate General of India said in a post on X.

Expressing "deepest condolences" to his family, the Consulate said they are in touch with the "bereaved family & local agencies to extend all assistance including sending the mortal remains back to India".



Shri Belem Atchyuth from Andhra Pradesh who was a student at the State University of New York (SUNY) passed away in a bike accident Wednesday, May 23 evening.

Dr Shiv K. Sarin's book 'Own Your Body' Generates Keen Interest at the Discussion of the Book



Consul General of India, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, in his opening remarks spoke about the leading role of Dr Shiv in the field of health care



Dr. Shashi Shah introduced Dr. Shiv K. Sarin



RANA president Prem Bhandari highlighted the compassionate and selfless approach of Dr Shiv



Dr. Shiv K. Sarin explained how the combination of what we inherit and our habit pattern is related to our longevity and healthy life



Dr. Sarin gifted a copy each to the Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph, and organizers of the event

MAY 17, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): It was an inspiring and engaging event. The audience comprising of doctors and community leaders heard Dr Sarin's words of pragmatic wisdom with rapt attention. Padma Bhushan Dr Shiv K Sarin, founder, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi is recognized with "Distinguished Clinician Award in Academic Practice" by American Gastroenterological Association.

The Consul General of India, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, in his opening remarks spoke about the leading role of Dr Shiv in the field of health care.

RANA president Prem Bhandari highlighted the compassionate and selfless approach of Dr Shiv. He suggested that this important book should be translated into Hindi and Rajasthani also.

Prem Bhandari made a digression when he congratulated Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan for his decision to keep the Consulate open on all days of the week to better serve the community. He said, "The Indian Consulate in New York has become the first not only in the US but globally to remain open 365 days a year. Bhandari praised the CG for institutionalizing this decision. Since 2014, the New York

Consulate has been open on weekends and holidays in emergencies such as deaths or serious health issues of relatives, even during severe weather conditions like 24-inch snowfalls. Previously, the Indian diaspora had to approach community leaders or organizations for help during such times. Now, with this institutionalized process, everyone knows the consulate will remain open on holidays and weekends".

The New York Consulate has jurisdiction over ten states in the US, providing significant relief to the Indian diaspora living in these areas. Bhandari urged that Indian consulates, not only in the US but worldwide, should follow Binaya Pradhan's example and remain open 365 days a year, wherever there are sizable Indian communities.

Dr Shashi Shah reflected on his college days with Dr Shiv. Both are alumnus of SMS Medical College, Jaipur. Dr Shashi, having read the book, used his friendly force to persuade Dr Sarin and was instrumental in mounting this program for the community members of New York.

Dr Shiv Sarin, a distinguished Indian physician, is a beacon of medical expertise, clinical research and has made huge contribution to medical education. From his academic origins at S.M.S.

Medical College Jaipur to his leadership role at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Dr Sarin is hailed as a healthcare luminary dedicated to the wellbeing of millions affected by liver and metabolic disorders. The ILBS is today the largest liver hospital in India and a deemed liver university.

In his opening remarks, Dr Shiv suggested that Indian Consulate should have local health body, a collegium of doctors of Indian origin to issue guidelines for the community. The core of this evening after formal launch of the book by the dignitaries was stimulating interaction between Dr Shashi and Dr Shiv. He opened with simple question, "Why did you write this book?", to which author responded with a chuckle and remarked, "he has started ragging me". Both swiftly got down to the business of developing an eye-opening dialog, which generated a genuine sense of cultivating healthy habits among the audience.

Dr Shiv Sarin's 'Own Your Body' builds a bridge between common man and medical terminology, while narration of the book in the story form deals with characters, their aspirations, their emotional equations and also deals with the medical challenges posed by fatty liver.

How to prevent it? Dr Shah questioned the author on the suggestion of giving priority to gene matching over horoscope matching. This was an evening which was looking at health in an integrated way, where flow of health from generation to generation was also considered. How a normal looking healthy boy may be prone to heart attack. Dr Sarin explained that the combination of what we inherit and how our habit pattern is related to our longevity and healthy life.

The frequent reference of challenges posed by obesity and stage of becoming insulin resistant was also explained in simple terms. When one hears that over

80 percent kids in India are walking less than 30 minutes a day and it doesn't speak good of their healthy future, one wonders, how to reverse the process.

Mukesh Ambani, chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, writes about the book, 'Own Your Body', 'After reading this book, one would realize that good health is not as much a function of one's genetic makeup as it is of one's lifestyle choices.'

Dr Shashi echoed the same spirit expressed in the words of Dr Shiv "Do not outsource your health to doctors. Embrace self-care.

As the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Medical Council of India (MCI), Dr Sarin played a pivotal role in shaping medical education and conceptualized the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Dr Sarin has also been at the forefront of policy initiatives, including the national viral hepatitis control program and the integration of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease into national programs.

Beyond his exceptional clinical talents, Dr Sarin is a gifted teacher and a master communicator, epitomizing medical excellence and ethics. Committed to community service, he has been a pivotal figure in the fight against hepatitis. Honored with prestigious awards such as the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and Padma Bhushan, Dr Sarin symbolizes the harmonious convergence of medical excellence and altruistic fervor.

His work, encapsulated in the mantra 'Own Your Body', transcends medical expertise, showcasing the profound impact one individual can have on the health and happiness of millions.

The event was jointly organized by RANA, AAPI QLI and RAJMAAI.

Mrs Neelam Modi was master of ceremony for the evening and Dr Raj Bhayani extended 'Vote of thanks' on behalf of the organizers.



A view of the audience

Senator Stavisky Receives SUNY Award

The Senator, who serves as Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, was honored after SUNY's State of the University address in Albany



SUNY Chancellor John King presented awards to Higher Education Chairs Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblymember Patricia Fahy

MAY 23, 2024

ALBANY (TIP): On Wednesday, May 22nd, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (Senate District 11- Queens), Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, was presented with the SUNY medal by Chancellor John King. The honor is in recognition of "years of tireless advocacy on behalf of public higher education in the State of New York."

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), a program Senator Stavisky and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy were committed to overhauling to better reflect current economic realities. The "Turn on the TAP" campaign helped secure major improvements in the New York State Budget. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

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www.worldveganvision.org

Xi keen on consolidating bilateral ties to divide EU



BY JAYADEVA
RANADE

CHINA HAS BEEN TRYING TO WIDEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND THE EU TO LOOSEN AMERICAN RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF TECHNOLOGY AND WEAPONRY TO IT

"FRANCE WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH AS PRESIDENT MACRON HAS CHANGED HIS VIEWS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND NOW SEES THE WAR IN UKRAINE AS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO EUROPE. THIS HAS INCREASED WORRIES ABOUT THE SUPPLY BY CHINA OF DUAL-USE GOODS AND MILITARY MATERIAL TO RUSSIA. TO DEMONSTRATE - ESPECIALLY AFTER GERMAN CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ BENT HIS KNEE TO BEIJING - THAT FRANCE AND THE EU WERE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT UKRAINE, MACRON INVITED EU PRESIDENT URSULA VON DER LEYEN TO JOIN THE TALKS WITH XI IN PARIS. CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WERE RAISED, SUCH AS THE FRENCH-BACKED ANTI-SUBSIDY INVESTIGATION INTO ELECTRIC VEHICLES FROM CHINA; CHINESE OVERCAPACITY; BEIJING'S INDIRECT SUPPORT TO RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE; AND THE EXPLOSION OF THE NORDIC PIPELINE."



French President Emmanuel Macron (left) with Chinese President Xi Jinping

File photo

Chinese President Xi Jinping's recent visit to France, Serbia and Hungary came amid rising concern in Europe about the war in Ukraine and China's growing assistance to Russia. Commenting on Xi's tour, the official Zhongguo Qingnian Bao (China Youth Daily, May 6) candidly observed that the visit was "vitally important for China's relations with France, Serbia, Hungary and the European Union (EU) at large".

High on Xi's agenda were the economy, concern about the possibility of the West imposing sanctions on China, and the issue of 'overcapacity' flagged by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and the EU. Xi's tour was carefully crafted to first try and 'soften' France, which has a powerful voice in the EU and considerable investments in China, and then to end with a successful flourish in Serbia and Hungary - both countries with whom China has excellent commercial and diplomatic ties. Signed articles by Xi were published in major newspapers of the three countries, coinciding with his arrival.

France was the most difficult to deal with as President Macron has changed his views over the past year and now sees the war in Ukraine as an existential threat to Europe. This has increased worries about the supply by China of dual-use goods and military material to Russia. To demonstrate - especially after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz bent his knee to Beijing - that France and the EU were equally concerned about Ukraine, Macron invited EU President Ursula von der Leyen to join the talks with Xi in Paris. Contentious issues were raised, such as the French-backed anti-subsidy investigation into electric vehicles from China; Chinese

overcapacity; Beijing's indirect support to Russia's war in Ukraine; and the explosion of the Nordic pipeline.

In their 80-minute bilateral talks, Macron reportedly raised concerns about China supplying dual-use items to Russia and underscored that the war in Ukraine posed a direct threat to Europe. Xi said that in this phase of transformation and turbulence, "China and France should uphold independence and jointly prevent a new Cold War or bloc confrontation" and "stay committed to the spirit that guided the establishment of their diplomatic ties, namely independence, mutual understanding, long-term vision and mutual benefit, and enrich it with new features of the new era". He said they should take "a long view and work together for an equal and orderly multipolar world" and "and jointly oppose decoupling and cutting off of supply chains." He offered to "deepen cooperation" in aerospace and aviation, nuclear energy, innovation and finance, and "expand cooperation in emerging areas such as green energy, smart manufacturing, biomedicine and artificial intelligence (AI)" as well as a reform of the international financial system.

Macron emphasized that France would not adopt discriminatory policies and did not want to keep China out of the French market. He said France hoped to export more agricultural products to China and was ready to enhance cooperation in areas such as aerospace and aviation, nuclear energy for civilian use, biodiversity protection and AI, and jointly uphold multilateralism, the UN Charter and international law.

After their 100-minute trilateral meeting, Von der Leyen said she had pressed Xi on all contentious points and

urged him to rein in Chinese subsidies and manufacturing overcapacity and give European companies more access to the Chinese market. She said she was counting "on China to use all its influence on Russia to end its war of aggression against Ukraine" and urged Beijing to stem the supply of dual-use goods helping Russia's military. She pointed out that "given the existential nature of the threats stemming from this war for both Ukraine and Europe, this does affect the EU-China relations."

Xi seemed to brush off these concerns and stressed that "China is not at the origin of this crisis, nor is it a participant". He said the crisis should not be used to tarnish China's image or start a new Cold War. Interestingly, throughout the meetings, Xi referred to the war in Ukraine as a 'crisis'.

After a quick visit to the home of Macron's grandmother in the Hautes-Pyrénées, Xi arrived in Serbia on the 25th anniversary of the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on May 7 to a red-carpet welcome. Xi received a similar reception in Hungary. China signed 28 and 18 agreements, respectively, in Belgrade and Budapest.

In Serbia, which is not a member of the EU, Xi made it clear that the country stood to gain far more from close ties with China than the EU. The trans-Serbia Railway was highlighted as an example of the Belt and Road cooperation and they agreed to build a "China-Serbia community with a shared future in the new era". Three more Confucius Centers and a Chinese Cultural Centre were opened. In Hungary, agreements were signed for two new electric vehicle-manufacturing factories.

At the joint press conference on May 9, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced that "China is one of the pillars of the new world order" and that Hungary would support China's peace plan for Ukraine. Xi said: "China supports Hungary in playing a bigger role in the EU and promoting greater progress in China-EU relations."

Beijing has for decades been trying to widen differences between the US and the EU to loosen American restrictions on the sale of technology and weaponry to China. Xi is consolidating relations with Serbia and Hungary to build them into potential wedges to divide the EU. Following Scholz's visit in April, Beijing could see Germany as a potential weak link. The apparent change in French President Macron's views on Russia could, however, impact China-France ties.

(The author is President, Centre for China Analysis and Strategy)

India's Election Commission: Murder of an Institution



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

E.C. HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION ON THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER EVEN AFTER A MONTH FOR VIOLATING THE MORAL CODE BY EXPLICITLY ATTACKING A MINORITY COMMUNITY IN HIS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES.

"The Indian Constitution Article 324 establishes an independent election commission; Article 327 empowers Parliament to enact laws governing all aspects of elections. Article 329 provides a mechanism for resolving electoral disputes through review by an independent judiciary. These articles reflect the clear preference of the constituent assembly to ensure the autonomy and independence of the ECI, protecting it from Executive interference (Devi and Mendiratta, 2000). ECI has been considered one of the most trusted public institutions in India that ensured integrity and conducted 17 national and 370 state elections since India's independence in one of the most populous countries in the world."

Ever since the BJP/RSS came to power with Narendra Modi at its helm, institutions built under the Nehruvian-Ambedkar vision have been facing either servitude or total decimation. India's election commission, one of the revered pillars of Indian Democracy, appeared to have suffered the same fate as many others in their ongoing battle to move the nation towards a majoritarian rule rooted in the Hindutva philosophy.

Under the visionary leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar, India created institutions that preserved freedom and Democracy for everyone. If we look back at history, many other countries that have gained independence



Election Commission of India

along with India failed in their quest to safeguard freedom for their citizens. However, India has succeeded, whereas others have failed only because of those institutions that stood the test of time. Undoubtedly, the Election Commission is one institution that conducts free and fair elections and guarantees peaceful transfer of power to the victor of the people's mandate every time.

BJP was only interested in free and fair elections until they reached the pinnacles of the power structure. Soon, they started meddling all around, weakening institutions, muzzling media, and intimidating and removing civil society, all in their quest to perpetuate power and establish long-lasting control over every segment of society. In their second term, they must have been anxious for their tenuous hold on power, considering their mammoth failures in tackling the nation's pressing problems, such as rampant inflation, youth unemployment, and unrest in the agricultural sector.

Towards that end, they have decided to remake the Election Commission to make it a handmaiden, a blow to Democracy and the established constitutional order. Democracy means that all the people in a nation have a say in one way or another in everything that affects their lives. That was the point of contention for a party like the BJP, which believed in majoritarian governance. Democracy is also a controversial concept often misused by dictators and single-party regimes to assert popular support to justify their power grab.

The Indian Constitution Article 324 establishes an independent election commission; Article 327 empowers Parliament to enact laws governing all aspects of elections. Article 329 provides a mechanism for resolving electoral disputes through review by an independent judiciary. These articles reflect the clear preference of the

constituent assembly to ensure the autonomy and independence of the ECI, protecting it from Executive interference (Devi and Mendiratta, 2000). ECI has been considered one of the most trusted public institutions in India that ensured integrity and conducted 17 national and 370 state elections since India's independence in one of the most populous countries in the world.

However, what has been happening during this election cycle under the watch of the current E.C. is genuinely disconcerting and tantamount to betraying their sacred duty as the chief guardian of Democracy in exercising their impartial judgment in the conduct of a free and fair election. The move to reorganize the ECI outside of the collegium, outlined by the Supreme Court, where the prime minister, the chief justice, and the opposition leader together choose election commissioners, was a grave mistake. As a result, the independence of the ECI has been lost, and it has become another instrument in the hands of an administration with a history of subjugation to achieve its political ends.

Consequently, the court system is forced to work extra hours and sit in judgment on the issue of compliance with the election laws or with the moral code of conduct violations by the parties or their candidates. The court has directly intervened and criticized the election commission for failing to address various complaints nationwide. E.C. has not taken any action on the complaints against the Prime Minister even after a month for violating the moral code by explicitly attacking a minority community in his campaign speeches. E.C. sent a notice to the BJP President rather than the individual who made that offending statement. To any independent observer, it becomes clear that the level of communal statements and hate speeches during the election

cycle is on a much larger scale than in any other election in the past. Subsequently, a Congress delegation met the Election Commission and gave a memorandum criticizing Modi's statements that created false and divisive insinuations targeting a particular religious community, which is a clear provocation to the general public to act and breach the peace.

The Supreme Court's dismissal of adding VVPAT to every EVM on the petition by the Association of Democratic Reforms was quite unfortunate, and it has become abundantly clear now that the people lack faith in the current E.C. to fix the problems associated with these voting machines. There are several reports of the malfunctioning of EVMS and subsequent delays in voting across the country. The storage and safekeeping of this equipment until the counting is also under scrutiny as reports of CCTV camera failures emerge in this unusually long election cycle. Why it would take two months to conduct an election and for whose convenience, etc., are also shrouded in mystery. There is little doubt that EVMs are under the spotlight now, and real fears over fairness and openness in this regard are no longer limited to civil society debates.

Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Sappal said that people have voted in large numbers to vote this government out. Now, the number of votes counted will decide the outcome. "the E.C. must ensure that people have faith in its process. Unfortunately, this trust is missing. E.C.'s assertion that political parties must do their data analytics before coming to the commission was outrageous. Any institution that indulges in such whataboutery has something to hide. We never thought there would be a day in this country when the E.C. would refuse to give even the data of the votes polled on a particular day," Mr. Sappal added.

Indian Democracy is in an existential crisis. The values it embodies—specifically the right to choose leaders in a fair and free election—are under assault right now. The system finds itself battered and weakened. The slow and painful death of the Election Commission is another warning sign that India as a free society may cease to exist shortly unless people in large numbers realize the potential danger and speak out loud and together by casting their votes.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer at the United Nations. He is currently the Vice Chair of IOC USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

When control is disguised as reform

THE MASKED OBJECTIVE OF RECENT ATTACKS ON THE JUDICIARY SEEMS TO BE TO ACHIEVE ABSOLUTE EXECUTIVE CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTION



BY APAR GUPTA

"These decisions are healthy outcomes for any constitutional democracy where institutions have autonomy and there is a working system of checks and balances. However, they have been perceived by many as breaking a pattern. Legal scholars and even practitioners have been criticizing the Court over the last few years for judicial abdication, acquiescence, avoidance, and, in some instances, for working hand-in-glove with the executive. Hence, the recent decisions, especially during an election year, have been seen as an unexpected but welcome display of courage."

Three recent judicial decisions have led to attacks on the Supreme Court's legitimacy. On February 15, the Court declared electoral bonds unconstitutional, stating that the "right to know supersedes anonymity." On May 10, the Court granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying, "We... reject the argument that the reasoning... results in grant of privilege or special status to politicians." On May 15, the Court granted bail to Prabir Purkayastha, founder and Editor-in-Chief of NewsClick, holding that "communication of the grounds of arrest in writing was not provided... which vitiates the arrest." These judgments, based on legal merit, challenge state excesses and also harm the ruling party's interests. The BJP undeniably benefited from electoral bonds, Mr. Kejriwal's arrest, and the suppression of a critical media platform.

These decisions are healthy outcomes for any constitutional democracy where institutions have autonomy and there is a working system of checks and balances. However, they have been perceived by many as breaking a pattern. Legal scholars and even practitioners have been criticizing the Court over the last few years for judicial abdication, acquiescence, avoidance, and, in some instances, for working hand-in-glove with the executive.



A video grab from the Supreme Court shows the five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, during a hearing on the electoral bonds case. Photo: YouTube/Supreme Court of India via PTI

Hence, the recent decisions, especially during an election year, have been seen as an unexpected but welcome display of courage.

A SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN

In our digital media ecology, each hearing on subjects of public importance, especially those with political implications, receives immediate online commentary. The Supreme Court and High Courts have facilitated this by enabling live tweeting and streaming of proceedings. Legal reporting platforms have further brought the court into our social media streams. However, a disturbing trend has surfaced: abuse of the judiciary. Many believe that institutions are colonial impositions or are rooted in western liberalism and are therefore in conflict with the social norms of "new India". When this authoritarian world view is challenged, its proponents seek to subvert the legitimacy of the court. Digital campaigns against the court exploit public frustration over the decades it takes for citizens to obtain justice, anger regarding judicial nepotism, and the lack of diversity in the higher judiciary, and even conjure up fantasies of a secret society of senior lawyers influencing the court. Such attacks masquerade as suggestions for reform. But the proposed "solutions" are not based on evidence. The masked objective seems to be to achieve absolute executive control.

This clever subterfuge has been brought forth by Joyojeet Pal and Sheyriil Agarwal, who gathered data from X over four months and highlighted spikes in comments on five days when the Chief Justice of India took positions antithetical to the BJP-led government or its supporters. They concluded in their study

Our civic vision has to be broader than the narrow framing of a powerful Prime Minister or a dominant political party, regardless of the election results.

that the "Chief Justice's liberal leanings in several judgments rankle many who lean right. But the more significant issue is that purging the Supreme Court of similarly liberal-leaning justices represents an existential thorn in institutional capture by the political establishment." They also noted that "attacks are more strongly tied to digital influencers who are highly polarized in favor of the BJP." While the study did not capture this clearly, many online influencers with large followings enjoy official patronage. Nowadays, high-ranking advisers and cabinet ministers devote significant time to participating in podcasts and YouTube interviews and often comment on the need for judicial reforms and even a repeal of the Constitution. Critics may dismiss this study as biased and point to instances where "liberal" and "left leaning" users have engaged in similar practices. However, the study notes distinctions in how the Opposition and wider civil society organize and conduct campaigns online - by appealing to the Court to follow its constitutional role.

Today, each judgment and slip-up is put up, ridiculed, and delegitimized through

coordinated campaigns. For example, the Juvenile Justice Board recently granted bail to the minor son of a builder who was allegedly driving the car that crashed into two people killing them. Juxtaposed against news reports of the grant of bail are captions such as "the Indian judiciary is a joke". This ignores the role of the police and politicians in the initial procedure. These drip campaigns are part of the long game of organized partisans calling for direct control by the Prime Minister.

THE WAY FORWARD

Television and social media play a crucial role in shaping norms. So, we must publicly acknowledge the threats facing the independence of the judiciary, carefully scrutinize proposals disguised as judicial reforms, and take urgent but careful remedial action on issues such as the collegium system. Public trust is the judiciary's greatest ally, and it must be restored by improving service delivery, increasing diversity in appointments, and improving the Court's counter-majoritarian spine. The judiciary and the wider legal fraternity must counter online threats by dispelling misinformation and exposing bad faith propaganda. This requires reasoned, consistent, and honest public communication about the judicial process. Finally, we the people must recognize the Court as an imperfect ally, sometimes even a negligent guardian, but nonetheless a protector of our constitutional rights. Our civic vision has to be broader than the narrow framing of a powerful Prime Minister or a dominant political party, regardless of the election results.

(Apar Gupta is an Advocate based in New Delhi)

Memorial Day

MEMORIAL DAY IS AN AMERICAN HOLIDAY, OBSERVED ON THE LAST MONDAY OF MAY, HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO DIED WHILE SERVING IN THE U.S. MILITARY. MEMORIAL DAY 2024 FALLS ON MONDAY, MAY 27.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as Decoration Day and commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

The Birthplace of Memorial Day and Early Observances

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.



History of Memorial Day

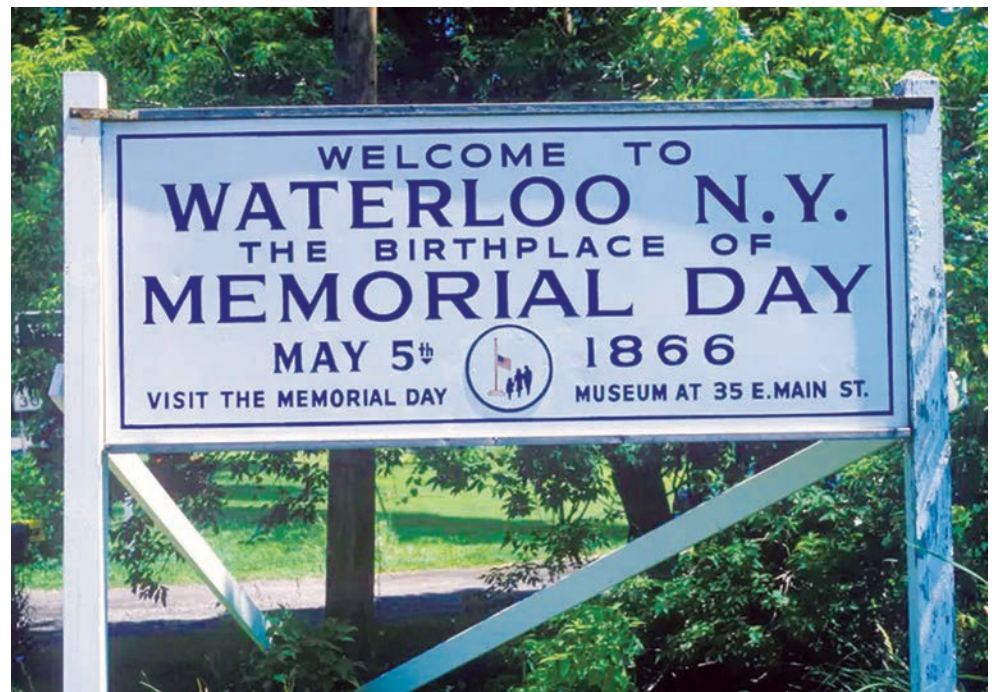
Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day Traditions and Rituals

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before



Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

What Do People Do?

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half staff from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is combined with Jefferson Davis' Birthday in Mississippi.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend. This day is traditionally seen as the start of

the summer season for cultural events. For the fashion conscious, it is seen as acceptable to wear white clothing, particularly shoes from Memorial Day until Labor Day. However, fewer and fewer people follow this rule and many wear white clothing throughout the year.

Public Life

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. All non-essential Government offices are closed, as are schools, businesses and other organizations. Most public transit systems do not run on their regular schedule. Many people see Memorial Day weekend as an opportunity to go on a short vacation or visit family or friends. This can cause some congestion on highways and at airports.

INDIA ELECTIONS 2024: PHASE 6

Canvassing ends for 58 seats in 8 states

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Campaigning for the sixth phase of polling in 58 constituencies across eight states and union territories — Delhi, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and J&K — ended on Thursday, May 23, evening. The polling will be held on May 25.

Besides all seven seats in Delhi, polling will be held for 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, all 10 seats of Haryana, eight seats each in Bihar and West Bengal, six seats in Odisha, four seats in Jharkhand and one seat in Jammu and Kashmir. In the previous elections, the NDA (BJP and its allies) had won 44 of these seats and the Congress none.

On the final day of campaigning, leaders of both BJP and the opposition-backed INDIA bloc spared no effort. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a rally in Bhiwani, Haryana, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed a gathering in Dwarka, Delhi. Union Minister Piyush Goyal held a roadshow in Najafgarh. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a rally in support of party candidate from North East Delhi and later held a gathering in Mangolpuri. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra conducted a roadshow in Sirsa.

A total of 889 candidates are in the fray. Among the key contestants are former

889 IN FRAY; | POLLING FOR ALL SEATS IN HARYANA, DELHI ON MAY 25



Union Minister and BJP leader Maneka Gandhi (Sultanpur, UP), former Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal), Congress leader Deepender Hooda (Rohtak), former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti (Anantnag), BJP leader Rao

Inderjit Singh (Gurugram) and Congress' Raj Babbar.

Delhi will see Congress leader and former president of JNU's student union Kanhaiya Kumar locking horns with sitting BJP MP Manoj Tiwari in North

BESIDES ALL SEVEN SEATS IN DELHI, POLLING WILL BE HELD FOR 14 SEATS IN UTTAR PRADESH, ALL 10 SEATS OF HARYANA, EIGHT SEATS EACH IN BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL, SIX SEATS IN ODISHA, FOUR SEATS IN JHARKHAND AND ONE SEAT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

East Delhi. Also, veteran Congress leader and former MP Jai Prakash Agrawal will be contesting against BJP's Praveen Khandelwal from Chandni Chowk.

West Bengal's eight seats will see some interesting battles. Tamluk will witness TMC's Debangshu Bhattacharya (who had given the slogan "Khela Hobe") contesting against BJP candidate and former Calcutta HC judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay, who was banned from campaigning for a day by the EC for allegedly making sexist comments against CM Mamata Banerjee.

It's not Oppn vs Modi, it's the people vs Modi: Kharge

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is on course to win 300 seats in the ongoing general elections because the people, and not just the Opposition, are themselves fighting against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) due to problems such as inflation and unemployment, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said on Thursday, May 23.

In an interview, the 81-year-old leader alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was nervous about losing the elections that end next week, said there were signs of a change in regime, and declared the Opposition alliance was capable of deftly governing the country if it came to power.

"This time, the people themselves are fighting against Modi. It is not our election. Automatically, the people are coming forward and they want to defeat Modi, because of high prices, because of unemployment, because of whatever he said in 10 years, everything is a lie," he said.

Kharge's comments came ahead of the penultimate phase of the general elections on May 25 when 58 seats across eight states and Union territories go to the polls. All seven seats in Delhi and 10 in Haryana will vote in this phase.

The Congress chief expressed

confidence that INDIA will perform impressively in UP and Maharashtra, two key states that send 128 members to the Lok Sabha between them.

"Whatever we are gaining, the BJP's seats will get reduced. Our allies, the SP, are doing fine and they are moving everywhere. You can see the crowds and how the response is given to Rahul and also Akhilesh. Therefore, we are confident our strategies worked," he said.

He said Modi was nervous and pointed to the PM's controversial statements about Muslim reservation, food habits, and industrialists Ambani and Adani.

"This time Modi is on the backfoot. Because, see how many meetings he has done, has he done so many earlier? How many states he covered with roadshows — has any PM has done so many roadshows? Has he done the same roadshows in 2019? Or 2014? It means that he himself is worried," Kharge said.

"When a person is anxious like this, he starts doing and saying strange things and wrong things — how much gold, how much livestock, mangalsutra, does any PM speak like this? Mutton, chicken, what is this?... Being a Prime Minister, you are instigating people. That's why people have understood him and he will definitely come down and he has to hand over the reins of the government to INDIA."

He said he respected the Election



Commission but called for transparency around turnout figures.

He also dismissed Modi's allegation that an INDIA bloc administration will be unstable. "A united Opposition will give you a stable government that will rule for 10 years. We have the example of 2004 to 2014."

"INDIA Ahead After 5 Phases, BJP Facing Defeat"

Congress chief Kharge has backed the INDIA bloc to come up trumps against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, arguing that mega wins in the 2014 and 2019 polls — in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party scored 282 and 303 seats on its own, and 336 and 353 with allies

— meant it had reached a saturation point in terms of votes it might win.

In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Mr Kharge said the BJP's failure to fulfil promises made over the previous two terms (10 years) would also count against it, and highlighted issues like unemployment and the cost of living crisis to make his point — that it is necessary to remove the BJP government to "strengthen democracy and save the Constitution".

"Even after five phases (the 2024 election is spread across seven phases, with the fifth completed on Monday and the sixth scheduled for Saturday) the INDIA bloc is ahead. This is because Modiji did not fulfil promises he made... the people waited for 10 years..."

"But today they are facing inflation on a large scale and are worried. Young children, troubled by unemployment, are wandering on the streets," Mr Kharge told NDTV.

Formed in June last year, the INDIA bloc was expected to unite the opposition and mount a concerted challenge to Mr Modi and the BJP. The group — which includes the AAP, Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK, the Samajwadi Party, and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena faction as members — has fielded common candidates in a majority of the seats in this election. *Source: HT and NDTV*

Modi invokes 1971 India-Pak war, says 'I would've taken Kartarpur Sahib'

PATIALA (TIP)

Noting that more than 90,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, May 23, asserted if he had been in power he would have taken Kartarpur Sahib from Pakistan before freeing their troops. Addressing a rally at Patiala, his first in the state for the seventh phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Modi said Punjab and the Sikh community have always been at the forefront of national-building efforts, even as he lambasted the current AAP government over issues of corruption and drugs trade.

PM Modi raked up the sensitive subject of the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara, which is revered by Sikhs since Guru Nanak Dev spent his final years there. He accused the Congress of being the cause of the nation's division, claiming they did it for their own political gain. Kartarpur Sahib is located in Punjab, Pakistan, a short distance from the Indian border. This is where the partition left it. "For 70 years, we could have a 'darshan' of the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara only with binoculars," Modi stated.

In 1971, he claimed, "we had the trump card in our hands" when over 90,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered to the Indian Army, creating an opportunity to retake the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara. "They (Congress) did not do that, but I did what I could," Modi said, referring to the



Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, which opened in 2019 and made it easier for Sikh pilgrims to travel to the shrine.

Modi, who was campaigning for Preet Kaur, the wife of former chief minister Amarinder Singh and the BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Patiala, said he had come to seek blessings in the land of Gurus "by bowing my head". Other BJP candidates, including Parampal Kaur Sidhu from Bathinda, Arvind Khanna from Sangrur, Hans Raj Hans from Faridkot, and Gejja Ram Valmiki from Fatehgarh Sahib, were also on stage as Modi spoke, wearing traditional Sikh turbans.

PM said that Punjab has led the country in a variety of sectors, including agriculture and industry. However, the current "fiercely corrupt" Bhagwant Mann government has altered all of that, he added. "Trade and industry are leaving Punjab, while the drug trade expands. "The entire state government is in debt.

The prime minister stated that the government's authority does not apply here while the sand and drug mafia, as well as shooter gangs, rule. "All ministers are happy, and the 'kagazi CM' is constantly marking his presence in the 'Delhi darbar'. "Can such people bring development to Punjab?" He also criticised

the AAP and the Congress for competing in the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi while opposing each other in Punjab.

"In Punjab, they fight each other in elections just to show the people. Delhi's 'fiercely corrupt party' and the party responsible for anti-Sikh riots are staging a fight against each other," he said.

Modi outlined steps taken by his government to benefit the Sikh community, including a tax exemption on materials used to make 'langar' and a relaxation of foreign donation norms for the Golden Temple. He added that his government had declared 'Veer Baal Diwas' to commemorate the martyrdom of the tenth Sikh Guru's sons. He added that his government had brought Sikh families and 'saroops' of Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan.

"I have blood relations with you," Modi said, noting that one of Guru Gobind Singh's 'panj pyare' (five beloved ones) was from Gujarat. He stated that while serving as Gujarat chief minister, he rebuilt a gurdwara where the first Sikh Guru Nanak Dev once halted, which had been damaged by an earthquake. "Modi doesn't do it for votes. "Modi's head bows before the sacrifices of Sikh Gurus," he declared.

Continuing his attack on the INDIA bloc, he stated that "they neither have a leader, nor an intent," and that their main goal is to appease their voter base, whereas the BJP's mantra is 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'. *Source: Zee News*

LUCKNOW (TIP)

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) focussed on the politics of negativity in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls but its campaign got trapped in its own negative agenda, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Thursday, expressing confidence about trouncing the ruling party in Uttar Pradesh.

In an interview, Yadav said that the SP will emerge as the single-largest party in Uttar Pradesh and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will have the most seats, argued that problems such as unemployment and exam paper leaks had angered the people, and alleged that former ally Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was hand-in-glove with the BJP.

"The N in NDA (the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance) means negative; theirs is the politics of negativity," he said, contrasting it with the INDIA bloc's campaign focussed on PDA, the Hindi acronym for backward classes – pichde, scheduled castes – Dalit, and minorities – alpsankhyak; a term the SP leader has repeatedly used this election season.

"P is also for progressive and P is also for Purvanchal (the key region of east UP going to polls on Saturday)... I have been saying that we are winning 79 seats and have a fight in one seat."

Yadav's comments came ahead of the sixth phase of the general elections on May 25, when 58 seats across eight states

BJP victim of own negative campaign, will lose in UP, says Akhilesh Yadav



and Union territories will go to the polls. This includes 14 seats in the crucial eastern UP region.

He said the BJP was wary of losing and hence added a communal edge to its campaign. "The government has failed and is allowing businessmen close to them to exploit common people to make profits. The failure of the government has made us confident...When the BJP leaders found that they are losing the

elections, they moved to a negative narrative. They are raising the issue of Hindu-Muslim, Pakistan. Speeches of both the PM and the CM are depressing," he said.

Akhilesh said that people had understood the "game plan" of the BJP to "amend" the Constitution.

"The followers of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar and those who want to strengthen democracy and the

Constitution have united and have joined the PDA family of the SP. Now the BJP is finding itself out of the contest," he said, adding that the SP had successfully built a big social base.

He also hit out at the BSP, a party he fought with in 2019 only to fall out later. In 2019, the SP-BSP alliance won 15 seats, with the former winning five and the latter winning 10.

The BJP won 62 seats, the Congress one and BJP ally Apna Dal winning two.

"The BSP is hand-in-glove with the BJP. There is a secret understanding between the two. Today, I am coming back from Jaunpur. People are openly talking about the BJP-BSP bonhomie there," he said, pointing to a seat where the BSP changed its candidate at the last minute amid controversy.

He said that the people felt cheated by the BJP government because of rising prices and unemployment, and that the so-called guarantees of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were finding no traction. "The guarantees are hollow and the people have decided to remove them from power." *Source: HT*

NIKHIL GUPTA, ACCUSED OF TRYING TO KILL SIKH SEPARATIST LEADER PANNUN, CLOSER TO BEING EXTRADITED TO US



Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. File photo

MAY 23, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): The Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic has okayed the extradition of Nikhil Gupta to the US, over an alleged plot to assassinate an US-based Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

Gupta is in jail in Prague since June last year following a detention done at the request of the US. A final decision on his extradition will be taken by Czech Justice Minister Pavel Blazek.

Gupta's plea against extradition was dismissed by the Czech court - based at Prague. Gupta has been charged by the US government with trying to hire a hitman to assassinate Pannun.

The court dismissed Gupta's plea challenging rulings of the Municipal Court in Prague dated November 23, 2023, and the High Court in Prague dated January 8, 2024. Both had okayed the admissibility of the US extradition request.

Gupta had contested the decision of the lower courts, alleging political motives. The constitutional court held that the lower courts meticulously reviewed all extradition documents submitted by the US government, along with additional information provided by the US in response to Gupta's objections.

Four months ago, in January, the constitutional court, had made an interim decision to suspend the lower courts' rulings.

In November 2023, US prosecutors charged Gupta with a plot to kill at least four Sikh separatists in America, including Pannun.

The US alleges that Gupta had paid \$100,000 (approximately Rs 80 lakh) in cash to a hitman to assassinate Pannun, who hold dual citizenship of the US and Canada. The hitman Gupta contacted was an undercover agent of a US agency. The US says, Gupta was allegedly directed by an Indian government official who was not named or charged. Indian Union Home Ministry has designated Pannun - who heads Sikhs for Justice - as a terrorist for his association with the movement for Khalistan.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Real question this year is will US continue to be strong, multiracial, multiethnic, multi-religious democracy: Neera Tanden

MAY 17, 2024
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): As America goes out to vote in its presidential elections six months from now, the real question this year will be whether the United States will continue to be a strong, multiracial, multiethnic, multi-religious democracy, a top White House official told Indian Americans on Thursday, May 16.



Neera Tanden, Domestic Policy Advisor to President Joe Biden
Photo : White House

"Real question this year, which will have profound impact for the future, is whether we continue to be a strong, multiracial, multiethnic, multi-religious democracy where many of us are welcomed, all of us are part of the American dream, or whether we start retracting from that," Neera Tanden, Domestic Policy Advisor to President Joe Biden, told Indian Americans at the annual summit and gala of Indian American Impact.

"I think this is really a profound moment, not just for your involvement, but your leadership. It's important to be

involved in the election. It's important to engage, but it's also important to bring more and more people into the political process because that question really is before us in a very profound way," Tanden said.

The highest ranking Indian American in the White House said that her experience over the last several decades has been one of expanding

opportunity.

"I am really grateful that this country has welcomed my advancement. I feel very privileged to be able to work in the White House on issues that matter to Indian Americans and all Americans," she said.

"It is a profound honor and responsibility, but I also think part of our responsibility is to ensure that our children and our grandchildren have more opportunity in this great country than we do," Tanden said in her remarks.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Hurricane forecast calls for nasty 2024 season with up to 25 named storms

Weather forecasters have issued their predictions for how active the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season will be

MAY 23, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): It is going to be an active hurricane season. That's the word from long-range weather forecasters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who are predicting an above-average hurricane season in the Atlantic this year with as many 25 named storms developing.

ATLANTIC STORM NAMES

- Alberto
- Debby
- Francine
- Isaac
- Leslie
- Oscar
- Sara
- William
- Beryl Chris
- Ernesto
- Gordon
- Joyce
- Milton
- Patty
- Tony
- Helene
- Kirk
- Nadine
- Rafael
- Valerie

(Source :National Hurricane Center)

The government forecasters say very warm water temperatures and a transition from the current El Niño weather pattern to a La Niña pattern later this year will likely enhance the number of tropical storms and hurricanes that form in the Atlantic hurricane basin. Reduced Atlantic trade winds and less wind shear are also factors that favor tropical storm formation, the NOAA said.

**Haley Endorsement will play a big role: Indian Americans For Trump
Trump Should Bring Her on to Crush Opposition**



A.D. Amar, President Indian Americans for Trump has urged Trump to come to some understanding with Nikki Haley

MAY 23, 2024

WARREN , NJ (TIP): When Nikki Haley says, "Trump hadn't been perfect." And,

then turns around and adds, "But Biden has been a catastrophe, so I will be voting for Trump," she provides the best ammunition to Trump against Biden. Further, if she goes to crowds or utters such words at any of her press meets, she will attract maybe millions of votes for Trump nationwide. She has a strong following with the women voters-a

voting population where Trump could use some help. This could very well make the difference between victory and defeat or Trump vs. Biden.

Indian Americans for Trump 2024 urges Trump to come to some understanding with Nikki Haley, short of the VP slot, and bring her on board. Let her join him a few times infrequently and let Americans know the difference that Trump will make as the incoming president.

The Indian Americans for Trump 2024 urges all Americans, irrespective of their nationality, race, color, gender, or creed, etc., to join us in our effort by supporting Donald J. Trump in his endeavor to make America great again by reelecting him to be the President of the USA. They encourage all Americans to volunteer or become members of this all-volunteer organization or ask for more detail by contacting President Dr. A. D. Amar at amardamar@yahoo.com, Vice President Aparna Virmani at av01319@gmail.com or Vice President Anura Rupasinghe at Anura@Rukyshipping.com. There is no membership fee or financial obligation to join the committee. Indian Americans for Trump has functioned since 2016.

Indian-American Congressional Candidate raises USD 1 million for Congressional race

MAY 24, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Congressional candidate from Virginia Krystle Kaul has raised USD1 million for her race, a landmark which only a few first timers are able to reach.



Congressional candidate from Virginia Krystle Kaul has raised USD1 million for her race, a landmark which only a few first timers are able to reach.

"I have consistently broken barriers throughout my career, from the CIA to the US Central Command and the Pentagon, driven by a dedication to excellence.

I became one of the youngest ever directors at the Department of Defense," Kaul said in a statement after her campaign announced that she has reached the USD 1-million mark in fundraising.

"I am often told I cannot do it - and then I do," she said.

Kaul, who is of Kashmiri origin and also of Punjabi heritage, is running for the US House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

If elected, she would be the second Indian-American woman to be elected to the House after Pramila Jayapal from Washington State. A small business owner, a professor and a former senior defense official in the Department of Defense, holding the highest civilian rank, Kaul is a second-generation Indian-American who has worked in defense contracting with Deloitte, Booz Allen Hamilton, Leidos, General Dynamics IT and others.

"I'm excited to announce that this pioneering spirit has fueled our campaign, resonating deeply with donors who demand pragmatic, results-oriented leadership," Kaul said.

"The robust support we've received signals a clear demand from Virginia voters for a leader who grasps the intricacies of national security and emerging trends technology and is ready to enact effective policies," she said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Swati Maliwal has accused Delhi CM's PA Bibhav Kumar of assault.

Ready for polygraph, narco test in assault case: Swati Maliwal

Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Thursday, May 23, said she was ready to take narco and polygraph tests in the matter of alleged assault by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal secretary Bibhav Kumar.

She said she was not giving a "clean chit to anyone", noting Kejriwal was at his Civil Lines residence on May 13 morning when she was assaulted.

"I am ready to undergo a polygraph and narco test," Maliwal told an agency today.

Recounting the alleged assault, she said she had gone to meet Kejriwal at his residence around 9 am and was asked to wait.

She said she was not giving a "clean chit to anyone", noting Kejriwal was at his Civil Lines residence on May 13 morning when she was assaulted.

"I am ready to undergo a polygraph and narco test," Maliwal told an agency today.

Recounting the alleged assault, she said she had gone to meet Kejriwal at his residence around 9 am and was asked to wait.

On the videos released by AAP that show her sitting calmly, Maliwal said, "When he saw a call had been made to 112, he summoned security and began making the video. The video is over 10 minutes long, but only a small part has been released. I told officials how I was beaten. I said I would leave when cops arrive but I wasn't heard." She said fearful of the consequences, she first hesitated to make the matter public.

"When media began calling, I got scared because I did not want the issue to be politicised during the Lok Sabha elections. Sanjay Singh even condemned the incident saying Kejriwal had taken cognisance and would take action. But the party took a U-turn and said I was being blackmailed by the BJP over a 2016 corruption case," said Maliwal.

"My friends are being pressured to share personal photos of me dancing. Party workers in the US were asked to send my photos...If they wanted the Rajya Sabha seat, if they had asked for it with love, I would have given up my life. However, no matter who comes to power, I will not resign now," said Maliwal. *Source: TNS*

'Targeting Muslim women': Owaisi on BJP's demand for verification of burqa-clad voters

NEW DELHI (TIP)

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday, May 22, accused Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of targeting Muslim women and creating hurdles for them during the voting process. The Delhi unit of the BJP has called for "proper verification" of women voters wearing burqas.

"The Delhi unit of the BJP has told the Election Commission that there should be a special checking of women in burqas. During the recent Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, their candidate publicly insulted and harassed Muslim women. In every election, the BJP finds some excuse or the other to harass and target Muslim women," Asaduddin Owaisi said in an X post.

Earlier, the Delhi BJP delegation met with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Wednesday, urging for thorough verification of women voters wearing 'burqa' or face masks during the polling on May 25, with a specific request for female officials to conduct the verification process.

The delegation, consisting of BJP MLAs Ajay Mahawar and Mohan Singh Bisht, State secretary Kishan Sharma, and lawyer Neeraj Gupta, asked the



CEO to verify and cross-check the identities of burqa-clad voters in view of "larger public interest", especially in those constituencies "where the number of burqa-wearing women voters is high".

"A large number of burqa-clad women visit polling booths for voting. Hence, their identity needs to be verified through appropriate government-mandated identity cards allowed for casting votes to prevent bogus voting," the memorandum read.

The Election Commission of India's handbook for presiding officers of the election also details steps to be followed by them to verify an elector's identity, it added.

The party's demand comes amid a recent controversy over BJP candidate

for Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat Madhavi Latha being booked by election authorities for allegedly making burqa-clad voters show their faces for verification.

Owaisi said that the poll body has clear rules to not allow anyone vote without verification. He accused the BJP of harassing Muslim women with the "special demand".

"The Election Commission has clear rules and regulations for women who do not observe purdah, whether they are in burqa or veil or mask, no one is allowed to vote without verification, so why did the BJP have to make such a special demand? Just target Muslim women, harass them and create obstacles in voting," he said.

In a separate incident, a case has been filed against Madhavi Latha, the BJP candidate for the Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat after a purported video surfaced showing her inspecting the voter ID cards of Muslim women at a polling booth. The case includes charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Representation of the People Act.

All seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi will go to polls on May 25. The election results will be announced on June 4.

'Sham leading to scam': Congress blasts Election Commission for not sharing data

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Congress party on Thursday said the Election Commission's (EC) refusal to share polling data was unfortunate and condemnable. At a press conference here on May 23, senior party leader and noted lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi rubbished the EC affidavit in Supreme Court opposing the uploading of Form 17C on its website and said the justification given by the EC for not displaying the data was "laughable".

Singhvi said: "If this stand is not exposed, the EC will be, in great respect, guilty of making democracy a sham. It will be helping the BJP win the election by a voters' scam. A sham leading to a scam."

Singhvi said Form 17C contained figures of votes polled in a booth, the serial number of EVMs installed in each booth and the number of votes cast in each EVM.

In connection with a petition filed by the non-profit body Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), the EC had in its affidavit submitted to the apex court yesterday said it was "undesirable and unfeasible to disclose this data", Singhvi said. Singhvi added



that the EC did not explain why revealing the data contained in Form 17C was "undesirable and unfeasible".

Quoting the EC affidavit, Singhvi said the poll body further claimed that "a disclosure of Form 17C could be amenable to mischief and vitiation of the entire election space". "Public posting on the website increases the possibility of images being morphed, which can then create widespread public discomfort and mistrust in the entire electoral process", the affidavit had said.

Singhvi said if the EC concern was taken seriously, then any matter uploaded on its website ran the risk of getting morphed and misused. "Can this fear stop people from uploading important data? No data could ever be

uploaded if that logic was followed," the Congress leader said.

"This is in reality a ploy to hide things," Singhvi said and added that according to Rule 93 of the Conduct of Election Rules, anyone can avail the data contained in rule 17C by making a payment. The applicant can get a certified copy, Singhvi said.

"Is the EC interested in amassing money by giving the data in lieu of payment or is there a lack of space on its website," Singhvi said. "Refusing to share the data is unfortunate, condemnable. It exposes the EC and shows its bias (towards the BJP)," Singhvi said.

"We are not asking anything about the EVM. We are asking for the disclosure of data. Through this ridiculous affidavit, the EC is falling into the trap of the BJP to orchestrate the decimation of electoral democracy," Singhvi said.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh and TMC leader Mahua Moitra welcomed the observations made by Singhvi in separate posts on X. The case will come for hearing before the Supreme Court tomorrow.

Source: TNS

Despite BJP's Ram Temple pitch, voter turnout falls 4% in Ayodhya

Despite the BJP pitching construction of Ram temple as one of its major highlights of Lok Sabha poll campaign, Ayodhya witnessed a 4 per cent fall in voter turnout on May 20, which stood at 56.51 per cent, down from 60.27 per cent in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Ayodhya is one of the five Assembly segments under Faizabad Lok Sabha seats, which had seen voting on May 20 during the fifth phase of polling.

Overall the voter turnout in Faizabad Parliamentary constituency remained more or less static at 59.14 per cent compared to 59.59 per cent recorded in 2019 General Election. There was a miniscule fall of 0.4 per cent in voter turnout from 2019.

Going by the fall in turnout figures in Ayodhya Assembly segment of the Faizabad Lok Sabha seat, it clearly shows that Ram temple construction and its subsequent consecration ceremony, which had been turned into a national event by the Narendra Modi-led government, has not resonated much with the voters, just four months down the line.

However, the larger picture shows that the construction of the temple in the region and heavy attendance of pilgrims after an international airport also came up in Ayodhya to facilitate movement of people from across the country and abroad, has not reflected in voter turnout figures.

Rather Ayodhya itself, as an assembly segment under the Faizabad seat, has seen a fall in turnout. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have been aggressively underlining the Ram temple's construction and the subsequent consecration ceremony as one of BJP-led NDA government's significant achievements in the second term. Modi and Shah especially pull up the Congress-led INDIA alliance leaders for not attending the consecration ceremony. *Source: TNS*

Pune accident: Builder told me to let his teen son drive Porsche, driver tells police

PUNE (TIP)

The driver, employed by the family of the minor involved in the car accident, in a statement to the police said that the teen was insisting on going behind the wheel and he had to call the father to inform the latter about it.

The crime branch officials on Thursday, May 23, also questioned the grandfather and minor friend of the 17-year-old boy who crashed Porsche into a motorbike killing two persons at Kalyaninagar last week.

According to the police, the accused teenager's friend and the driver were accompanying him in the car when the fatal accident took place.

To verify the account given by the driver, the grandfather and the minor friend, the officials made them sit in one room and corroborate the chain of events.

The grandfather was also interrogated for the electric luxury sports sedan Porsche Taycan's registration number and its ownership in the reality firm's name.

The grandfather had stood surety for granting bail to the 17-year-old and had assured the Juvenile Justice Board that the minor would mend his ways.

Amid 'burger, pizza' row, teen's mother asks police to protect her son

The mother of the 17-year-old boy, who allegedly crashed his Porsche car into two Pune techies leading to their death, has asked the police to protect her son after a fake video purportedly showing him boasting about how he got away went viral. Meanwhile, the Pune Police have said they will probe the Opposition's charge that the teenager was given preferential treatment.

In a video message, the teen's mother said the person featured in the video wasn't her son and that it was fake. She said her son was in the detention centre.

"The video which is being circulated is not of my son. That is a fake video. My son is in the detention centre," says the teen's mother in her message, reported PTL.

She later appealed to the police to protect her son. She then broke down and walked away.

A rap song allegedly featuring the teenager, boasting



The teen boy had allegedly spent close to Rs 70,000 in two bars before the accident. The police have arrested the owners of the bars for serving him liquor.

about how he got away with the car crash, went viral on social media. The Pune Police, however, have clarified that it was a fake account.

Meanwhile, a senior police official will quiz the officers and the staff of the Yerwada station over the allegation that they underplayed the horrific nature of the incident. They allegedly delayed the medical examination to establish the boy's blood alcohol level, reported NDTV.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar claimed the teen was served burger and pizza during police's detention.

"Officers at Yerwada Police Station spent more time questioning the relationship between Anish and Ashwini - IT professionals fatally knocked down by a drunk minor - while the accused was allegedly served burger and pizza" he wrote on X.

The police have denied the allegation.

Earlier, the teenager was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), which granted him bail while asking him to write a 300-word essay. After an outrage, the bail was cancelled and the boy was sent to a remand home.

According to the police, the driver of the accused's father had called him to inform that his son wanted to drive the car. The father, a realtor, allegedly asked the driver to hand over the car to his son.

The boy had allegedly spent close to Rs 70,000 in two bars before the accident. The police have arrested the owners of the bars for serving him liquor.

Ex-PM Deve Gowda's message to rape-accused grandson: 'Not an appeal, it's a warning, surrender or face my anger'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Former Prime Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) chief HD Deve Gowda issued a stern warning to his grandson and the accused in the sexual harassment case, Prajwal Revanna, to return to the country and surrender before the police. He said Revanna should be given the harshest punishment if the accusations against him turn out to be true.

In a two-page open letter, titled "My Warning To Prajwal Revanna," the 91-year-old politician asserted that he was not aware of the alleged activities of his grandson, who is also the sitting MP of Hassan. In a long yet emotional letter, he said, "People have used the harshest words against me and my family in the last few weeks. I am aware of it. I do not wish to stop them. I do not wish to



HD Deve Gowda

criticise them. I will not try and argue with them that they should have waited until all the facts were found out. I also cannot convince people that I was unaware of Prajwal's activities. I cannot convince them that I have no desire to shield him. I cannot convince them that I am not aware of his



Prajwal Revanna

movements and that I was not aware of his foreign trip. I believe in answering my conscience. I believe in God, and I know the almighty knows the truth."

Deve Gowda further warned Prajwal, who fled the country almost a month ago, to return if the latter has any respect towards

his grandfather. He further wrote, "I can do only one thing. I can issue a stern warning to Prajwal and ask him to return from wherever he is and surrender before the police. He should subject himself to the legal process. This is not an appeal that I am making, it is a warning that I am issuing."

Deve Gowda also told Prajwal that not listening to family members will lead to total isolation. "If he does not heed to this warning, he will have to face my anger and anger of all his family members. The law will take care of the accusations against him, but not listening to the family will ensure his total isolation. If he has any respect left for me, he has to return immediately," he added.

Meanwhile, the ex-PM also stressed that he will not try to influence the probe in any manner.

India in history this Week

MAY 24 TO MAY 30

24 MAY

1896 Kartar Singh Sarabha, who gave his life for the country, was born.

1954 Bachendri Pal's birthday is the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest

2000 Famous lyricist and poet of Hindi films Majrooh Sultanpuri died.

1959 Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day.

1956 On the occasion of the 2500th birthday of Gautam Buddha, a huge program was organized.

1993 India and Uzbekistan had made five treaties.

2000 The Supreme Court denied the proposal for an out-of-court hearing.

25 MAY



2005 Actor and successful leader Sunil Dutt said goodbye to the world on this day.

1611 The Mughal ruler Jahangir married Mehrunnisa, known in history as Nur Jahan.

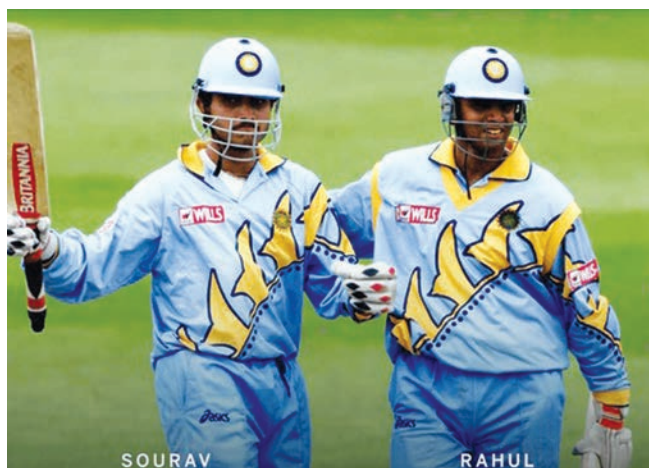
2010 59-year-old Indian-born Kamala Prasad Bisesar was elected the first female Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, defeating outgoing Prime Minister Patrick Manning.

26 MAY

1739 Afghanistan was once a part of India, but the Mughal Emperor Mohammad Shah signed an agreement with Nadir Shah of Iran which separated it from the Indian Empire.

1957 Janta Insurance Policy started in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1999 ISRO successfully orbited three satellites from India, Germany and South Korea.



1999 Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid set a world record of 318 runs in a one-day international cricket match against Sri Lanka.

2014 Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India.

27 MAY



1964 Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India and the founder of modern India, died. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 11 times.

1962 Ravi Shastri, the most prolific all-rounder of the Indian cricket team, was born on this day.

2008 The central government has withdrawn the ban imposed on cement exports.

2016 Hungapan Dada, a brave soldier of the Indian Army, died. He was posthumously awarded the 'Ashoka Chakra'.

2010 India successfully test-fired the Dhanush and Prithvi 2 missile equipped with nuclear technology at Balasora district in Chandipur, Odisha. Prithvi 2 missile is an earth-to-earth ballistic missile with a range of 350 km. While Dhanush is the naval version of the Prithvi missile.

28 MAY

1883 Birth of Hindutva leader and poet Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

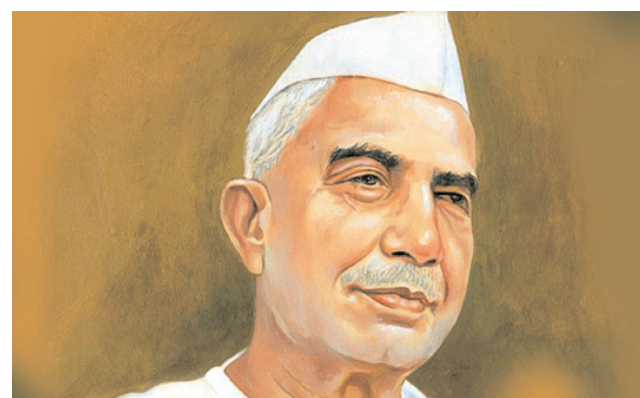
1923 The birth of Nandamuri Tarak Rama Rao, one of the most popular names in South India. After achieving immense success in films, NTR took a political stance and held the post of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh three times.

1970 The All India Trade Union Congress was formally partitioned.

1989 Marthakavali David became the first woman Christian priest of India and second in the world.

1996 Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigned.

29 MAY



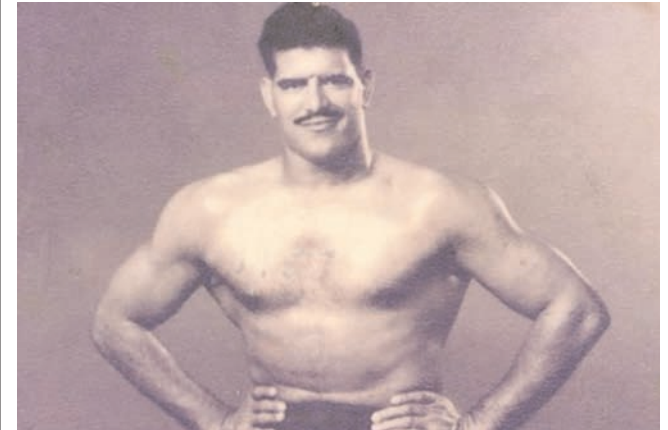
1987 Former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh died on 29 May.

1972 Prithviraj Kapoor, who had a distinct identity in Indian cinema, passed away.

1865 Ramanand Chatterjee, the leading personality of the journalism world, was born.

1906 Eminent Hindi essayist Kanhaiyalal Mishra Prabhakar was born.

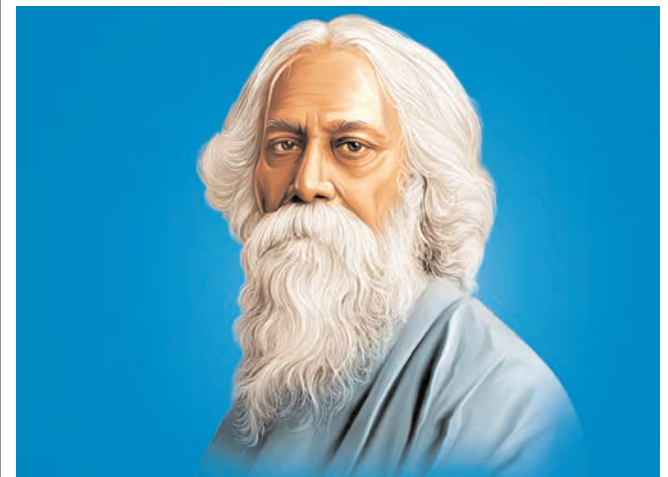
1936 Gandhiji's son changed his religion and gave birth to a new controversy.



1968 Famous Wrestler Dara Singh set a record as a world wrestling champion.

30 MAY

1867 Dar-ul-Uloom was established in 1867 in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh.



1919 Rabindranath Tagore returned the title 'Sir' in 1919 in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

1987 Goa became the 25th full state in the country in 1987.



2012 Vishwanathan Anand became the World Chess Champion for the fifth time in 2012.

1909 Pandit Mukharam Sharma, the famous legend, screenplay and story writer of Indian Hindi films, was born in 1909.

1606 Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, died in 1606.

1991 Umashankar Dixit, a pioneer of the Indian Independence Movement, a priest of humanity and a pioneer of nationalism, died in 1991.

1955 N. M. Joshi died in 1955. He was the father of the "Trade Union Movement" in India.

Jawaharlal Nehru: The architect of modern India

MAY 27, 2024, MARKS THE 60TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU. ONE OF THE GREATEST POLITICIANS OF INDIA, NEHRU EMBARKED ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL REFORMS, WHICH PAVED THE WAY FOR A NEWLY BORN NATION TO EMERGE AS A WORLD POWER IN THE NEXT FEW DECADES.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, played an important role in country's freedom struggle and contributed significantly to help India become a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic.

After the country achieved independence, he brought reforms in education and established institutions for primary and higher education. Recognising his contribution to the freedom struggle, he was chosen as the first Prime Minister of the nation on August 15, 1947.

He was also nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 11 times for endorsing peace in the subcontinent.

One of the best visionaries India ever had, Nehru loved children and was fondly called 'Chacha Nehru'. He remained in office as Prime Minister for nearly 17 years till his death on May 27, 1964.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889, to a family of Kashmiri Brahmins. He was a son of Motilal Nehru, a renowned lawyer and leader of the Indian independence movement. He received his early education at home under private tutors. At the age of fifteen, he went to England and after two years at Harrow, joined Cambridge University where he took his tripos in Natural Sciences. He was later called to the Bar from Inner Temple. He returned to India in 1912 and plunged straight into politics. Even as a student, he had been interested in the struggle of all nations who suffered under foreign domination. He took keen interest in the Sinn Fein Movement in Ireland. In India, he was inevitably drawn into the struggle for independence.

Jawaharlal was the eldest of four children, two of whom were girls. A sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, later became the first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Until the age of 16, Nehru was educated at home by a series of English governesses and tutors. Only one of those—a part-Irish, part-Belgian theosophist, Ferdinand Brooks—appears to have made any impression on him. Jawaharlal also had a venerable Indian tutor who taught him Hindi and Sanskrit. In 1905 he went to Harrow, a leading English school, where he stayed for two years. Nehru's academic career was in no way outstanding. From Harrow he went to Trinity College,



Pt Nehru with Mahatma Gandhi.

Cambridge, where he spent three years earning an honours degree in natural science. On leaving Cambridge he qualified as a barrister after two years at the Inner Temple, London, where in his own words he passed his examinations "with neither glory nor ignominy."

The seven years Nehru spent in England left him in a hazy half-world, at home neither in England nor in India. Some years later he wrote, "I have become a queer mixture of East and West, out of place everywhere, at home nowhere." He went back to India to discover India. The contending pulls and pressures that his experience

abroad were to exert on his personality were never completely resolved.

Four years after his return to India, in March 1916, Nehru married Kamala Kaul, who also came from a Kashmiri family that had settled in Delhi. Their only child, Indira Priyadarshini, was born in 1917; she would later (under her married name of Indira Gandhi) also serve (1966–77 and 1980–84) as prime minister of India. In addition, Indira's son Rajiv Gandhi succeeded his mother as prime minister (1984–89).

Political apprenticeship

On his return to India, Nehru at first had tried to settle down as a lawyer.



Pt Nehru and Kamala Kaul at their wedding in Delhi, 1916.

Unlike his father, however, he had only a desultory interest in his profession and did not relish either the practice of law or the company of lawyers. For that time he might be described, like many of his generation, as an instinctive nationalist who yearned for his country's freedom, but, like most of his contemporaries, he had not formulated any precise ideas on how it could be achieved.

Nehru's autobiography discloses his lively interest in Indian politics during the time he was studying abroad. His letters to his father over the same period reveal their common interest in India's freedom. But not until father and son met Mahatma Gandhi and were persuaded to follow in his political footsteps did either of them develop any definite ideas on how freedom was to be attained. The quality in Gandhi that impressed the two Nehrus was his insistence on action. A wrong, Gandhi argued, should not only be condemned but be resisted. Earlier, Nehru and his father had been contemptuous of the run of contemporary Indian politicians, whose nationalism, with a few notable exceptions, consisted of interminable speeches and long-winded resolutions. Jawaharlal was also attracted by Gandhi's insistence on fighting against British rule of India without fear or

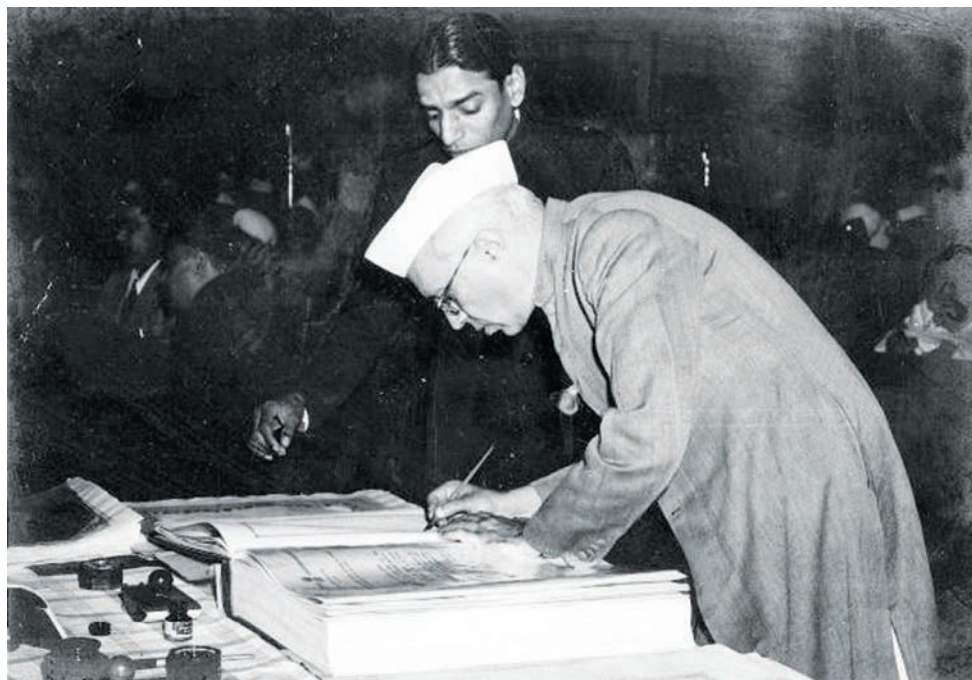
hate.

Nehru met Gandhi for the first time in 1916 at the annual meeting of the Indian National Congress (Congress Party) in Lucknow. Gandhi was 20 years his senior. Neither seems to have made any initially strong impression on the other. Gandhi makes no mention of Nehru in an autobiography he dictated while imprisoned in the early 1920s. The omission is understandable, since Nehru's role in Indian politics was secondary until he was elected president of the Congress Party in 1929, when he presided over the historic session at Lahore (now in Pakistan) that proclaimed complete independence as India's political goal. Until then the party's objective had been dominion status.

Nehru's close association with the Congress Party dates from 1919 in the immediate aftermath of World War I. That period saw an early wave of nationalist activity and governmental repression, which culminated in the Massacre of Amritsar in April 1919; according to an official report, 379 persons were killed (though other estimates were considerably higher), and at least 1,200 were wounded when the local British military commander ordered his troops to fire on a crowd of unarmed Indians assembled in an almost completely enclosed space in the city.

When, late in 1921, the prominent leaders and workers of the Congress Party were outlawed in some provinces, Nehru went to prison for the first time. Over the next 24 years he was to serve another eight periods of detention, the last and longest ending in June 1945, after an imprisonment of almost three years. In all, Nehru spent more than nine years in jail. Characteristically, he described his terms of incarceration as normal interludes in a life of abnormal political activity.

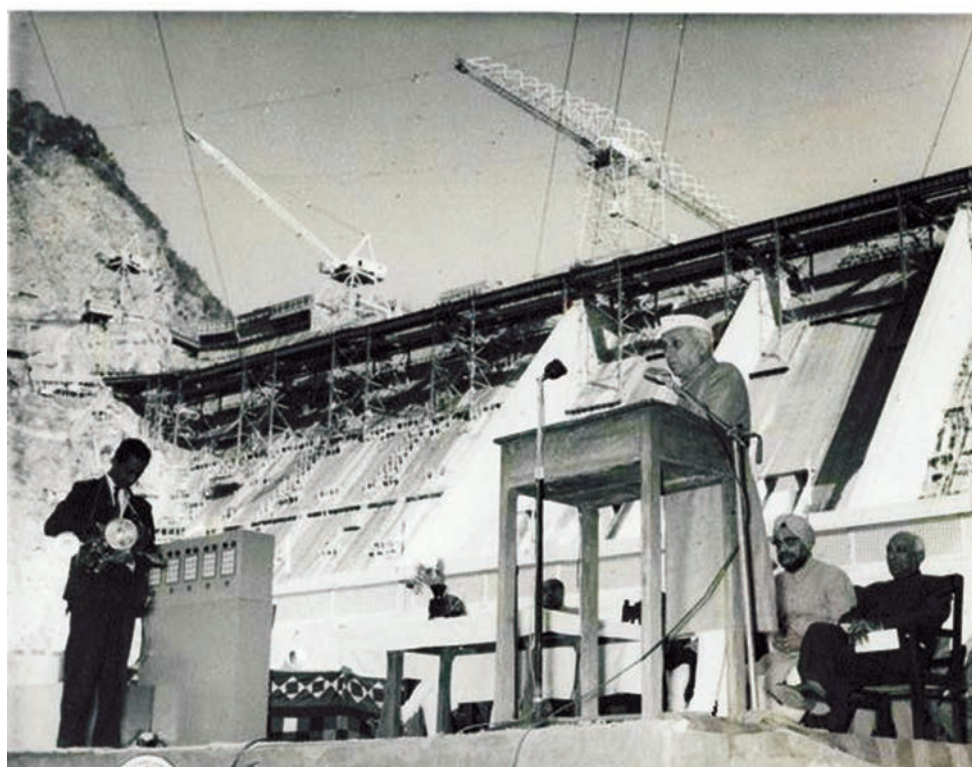
His political apprenticeship with the Congress Party lasted from 1919 to 1929. In 1923 he became general secretary of the party for two years, and he did so again in 1927 for another two years. His interests and duties took him on journeys over wide areas of India, particularly in his native United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh state), where his first exposure to the overwhelming poverty and degradation of the peasantry had a profound influence on his basic ideas for solving those vital problems. Though vaguely inclined toward socialism, Nehru's radicalism had set in no definite mold. The watershed in his political and economic thinking was his tour of Europe and the Soviet Union during 1926-27. Nehru's real interest in Marxism and his socialist pattern of thought stemmed from that tour, even though it did not appreciably increase his knowledge of communist theory and practice. His subsequent sojourns in prison enabled him to study Marxism in more depth. Interested in its ideas but repelled by some of its methods—such as the regimentation and the heresy hunts of the communists—he could never bring himself to accept Karl Marx's writings as revealed scripture.



Nehru signing the Indian Constitution, 1950.



Pt Nehru with Albert Einstein in Princeton, New Jersey, 1949.



Pt Nehru during the construction of the Bhakra Dam in the Punjab, 1953.

Yet from then on, the yardstick of his economic thinking remained Marxist, adjusted, where necessary, to Indian

conditions.

Struggle for Indian independence

After the Lahore session of 1929, Nehru emerged as the leader of the country's intellectuals and youth. Gandhi had shrewdly elevated him to the presidency of the Congress Party over the heads of some of his seniors, hoping that Nehru would draw India's youth—who at that time were gravitating toward extreme leftist causes—into the mainstream of the Congress movement. Gandhi also correctly calculated that, with added responsibility, Nehru himself would be inclined to keep to the middle way.

After his father's death in 1931, Nehru moved into the inner councils of the Congress Party and became closer to Gandhi. Although Gandhi did not officially designate Nehru his political heir until 1942, the Indian populace as early as the mid-1930s saw in Nehru the natural successor to Gandhi. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact of March 1931, signed between Gandhi and the British viceroy, Lord Irwin (later Lord Halifax), signaled a truce between the two principal protagonists in India. It climaxed one of Gandhi's more-effective civil disobedience movements, launched the year before as the Salt March, in the course of which Nehru had been arrested.

Hopes that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact would be the prelude to a more-relaxed period of Indo-British relations were not borne out; Lord Willingdon (who replaced Irwin as viceroy in 1931) jailed Gandhi in January 1932, shortly after Gandhi's return from the second Round Table Conference in London. He was charged with attempting to mount another civil disobedience movement; Nehru was also arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The three Round Table Conferences in London, held to advance India's progress to self-government, eventually resulted in the Government of India Act of 1935, which gave the Indian provinces a system of popular autonomous government. Ultimately, it provided for a federal system composed of the autonomous provinces and princely states. Although federation never came into being, provincial autonomy was implemented. During the mid-1930s Nehru was much concerned with developments in Europe, which seemed to be drifting toward another world war. He was in Europe early in 1936, visiting his ailing wife, shortly before she died in a sanitarium in Lausanne, Switzerland. Even at that time he emphasized that in the event of war India's place was alongside the democracies, though he insisted that India could fight in support of Great Britain and France only as a free country.

When the elections following the introduction of provincial autonomy brought the Congress Party to power in a majority of the provinces, Nehru was faced with a dilemma. The Muslim League under Mohammed Ali Jinnah (who was to become the creator of Pakistan) had fared badly at the polls. Congress, therefore, unwisely rejected Jinnah's plea for the formation of coalition Congress-Muslim League governments in some of the provinces, a

decision that Nehru had supported. The subsequent clash between the Congress and the Muslim League hardened into a conflict between Hindus and Muslims that was ultimately to lead to the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan.

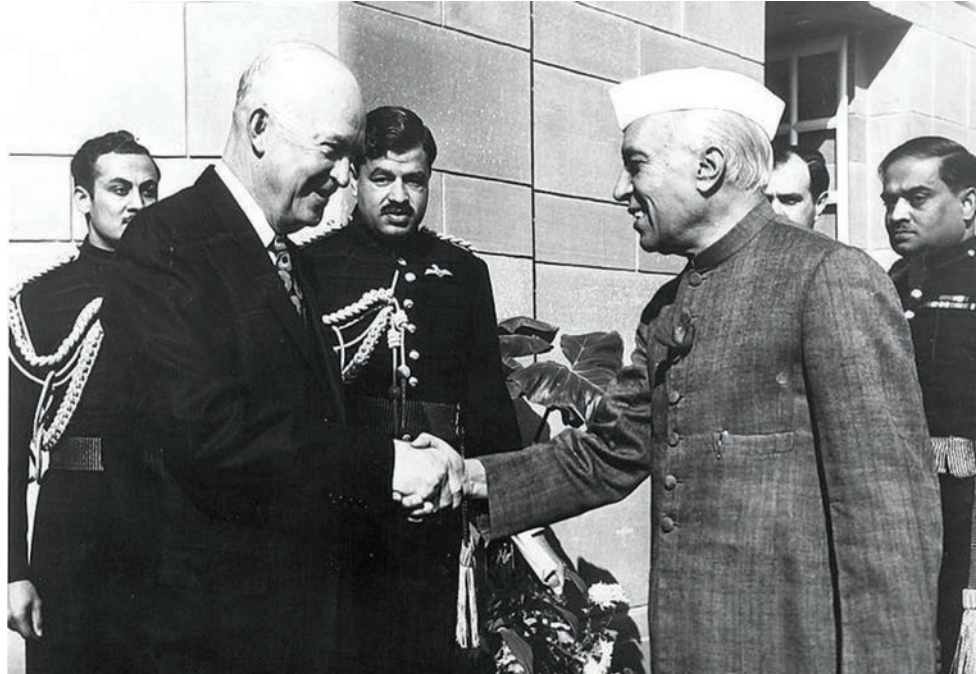
Achievements as Prime Minister

In the 35 years from 1929, when Gandhi chose Nehru as president of the Congress session at Lahore, until his death, as prime minister, in 1964, Nehru remained—despite the debacle of the brief conflict with China in 1962—the idol of his people. His secular approach to politics contrasted with Gandhi's religious and traditionalist attitude, which during Gandhi's lifetime had given Indian politics a religious cast—misleadingly so, for, although Gandhi may have appeared to be a religious conservative, he was actually a social nonconformist trying to secularize Hinduism. The real difference between Nehru and Gandhi was not in their attitudes toward religion but in their attitudes toward civilization. Whereas Nehru talked in an increasingly modern idiom, Gandhi was harking back to the glories of ancient India.

The importance of Nehru in the perspective of Indian history is that he imported and imparted modern values and ways of thinking, which he adapted to Indian conditions. Apart from his stress on secularism and on the basic unity of India, despite its ethnic and religious diversities, Nehru was deeply concerned with carrying India forward into the modern age of scientific discovery and technological development. In addition, he aroused in his people an awareness of the necessity of social concern with the poor and the outcast and of respect for democratic values. One of the achievements of which he was particularly proud was the reform of the ancient Hindu civil code that finally enabled Hindu widows to enjoy equality with men in matters of inheritance and property.

Internationally, Nehru's star was in the ascendant until October 1956, when India's attitude on the Hungarian Revolution against the Soviets brought his policy of nonalignment (neutralism) under sharp scrutiny by the noncommunist countries. In the United Nations, India was the only nonaligned country to vote with the Soviet Union on the invasion of Hungary, and it was thereafter difficult for Nehru to command credence in his calls for nonalignment. In the early years after independence, anticolonialism had been the cornerstone of his foreign policy. His interest in the issue waned, however, after Zhou Enlai, the Chinese prime minister, stole the spotlight from him at the Bandung Conference of African and Asian countries that was held in Indonesia in 1955. By the time of the first conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (now in Serbia), in 1961, Nehru had substituted nonalignment for anticolonialism as his most pressing concern.

The month-long Sino-Indian War of 1962, however, exposed Nehru's wishful



Pt Nehru receiving US President Dwight D. Eisenhower at Parliament House, 1959.



Pt Nehru with John F. Kennedy at the White House, 7 November 1961.

thinking on nonalignment. When Chinese forces threatened to overrun the Brahmaputra River valley in the northeast as a result of a long-standing border dispute regarding Arunachal Pradesh state, they exposed the hollowness of Nehru's proclamation, "Hindu-Chini bhai bhai" ("Indians and Chinese are brothers"). Nehru's subsequent call for Western aid made virtual nonsense of his nonalignment policy. China soon withdrew its troops.

The Kashmir region—claimed by both India and Pakistan—remained a perennial problem throughout Nehru's term as prime minister. In the months after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, he made tentative efforts to settle the dispute between the two new countries while Hari Singh, the maharaja of Kashmir, decided on which country he would join. When Singh chose India, however, fighting broke out

between the two sides. The UN brokered a cease-fire line in the region, and Nehru proposed territorial adjustments along the line that failed. That demarcation became the line of control that still separates the Indian- and Pakistani-administered portions of the region.

Nehru was more fortunate in his efforts to solve the problem of the Portuguese colony of Goa, the last remaining foreign-controlled entity in India. Although its military occupation by Indian troops in December 1961 raised a furor in many Western countries, in the hindsight of history, Nehru's action is justifiable. With the withdrawal of the British and the French, the Portuguese colonial presence in India had become an anachronism. Both the British and the French had withdrawn peacefully. If the Portuguese were not prepared to follow suit, Nehru had to find ways to dislodge

them. After first trying persuasion, in August 1955 he had permitted a group of unarmed Indians to march into Portuguese territory in a nonviolent demonstration. Even though the Portuguese opened fire on the demonstrators, killing nearly 30, Nehru stayed his hand for six years, appealing meanwhile to Portugal's Western friends to persuade its government to cede the colony. When India finally struck, Nehru could claim that neither he nor the government of India had ever been committed to nonviolence as a policy.

Nehru's health showed signs of deteriorating not long after the clash with China. He suffered a slight stroke in 1963, and a more-debilitating attack followed in January 1964. He died a few months later from a third and fatal stroke.

Legacy

While consciously assertive in his Indianness, Nehru never exuded the Hindu aura and atmosphere clinging to Gandhi's personality. Because of his modern political and economic outlook, he was able to attract the younger intelligentsia of India to Gandhi's movement of nonviolent resistance against the British and later to rally them around him after independence had been gained. Nehru's Western upbringing and his visits to Europe before independence had acclimatized him to Western ways of thinking.

Nehru did not conceal his differences with Gandhi on many basic social, economic, and political issues. He did not share Gandhi's aversion to industrialization, and he saw to it that India's early five-year plans after independence were geared toward heavy manufacturing. If Nehru accepted Gandhi's nonviolence, he did so not as a matter of principle but because he regarded nonviolence as a useful political weapon and the right policy for India under the prevailing political conditions.

Of all the leaders of the Congress Party—including Gandhi—Nehru alone had given serious thought to India's place in the world community. That enabled him not only to educate the Indian populace on foreign affairs before independence but to project his own views on Indian foreign policy when freedom came. If Gandhi made Indians aware of India, Nehru made them also aware of others. When India achieved independence, the image it presented to the world was really Nehru's image: in the early years of Indian nationhood, the world identified India with Nehru.

Throughout his 17 years in the prime minister's office, he held up democratic socialism as the guiding star, emphasizing that India needed to achieve both democracy and socialism. With the help of the overwhelming majority that the Congress Party maintained in the parliament during his term of office, he advanced toward that goal. The four pillars of his domestic policies were democracy, socialism, unity, and secularism. He succeeded to a large extent in maintaining the edifice supported by those four pillars during his lifetime.

TRIBECA 2024 OFFERS HOPE IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES

BY MABEL PAIS

OPENING NIGHT FILM:



Opening Night film

Credit : tribecafilm.com

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG: WOMAN IN CHARGE

Co-director, Co-producer SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINOY

RENT FREE: Co-Producer NEAL MALANI

THE DEBUTANTES: Co-Producer JANNAT GARGI

KILL: Writer/Director NIKHIL NAGESH BHAT

FEDERER: TWELVE FINAL DAYS: Director ASIF KAPADIA

The 2024 Tribeca Festival (presented by OKX) has its features lineup, offering a diverse array of narrative, documentary, and animated films. Scheduled to run from June 5-16 in New York City, this year's Festival promises a thoughtfully curated program and includes everything from timely documentaries addressing political and social concerns to independent narratives showcasing award-winning actors.

"Each year, the Tribeca Festival reflects our culture, capturing the essence of the present moment. We're thrilled to showcase our 23rd edition, delving into captivating explorations of artificial intelligence with Demis Hassabis, thought-provoking discussions on the future of democracy, and so much more," Tribeca Co-Founder and CEO Jane Rosenthal. "Storytelling possesses a remarkable ability to bring us together, offering hope in these challenging times. We eagerly anticipate engaging with audiences on difficult yet timely subjects."

"In a year of record high submissions, despite industry-wide challenges, and global tumult, our incredible filmmaking community delivered again with some of the most surprising, inspiring, hilarious, galvanizing, boundary-breaking, and downright entertaining work we've had the privilege to feature at the festival," said Tribeca Festival Director and SVP of Programming Cara Cusumano. "Whether grappling with everything

from the crisis of global democracy to the most intimate of human dramas, it

was heartening to be reminded of the undeniable power of a great film to illuminate our world."

The final selections were chosen from a record-breaking number of submissions (13,016). This year's program includes 103 feature films from 114 filmmakers across 48 countries. The lineup comprises 86 world premieres, two international premieres, six North American premieres, and eight New York premieres. Half of the films in competition are directed by women. Additionally, 35% (36) of feature films are directed by BIPOC filmmakers. There are 30 films directed by first-time filmmakers and 25 directors returning to Tribeca with their latest projects.

THE FULL FEATURE FILM LINEUP IS LISTED BELOW.

For more updates on programming follow @Tribeca and #Tribeca2024 on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. A Tribeca Membership or 2024 Tribeca Festival passes and ticket packages can be purchased at tribecafilm.com.

OPENING NIGHT GALA

Diane von Furstenberg: Woman in Charge, (United States) - World Premiere.

Child of a Holocaust survivor, Princess by marriage, and founder of a fashion empire, the many faces of fashion icon Diane von Furstenberg are revealed in this captivating and glamorous documentary portrait, featuring interviews with Oprah Winfrey, Marc Jacobs, Hillary Rodham Clinton and more. Directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Trish Dalton. Produced by Fabiola Beracasa Beckman, Tracy Aftergood, Sean Stuart, Obaid-Chinoy and Dalton. A Hulu Release.

BELOW IS THE LIST OF CATEGORIES IN THE FESTIVAL:

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION
DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

SPOTLIGHT+

SPOTLIGHT NARRATIVE

SPOTLIGHT DOCUMENTARY

VIEWPOINTS

MIDNIGHT

ESCAPE FROM TRIBECA

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION

Discover breakout independent voices from around the country as these extraordinary world premieres compete for honors in Tribeca's U.S. Narrative Competition.

Adult Best Friends, (United States) - World Premiere.

Bitterroot, (United States) - World Premiere.

The French Italian, (United States) - World Premiere.

Griffin in Summer, (United States) - World Premiere.

Jazzy, (United States) - World Premiere.

The Knife, (United States) - World Premiere.

The Other, Gold, (United States) - World Premiere.

Rent Free, (United States) - World Premiere.

Sacramento, (United States) - World Premiere.

Vulcanizadora, (United States) - World Premiere.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Experience the cinema of reality with these remarkable non-fiction premieres sure to make waves in the coming year.

Antidote, (UK) - World Premiere.

Bad Actor: A Hollywood Ponzi Scheme, (United States) - World Premiere.

Checkpoint Zoo, (Ukraine, United States) - World Premiere.

New Wave, (United States) - World Premiere.

Pirópolis, (Chile) - World Premiere.

Quad Gods, (United States) - World Premiere.

Sabbath Queen, (United States) - World Premiere.

Shelf Life, (United States) - World Premiere.

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

The New-York based Festival breaks its geographical boundaries with the International Narrative Competition, welcoming filmmakers from abroad to join a global platform for contemporary world cinema.

Bikechess, (Kazakhstan) - World Premiere.

The Dog Thief, (Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, France, Italy) - World Premiere.

Don't You Let Me Go, (Uruguay) - World Premiere.

Eternal Playground, (France) - World Premiere.

Family Therapy, (Slovenia, Italy, Norway, Croatia, Serbia) - World Premiere.

Hunters on a White Field, (Sweden) - International Premiere.

Samia, (Germany) - World Premiere.

Some Rain Must Fall, (Singapore) - North American Premiere.

Swimming Home, (UK, Greece, Netherlands, Brazil) - North American Premiere.

Under the Grey Sky, (Poland) - North American Premiere.

SPOTLIGHT+

Tribeca's unique Spotlight+ events bring the film experience off the screen with live events, performances, and conversations after each screening.



The Debutantes

Credit : tribecafilm.com

The Debutantes, (United States) - World Premiere.

DRIVER, (United States) - World Premiere.

Hacking Hate, (Sweden, Denmark, Norway) - World Premiere.

Made in Ethiopia, (United States, Ethiopia, Denmark, UK, Canada, South Korea) - World Premiere.

Bam Bam: The Sister Nancy Story, (Canada) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: Special performance by Sister Nancy with DJ Gravy.

BRATS, (United States) - World Premiere.

Derik Murray. An ABC News Studios Release.

After the Movie: Panel to follow featuring director Andrew McCarthy, other members of the cast, and surprise guests.

Desire: The Carl Craig Story, (Switzerland, UK) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: Post premiere musical selection by Carl Craig.

Following Harry, (United States) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: The presentation of the Harry Belafonte Voices for Social Justice Award with special guests.

Group Therapy, (United States) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: A conversation with film subjects Tig Notaro, Neil Patrick Harris, Mike Birbiglia, London Hughes, Gary Gulman and Atsuko Okatsuka.

Linda Perry: Let It Die Here, (United States) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: Special performance by Linda Perry.

Outstanding: A Comedy Revolution, (United States) - World Premiere.

Before the Movie: A standup performance featuring stars of the film.

Rebel Country, (UK, United States) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: A special appearance by platinum selling country music artist BRELAND.

Satisfied, (United States) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: A performance by Renée Elise Goldsberry and special guests.

State of Silence, (Mexico) - World Premiere.

After the Movie: A conversation with Mexican journalists Marcos Vizcarra and Maria de Jesus Peters, director Santiago Maza and executive producers Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal.

SPOTLIGHT NARRATIVE

A launching pad for the most buzzworthy new films, Tribeca's Spotlight section brings audiences anticipated premieres from acclaimed filmmakers and star performers.

All That We Love, (United States) - World Premiere.

Bad Shabbos, (United States) - World Premiere.

Bang Bang, (United States) - World Premiere.

Between the Temples, (United States) - New York Premiere.

Crossing, (Sweden, Denmark, Georgia, Turkey, France) - North American Premiere.

Daddio, (United States) - New York Premiere.

The Damned, (UK, Iceland, Ireland, Belgium) - World Premiere.

The Everything Pot, (United States) - World Premiere.

Firebrand, (UK, United States) - North American Premiere.

In the Summers, (United States) - New York Premiere.

Kneecap, (Ireland) - New York Premiere.

Lake George, (United States) - World Premiere.

McVeigh, (United States) - World

Premiere.

Memes & Nightmares, (United States) - World Premiere.

A Mistake, (New Zealand) - World Premiere.

The Shallow Tale of a Writer Who Decided to Write About a Serial Killer, (United States) - World Premiere.

Treasure, (Germany, France) - International Premiere.

The Wasp, (UK) - World Premiere.

Winter Spring Summer or Fall, (United States) - World Premiere.

SPOTLIGHT DOCUMENTARY

Both onscreen and behind the camera, Spotlight Documentary films represent the most noteworthy names in nonfiction premiering high profile new work.



Kill

Credit : tribecafilm.com

1-800-ON-HER-OWN, (United States) - World Premiere.

America's Burning, (United States) - World Premiere.

Avicii - I'm Tim, (Sweden, United States) - World Premiere.

Black Table, (United States) - World Premiere.

The Cranes Call, (France, Germany, Netherlands, UK, Ukraine, United States) - World Premiere.

Emergent City, (United States) - World Premiere.

I'm Your Venus, (United States) - World Premiere.

It Was All a Dream, (United States) - World Premiere.

Jago: Into the White, (Italy) - World Premiere.

LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story, (United States) - World Premiere.

Luther: Never Too Much, (United States) - New York Premiere.

Made in England: The Films of Powell & Pressburger, (UK) - New York Premiere.

Pandora's Code, (United States) - World Premiere.

Rebel Nun, (United States, UK) - World Premiere.

Untitled Casa Bonita Documentary, (United States) - World Premiere.

S/He Is Still Her/e - The Official Genesis P-Orridge Doc, (United States) - World Premiere.

Skywalkers: A Love Story, (China, Hong Kong, France, Malaysia, Russia, Thailand) - New York Premiere.

Slave Play. Not a Movie. A Play., (United States) - World Premiere.

Stevie Van Zandt: Disciple, (United States) - World Premiere.

They All Came Out to Montreux, (UK) - World Premiere.

The Thinking Game, (United States) - World Premiere.

VIEWPOINTS

Tribeca's home for distinct points of view and bold directorial visions, Viewpoints discovers the most boundary-pushing, rule-breaking new voices in independent film. For the first time, Viewpoints selections will be presented in competition.

Alien Weaponry: Kua Tupu Te Ara, (New Zealand) - World Premiere.

Arzé, (Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia) - North American Premiere.

Boys Go to Jupiter, (United States) - World Premiere.

Champions of the Golden Valley, (United States, Afghanistan, Germany) - World Premiere.

Color Book, (United States) - World Premiere.

Darkest Miriam, (Canada) - World Premiere.

Era Oculata - Hidden Era, (Mozambique, Germany, Colombia) - World Premiere.

Restless, (UK) - World Premiere.

Searching for Amani, (Kenya, United States) - World Premiere.

They're Here, (United States) - World Premiere.

Witches, (UK) - World Premiere.

MIDNIGHT

Surprising, shocking, frightening, and thrilling, Tribeca Midnight is the destination for the best in horror and more for late night audiences.

The A-Frame, (United States) - World Premiere.

Beacon, (United States) - World Premiere.

A Desert, (United States) - World Premiere.

The Devil's Bath, (Austria, Germany) - International Premiere.

Mars, (United States) - World Premiere.

The Weekend, (Nigeria) - World Premiere.

ESCAPE FROM TRIBECA

Mind-bending premieres, spine-chilling classics, and Godzilla-sized dance parties make for an unforgettable escape tailor-made for adventurous movie lovers craving the extraordinary.



Federer

Credit : tribecafilm.com

AMFAD: All My Friends Are Dead, (United States) - World Premiere.

Kill, (India) - New York Premiere.

She Loved Blossoms More, (Greece, France) - World Premiere.

UPDATES

As an update, 11 more Feature Films have been added:

World Premieres of 'Federer: Twelve Final Days,'

WNBA Documentary 'Power of the Dream,'

'The Freshly Cut Grass' Executive Produced by Martin Scorsese;

North American Premieres of 'Elizabeth Taylor: The Lost Tapes,'

'La Cocina' with Rooney Mara

New York Premiere of Michael Sarnoski's 'A Quiet Place: Day One,' in Partnership with Paramount Pictures in IMAX on June 26

LEARN MORE AT TRIBECAFILM.COM.

TICKETS, MEMBERSHIP AND UPDATES

For the latest updates on Festival programming, follow @Tribeca and #Tribeca2024 on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Tribeca Memberships and 2024 Tribeca Festival passes and ticket packages can be purchased at tribecafilm.com. Single tickets are also available for purchase.

TRIBECA FESTIVAL

The Tribeca Festival, presented by OKX, brings artists and diverse audiences together to celebrate storytelling in all its forms, including film, TV, music, audio storytelling, games, and immersive. With strong roots in independent film, Tribeca is synonymous with creative expression and entertainment. Tribeca champions emerging and established voices, discovers award-winning talent, curates innovative experiences, and introduces new ideas through exclusive premieres, exhibitions, conversations, and live performances.

The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. The annual Tribeca Festival will celebrate its 23rd year from June 5-16, 2024 in New York City.

In 2019, James Murdoch's Lupa Systems bought a majority stake in

Tribeca Enterprises, bringing together Rosenthal, De Niro, and Murdoch to grow the enterprise.

(Stay tuned for more Festival information in the coming weeks)

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

CELEBRATE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AT BATTERY DANCE GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

Battery Dance, one of America's leading cultural ambassadors, connects the world through dance. In celebration of four-plus decades of artistic excellence and social relevance, it recognizes three honorees at its annual gala on May 30, 2024.

GALA HONOREES



GALA HONOREES



Credit : batterydance.org



WHO:

Cultural Diplomacy Honorees: German Consul General David Gill and Sheila Shrivastava

Artistic Honoree: Chun Wai Chan

WHEN: Thursday, May 30

WHAT: 6:30 PM | Cocktails

7:30 PM | Dinner & Performance

WHERE: The Yale Club

**50 Vanderbilt Ave, 20th Floor
New York, NY**

DRESS: Black tie or cocktail attire

TICKETS

To purchase tickets for the Gala, visit classy.org/event/battery-dance-gala-2024/e572736

THE BATTERY DANCE COMPANY

The Battery Dance Company pursues artistic excellence and social relevance by creating vibrant new works, performing on the world's stages, presenting dance in public spaces, serving the field of dance and teaching people of all ages with special attention to the disadvantaged and areas of conflict.

Battery Dance is committed to enhancing the cultural vibrancy of its home community in New York City,



Battery Dance Performers

Credit : batterydance.org

extending programming throughout the U.S., and building bridges worldwide through international cultural exchange with programs in 70 countries to date.

Battery Dance created the Downtown Dance Festival, an annual outdoor summer festival in 1982, to make exceptional dance available free-of-charge within its home community of lower Manhattan where it was founded in 1976. Now renamed Battery Dance Festival, it has been presented in partnership with the Battery Park City Authority since 2013. Learn more at batterydance.org.

THE BATTERY DANCE GALA

The Battery Dance Gala is a celebration of the artistic excellence and community building that its patrons make possible. This year, Battery Dance is delighted to recognize the outstanding contributions of the company's long-standing friends and benefactors German Consul General David Gill and Sheila Shrivastava, and artistic honoree Chun Wai Chan, New York City Ballet's first Chinese principal dancer.

CONSUL GENERAL DAVID GILL

Consul General David Gill, German Consulate General New York. Born in 1966, Gill grew up in a protestant minister's family in Herrnhut, Saxony, in

former East Germany. He was denied a higher education by the communist regime for political reasons. Instead, he trained and worked as a plumber before joining a preparatory protestant school and later the theological seminary of the Protestant Church in Berlin Brandenburg.

In 1990, he initially was the chairman of Normannenstrasse Citizens' Committee which oversaw the dissolution of the Ministry of State Security at the Stasi headquarters and served as the secretary of the Special Committee for the dissolution of the Stasi of the East German Parliament.

After reunification, Gill studied law in Berlin and Philadelphia. He held top positions in the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union. Since August 2017, he has been the German Consul General in New York.

SHEILA SHRIVASTAVA

Born in Scotland in 1970, Sheila Shrivastava grew up in Massachusetts with a German mother and Indian father. In 1992 she received her BA in Psychology with a Special Interest in Prison Studies from the New School for Social Research in New York City. After receiving her Masters in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998, she moved to Berlin, Germany where she worked from 2001 until 2017 teaching History and Theory of Social Work at the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences. She has two daughters and enjoys writing and reading poetry.

CHUN WAI CHAN

Born in Guangdong, China, Mr. Chan trained at the Guangzhou Art School from 2004 to 2010. In 2010 he was a finalist at the Prix de Lausanne, which earned him a full scholarship to study with Houston Ballet's second company, Houston Ballet II. His repertory with Houston Ballet included leading roles in ballets by Stanton Welch, Ben Stevenson, George Balanchine, Jerome Robbins, among others. Mr. Chan is the first Chinese principal at New York City Ballet (NYCB). Chan was also a Guest Principal Dancer with Hong Kong Ballet in 2018 and 2019.

NYIFF EVENT INSPIRES SYMBIOSIS OF FASHION AND FILM

BY MABEL PAIS

As a springboard to The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) festivities, the Festival team held an exclusive event in collaboration with the India Design Collective at their SoHo location on May 16. The event was a resounding success, setting the tone for what promises to be an exhilarating festival running from May 31st to June 2nd, 2024.

Renowned fashion designer Mayyur Girotra, celebrated for his exquisite bridal wear and innovative designs that blend Indian embroidery with Western silhouettes, headlined the evening with a captivating talkback session on Fashion and Film. Moderated by Shriya Bhattacharya of Business Insider, the session delved into the symbiotic relationship between fashion and cinema, and how they together enhance the narrative of Indian storytelling.

Girotra, whose designs have been adorned by numerous celebrities,



(left) Mayyur Girotra with Mira Sagar with Mayyur's design creations.

Credit : nyiff.us

including actress Aditi Rao Hydari from the hit Netflix series *Heeramandi*, Sridevi, Tabu of Bollywood and Richa Murjani in Hollywood, to name a few, shared his insights on the importance of cultural narratives. "Fashion and film are powerful mediums that convey the depth and richness of Indian culture. Through my designs, I aim to celebrate and preserve our heritage while pushing the boundaries of creativity. Indie filmmaking, in particular, offers a unique platform to showcase authentic stories that resonate



(left to right): Mayyur Girotra, Suman Gollamudi, Shriya Bhattacharya.

Credit : nyiff.us

on a global stage. The New York Indian Film Festival is crucial in providing such a platform, bringing diverse and meaningful narratives to a wider audience," said Girotra.

Watch

drive.google.com/file/d/13KIAy3lbnqgqWkpy8k8XumleQlluYROLv/view?usp=drive_link

The event also provided a sneak peek into the film festival's lineup, featuring star-studded premieres, thought-provoking documentaries, and captivating shorts. Attendees were treated to an evening of

networking, complemented by wine and light bites, as they discussed the upcoming films and the significance of independent cinema in promoting diverse voices.

"We are thrilled to inaugurate the 2024 New York Indian Film Festival with such an inspiring event," said Suman Gollamudi, Executive Director of the Indo-American Arts Council. "Mayyur Girotra's participation highlights the crucial interplay between fashion and film in celebrating our culture. The festival is dedicated to presenting the richness of Indian storytelling, and we are excited to share these compelling narratives with our audience."

Poonam Khubani, IAAC Advisory Board member added, "I warmly invite all of you to join us in celebrating extraordinary films shown at the NYIFF. Together, let's champion the ascent of pioneering cinema and revel in the transformative power of storytelling."

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

Slain Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar's body was dismembered, put in plastic bags and dumped at different locations

DHAKA (TIP): The body of Bangladesh MP Anwarul Azim Anar who was murdered in a flat in New Town, Kolkata was dismembered by the assailants in such a way that it would be tough to identify it as human remains, an investigating officer said.

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "The killers dismembered the body in such a way that it would be tough to identify it as human remains," according to The Daily Star.

Azim's remains were put in plastic bags and were dumped at different locations.

After killing the MP, the assailants skinned the body, removed the flesh and minced it to prevent identification, a report said.

"We also suspect that some parts were kept in a refrigerator. We have the samples," a West Bengal CID officer said, requesting anonymity, The Daily Star said.

According to reports, the slain MP and his old friend Aktaruzzaman, known as Shaheen Mia, used to run a gold smuggling racket until they fell out over money.

It is understood that Aktaruzzaman smuggled gold into Bangladesh from Dubai while Azim, the ruling Awami League lawmaker from Jhenaidah-4, made sure the shipment reached the



hands of the right people in India. Sometime last year, Azim told his partner that he wanted a bigger cut of the money. Aktaruzzaman snubbed Azim's proposal, and it created a rift between the two, The Daily Star said quoting investigating officers.

"The partnership hit rock bottom after Azim received two stashes worth more than Tk 100 crore, but did not deliver them," said the officer involved in the investigation.

Aktaruzzaman then started asking Azim for the money and recruited other

people who could make the deliveries, said the investigators.

"The duo met several times in the last six months to settle the matter, and Azim persistently refused to pay Aktaruzzaman. The latter then decided to have him killed," an investigator said, citing information given by arrested suspects.

The MP had gone missing on May 13, a day after he arrived in Kolkata.

Aktaruzzaman, his girlfriend, a hitman and a couple of others were involved in the crime. (NIE)

Amnesty slams military trial of civilians in Pakistan

KARACHI (TIP): Military courts in Pakistan should not try more than 100 people for their alleged role in attacks on army installations during the riots that followed former premier Imran Khan's arrest on May 9 last year, Amnesty International chief has said, urging the government to uphold its international obligations.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights clearly state that civilians should not be tried by military courts, Amnesty International's Secretary General Dr Agnes Callamard said. The Amnesty chief, who is on her first regional visit to South Asia, said "sadly it has happened throughout Pakistan's political history... (and) is not a novelty". (PTI)

Turkish Airlines resumes flights to Afghanistan nearly 3 years after Taliban captured Kabul

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Afghanistan's Taliban government confirmed the resumption of Turkish Airlines flights to Kabul's international airport, nearly three years after the carrier's services were suspended following the collapse of the Western-backed government. Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation said that the first Turkish Airlines flight landed May 21 and was greeted by government officials. Turkish Airlines flights have returned with a schedule of four weekly round-trip flights between Istanbul and Kabul on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. All international airlines halted flights to Afghanistan when the Taliban seized power in August 2021 as US and NATO forces departed after two decades of war. In January, Air Arabia restarted flights to Kabul's international airport. In November 2023, FlyDubai became the first international carrier to resume flights to Afghanistan. (AP)

Iranian President Raisi's death: Pakistan to observe one-day state mourning, flag to fly at half-mast

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on May 21 announced it will observe one-day mourning and the flag will fly at half-mast as a mark of respect for Iranian President of Dr Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian who died in a helicopter crash in the Varzaqan region of Azerbaijan, in the northwest of Iran.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posted on X: "Pakistan will observe a day of mourning and the flag will fly at half mast as a mark of respect for President Raisi and his companions and in solidarity with Brotherly Iran".

Pakistan had the pleasure of hosting President Raisi and Foreign Minister Abdollahian on a historic visit, less than a month ago. They were good friends of Pakistan, Sharief said.

In another post Sharif said: "Had been anxiously following developments regarding the reported crash landing of President Raisi's helicopter. Was hoping for good news. (TNS)

KENYAN CLIMBER IS FOUND DEAD ON MOUNT EVEREST IN NEPAL

KATHMANDU, NEPAL (TIP): A climber from Kenya attempting to scale the world's highest mountain has been found dead near the summit, officials said May 23.

The body of Cheruiyot Kirui was found on Mount Everest, said Khim Lal Gautam, a government official at the mountain's base camp. It was unclear when the body would be recovered because it would be difficult to carry at that altitude due to the low oxygen level.

The climb by Kirui, a 40-year-old banker at Kenya Commercial Bank, had been closely followed in Kenya, and fellow climber James Muhia had posted frequent updates about the attempt online.

"It is a sad day," Muhia wrote on May 23 on X. "Our brother is now one with the mountain. It will be a difficult time. Go well my brother."

Kenyan foreign ministry secretary, Korir Sing'oei, said he had met with Kirui before his trip to Nepal, and described him as fearless and audacious.

"Really gutted by this news," Sing'oei wrote on X. "I have been following his exploits until this unfortunate end. He is a fearless, audacious spirit, and represents the indomitable will of many Kenyans. We shall miss him."

Officials said more than 450 climbers have scaled Mount Everest from the Nepali side of the peak in the south this season. Three climbers were reported killed and four are still missing on Mount Everest this season, which ends in a few days.

Most climbing of Everest and nearby Himalayan peaks is done in April and May when weather conditions are most favorable. (AP)

OWNER OF NEPAL'S LARGEST MEDIA ORGANIZATION ARRESTED OVER CITIZENSHIP CARD ISSUE

KATHMANDU, NEPAL (TIP): The owner of Nepal's largest news organization has been arrested for allegedly violating the country's citizenship laws over an issue with his citizenship card.

Kailash Sirohiya will be presented before a judge in a district court in south Nepal on May 22 where a case has been filed against him.

He was arrested Tuesday at the Kathmandu offices of Kantipur Publications, which operates newspapers, television and radio stations, magazines and online news sites.

Sirohiya has denied any wrongdoing and accused Home Minister Rabi Lamichhane of seeking revenge for publishing news stories about alleged financial irregularities involving the minister. (AP)



Richa Chadha says shot for which she gave 99 retakes in Heeramandi was not used

Richa Chadha wants to clarify a misconception about her 99 retakes in Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar. Taking to her Instagram Stories on Wednesday, the actor shared that the shot for which she gave the highest number of retakes in the show was ultimately not used.

On her Instagram Stories, Richa shared a fan edit of her dance sequence in the song Masoom Dil Hai Mera, and added in the caption: "Let me try to explain this last time. The shot I needed 99 takes for has not been used in the show lol. It wasn't a good take. I probably sucked that day (tear-face emoticon). Bass. Samajh jao yaaron (That's it, now you all should know)."

It all started in a recent episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, where Richa was one of the guests, along with the other female cast of Heeramandi. In that episode, Richa said, "What is your highest number of retakes?" Sonakshi Sinha said, "I don't think I went over 12." Aditi Rao Hydari added, "In dance, it can go over 12-13." Richa replied, "I think my score is the highest. 99!"

Katrina Kaif pregnant with her first baby? Actor's representative issues statement

The internet is obsessed with a new video of actors Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal walking together on the streets of London. After the video surfaced online, social media was flooded with comments about how Katrina – who was dressed in baggy clothes – is expecting her first child with her husband. A report by Zoom even claimed that the actor is pregnant. However, her representative agency has called the report 'unconfirmed'.

"Request all media houses to immediately stop this unconfirmed reporting and speculation," read a statement shared by Raindrop media.

Per a source quoted by Zoom, Katrina Kaif's pregnancy rumours are not off the mark. The source said that 'if all goes well, Katrina and Vicky will welcome their first child in the UK'. Earlier in February this year, actor Anushka Sharma gave birth to her second child, son Akaay, in London, as per multiple reports.

The source quoted by Zoom added that Katrina, who has grown up in the UK and owns a house in London's Hampstead, will deliver her baby in London. "Katrina bacha London mein hi deliver karegi. Vicky bhi wahin hai (Yes, she is pregnant. They will welcome their first child in London itself. Vicky is already there with her)."

While vacationing in London, a video of Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal walking hand in hand went viral,



capturing fans' attention as they noticed Katrina's alleged baby bump. Katrina-Vicky's new video from London fuelled pregnancy rumours, with some on social media even saying that Katrina looks 'more pregnant' than actor Deepika Padukone, who is set to deliver her first baby in September 2024.

Fans are convinced that Katrina is pregnant. An Instagram user commented on her latest video,

"Katrina and her love to keep things private. She seems more pregnant than even Deepika, meaning she will deliver ahead. Maybe she went to London to hide from paparazzi. She does look pregnant and that walking gait shows it." Another wrote, "She is walking as if she is pregnant." A comment also read, "I think she is pregnant. It's not the big jacket but the way she walks."

Source: HT

New 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' song to feature Srivalli played yet again by Rashmika

After 'Pushpa Pushpa', the second song from the upcoming Allu Arjun-starrer film 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is set to hit the airwaves. On Wednesday, the makers of the film unveiled the teaser poster of the new song.

The yet-to-be-titled song will feature the character of Srivalli as per the poster. The track is touted to be an upbeat catchy track on the lines of 'Sami Sami' from 'Pushpa: The Rise'.

Taking to social media, the makers shared the poster with shades of purple, pink and yellow in the background with the hand of a female, presumably Srivalli, in gyan mudra.

They wrote in the caption, 'After the takeover by Pushpa Raj with #PushpaPushpa, it is time for The Couple, Srivalli along with her Saami to mesmerise us all. #Pushpa2SecondSingle announcement tomorrow at 11.07 AM. #Pushpa2TheRule Grand release worldwide on 15th AUG 2024.'

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' is the follow-up to the 2021 film 'Pushpa: The Rise' which starred Allu Arjun in the titular role of Pushpa Raj. The sequel also



stars Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Fasil in the lead roles.

The film is directed by Sukumar and produced by Mythri Movie Makers. It will land in cinemas on the occasion of Independence Day this year.

Source: IANS

Akshay says son Aarav left home at 15, wears 2nd-hand clothes

Akshay Kumar rarely speaks about his children — son Aarav and daughter Nitara — in public, preferring to keep their lives away from the limelight. However, he made an exception on cricketer Shikhar Dhawan's brand new talk show, Dhawan Kareng on Jio Cinema. During the interaction, Akshay revealed that Aarav doesn't want to be a part of films and wants to pursue a career in fashion.



Speaking on the show, Akshay shared how he didn't want Aarav to leave home at the age of 15 to study abroad. He said, "My son Aarav is studying at the university in London. He left home at the age of 15. He was always fond of studying and wanted to stay alone. It was his decision to move even though I didn't want him to go. However, I could not stop him because I left my home at the age of 14."

Khiladi Kumar lauded his son for being grounded, doing all the household chores himself, and avoiding splurging on expensive clothes. He said, "He does his own laundry, he is a good cook, does the utensils and doesn't even want to buy expensive clothes. In fact, he goes to a second-hand store, Thrifty, to buy clothes because he doesn't believe in wastage."



Emma Stone's Twisted Comedy Kinds Of Kindness Divides Cannes

Emma Stone and director Yorgos Lanthimos brought audiences yet another hilarious and freaky film as *Kinds of Kindness* premiered in competition in Cannes on Friday. The triptych, in which the same cast of actors recount three separate stories, was filmed as the Greek filmmaker put the final touches to his feminist *Frankenstein* remake *Poor Things* for which Emma Stone won an Oscar. Its occasionally repulsive scenes are balanced by dark humour, notably Willem Dafoe as a creepy guru in an orange speedo and one very shocking home movie that got big laughs at Cannes screenings.

"I thought it was funny and Emma thought it was funny, but we didn't know if people are going to find it funny," Lanthimos said before the premiere. In early reviews, the *Guardian* called it a "macabre, absurdist triptych", while *Variety* called it a "quizzical concoction bound to baffle and delight".

Daniel Radcliffe looks forward to new Harry Potter adaptation

Actor Daniel Radcliffe, famously known for his portrayal of the iconic wizard Harry Potter, has expressed his anticipation for the upcoming Harry Potter series being developed at Max. While attending the Drama League Awards, Radcliffe shared his excitement, but remained tight-lipped regarding any potential cameo.

"Like the rest of the world, I'm very excited to watch as an audience member," he said. However, when questioned about the possibility of making a cameo or guest appearance in the series, the actor remained hesitant. "I don't think so, I think they very wisely want to have a clean break. And I don't know if it would work to have us do anything in it," he revealed.

Brad Pitt deals a 'crushing blow' as judge orders Jolie to produce 8 years of NDAs

All the NDAs that Angelina Jolie has signed in the last eight years would be produced for the ongoing civil lawsuit between her and Brad Pitt over their Château, fine wine, and vineyard in France.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge ordered Jolie to produce "all non-privileged documents in her possession, custody, or control that are responsive to" Pitt's legal team's request.

This includes any NDAs that the 'Maleficent' star has entered into. The judge has given Jolie a month to comply with the order.

A source from Pitt's camp has described the ruling as a "crushing blow" to Jolie, who had previously contended that fulfilling such a request would be "expensive," "wasteful," "unreasonable," and "abusive."

Jolie's lawyers had continued to indicate that the unveiling of the NDAs infringes on the privacy aspect of other individuals involved.

These records most probably consist of relevant contracts with different entities of Hollywood, such as employers, brands, and employees; the contracts possibly contain "contracts that include Jolie's compensation or compensation she paid to third parties."

Now, Jolie's team is expected to provide a list of documents they consider privileged, allowing Pitt's attorneys to "evaluate the merits of Jolie's assertions of privilege."

Earlier this year, the 'Bullet Train' star's lawyers requested information on the number of NDAs Jolie has had staff members sign. This followed Jolie's accusations that Pitt was attempting to exert control over her through an "overreaching" agreement.

Jolie's filings claim that Pitt demanded she sign a particularly "onerous" and "expansive" NDA, which would cover his "personal misconduct," irrespective of its relation to Miraval, as a condition for her to sell her share of the winery to him.



Jolie alleges in legal documents that the breakdown was due to the unfair terms of the NDA. And she sold her shares to a subsidiary of the Stoli Group.

However, after the LA court's ruling, Jolie's attorney, Paul Murphy, framed it as a victory for their side. Murphy said, "Common NDAs are simply not comparable to Mr. Pitt's last-second demand to try and cover up his personal misconduct. We are more than happy to turn them over and we are gratified that the Court acknowledged that the only potential relevance is to the unconscionability of Mr. Pitt's conduct, a now confirmed key issue in this case." "We welcome that transparency in all parties' discovery responses, including Mr. Pitt's. Angelina looks forward to the eventual end of this litigation with its false narratives that continue to hurt the family and interfere with their ability to heal." *Source: HT*

Jennifer Lopez opens up about feeling 'misunderstood' amidst divorce rumors

Amidst swirling rumours surrounding her relationship with Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez has spoken out about feeling "misunderstood at times," drawing parallels between her emotions and those of her character in her upcoming sci-fi film, 'Atlas'.

In an interview with *People* magazine at the film's Los Angeles premiere, Lopez expressed, "We are so different because she, like, doesn't wear any of her emotions. She's so closed off and I am too much emotional sometimes."

She further reflected on her character's strength and certainty, remarking, "At times. She was very sure... felt very misunderstood at times. I can also relate to that a bit." The 54-year-old star's remarks come amidst ongoing speculation about her relationship with Affleck, whom she married in July 2022.

Recent reports from Page Six revealed Affleck's house-hunting activities in Los Angeles, coinciding with Lopez's solo real estate browsing.

However, insiders have clarified that Lopez's property search is unrelated to divorce rumours, suggesting she is considering investment opportunities.

Sources also hinted at marital troubles brewing for several months, with recent events adding fuel to the breakup speculation.

Lopez's social media activity, including a 'like' on an Instagram post about unhealthy relationship traits,



intensified the rumors.

Additionally, a source close to Affleck revealed his reconsideration of their union, expressing sentiments of disillusionment.

Insiders suggest Affleck feels Lopez struggles with satisfaction, citing it as a significant issue in their relationship.

Recent solo appearances by Lopez, including her attendance at the 'Atlas' premiere with her wedding band on display, have only fuelled speculation, particularly as Affleck was occupied with filming commitments. *Source: ANI*

MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE BELIEVED KILLED BY A LANDSLIDE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AUSTRALIAN MEDIA REPORT

MELBOURNE (TIP): More than 100 people are believed to have been killed on May 24 in a landslide in a remote part of Papua New Guinea, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

The landslide reportedly hit Kaokalam Village in Enga Province, about 600 kilometers (370 miles) northwest of the South Pacific island nation's capital of Port Moresby, at roughly 3 a.m. local time, ABC reported.

Residents say current estimates of the death toll are above 100, although authorities have not confirmed this figure. Villagers said the number of people killed could be much higher.

The Papua New Guinea government and police did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Friday.

Papua New Guinea is a diverse, developing nation of mostly subsistence farmers with 800 languages. There are few roads outside the larger cities.

With 10 million people, it also the most populous South Pacific nation after Australia, which is home to 27 million. (AP)

FIVE DEAD AND NEARLY 3 DOZEN HURT IN TORNADOES THAT TORE THROUGH IOWA, OFFICIALS SAY

GREENFIELD, IOWA (TIP): A deadly tornado that wreaked havoc in the small city of Greenfield, Iowa, left four people dead and nearly three dozen injured, officials said, while a fifth person was killed elsewhere.

The twister that tore through the city on May 22 was rated at least an EF-3 by the National Weather Service and was so destructive that it took authorities more than a day to account for the area's residents.

It's believed that the number of people injured is likely higher, the Iowa Department of Public Safety said.

The fifth person was killed about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Greenfield when her car was blown off the road in a tornado, according to the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Monica Zamarron, 46, died in the crash Tuesday afternoon, officials said.

Officials haven't yet released the names of the other victims.

The severe weather turned south Wednesday. In Texas, officials issued an emergency declaration in Temple, a city of more than 90,000 people north of Austin, after powerful storms ripped through the area. (AP)

Taiwan tracks dozens of Chinese warplanes and navy vessels off its coast on second day of drills

TAIPEI (TIP): Taiwan tracked dozens of Chinese warplanes and navy vessels off its coast on May 24 on the second day of a large exercise China's People's Liberation Army held in response to the inauguration of the island's new leadership.

China has issued elaborate releases to media showing Taiwan being surrounded by forces from the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army. A new video on Friday showed animated Chinese forces approaching from all sides and Taiwan being enclosed within a circular target area.

Despite that, there was little sign of concern among Taiwan's 23 million people, who have under threat of Chinese invasion since the sides divided during a bitter and bloody civil war in 1949. Taiwan's parliament was mired in a dispute between its political parties over procedural measures Friday and business continued as usual in the bustling capital of Taipei.

In this photo released by the Taiwan Coast Guard, a Chinese navy vessel identified as the Chinese Missile Frigate FFG 548 is seen near the Pengjia Islet north of Taiwan on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Taiwan scrambles jets and puts missile, naval and land units on alert over China's military drills

The defense ministry said it tracked



49 warplanes and 19 navy vessels, as well as Chinese coast guard vessels, and that 35 of the planes flew across the median of the Taiwan Strait, the de facto boundary between the sides, over a 24-hour period from Thursday to Friday.

Marine and coast guard vessels, air and ground-based missile units have all been put on alert, particularly around the Taiwan-controlled island chains of Kinmen and Matsu located just off the China coast and far from Taiwan's main island, roughly 160 kilometers (100 miles) across the

Taiwan Strait.

"Facing external challenges and threats, we will continue to maintain the values of freedom and democracy," Taiwan's new President Lai Ching-te told sailors and top security officials Thursday as he visited a marine base in Taoyuan, just south of the capital, Taipei.

In his inauguration speech Monday, Lai had called on Beijing to stop its military intimidation and said Taiwan was "a sovereign independent nation in which sovereignty lies in the hands of the people." (AP)

Leaders of South Korea, China and Japan will meet next week for the first time since 2019

SEOUL (TIP): Leaders of South Korea, China and Japan will meet next week in Seoul for their first trilateral talks in more than four years, South Korea's presidential office announced May 23.

The trilateral summit among South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will take place in Seoul on Monday, Yoon's presidential office said.

The three leaders were scheduled to hold bilateral talks among themselves on Sunday, according to the South Korean presidential office.

Since their inaugural stand-alone trilateral summit in 2008, the three Asian countries were supposed to hold such a meeting among their leaders each year. But the summit has been suspended since they were last held in December 2019 in China.

Efforts to boost cooperation among the Asian neighbors often hit snags because of a mix of issues, including historical disputes stemming from Japan's wartime



aggression and the strategic competition between China and the United States.

Ties between South Korea and Japan deteriorated severely due to issues originating from Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean Peninsula. But their relations warmed significantly since 2023 as the two countries took a series of major steps to move beyond that history and boost cooperation in the face

of North Korea's advancing nuclear program and other shared challenges.

North Korea's growing arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles poses a major security threat to South Korea and Japan. But China, North Korea's last major ally and biggest source of aid, is suspected of avoiding fully enforcing United Nations sanctions on North Korea and shipping covert assistance to help. (AP)

Russian missiles kill 6 in Ukraine's second-largest city where Moscow's troops are pressing

KYIV, UKRAINE (TIP): Russian missiles slammed into Ukraine's second-largest city in the northeast of the country and killed at least six civilians early May 23, officials said, as Kyiv's army labored to hold off an intense cross-border offensive by the Kremlin's larger and better-equipped forces.

At least 16 people were injured as S-300 missiles struck the city of Kharkiv, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. The sound of 15 explosions reverberated around the city of some 1 million people.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the attack "extremely cruel." He expressed renewed frustration at not getting enough air defense systems from the country's Western partners to prevent the barrages after more than two years of unrelenting war.

The city of Kharkiv, which is the capital of the region of the same name, lies about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Russian border. Moscow's troops have in recent weeks captured villages in the area as part of a broad push, and analysts say they may be trying to get within artillery range of the city.

In what is shaping up to be Ukraine's biggest test since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, outnumbered and outgunned Ukrainian forces are being pressed at several points along the about 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line that snakes from north to south along the eastern side of the country.



With Ukraine short of air defenses and waiting for more Western military support that recently started trickling in, its army has been pushed backwards in places while Russia has pounded its power grid and civilian areas. Kyiv endured further power outages Thursday.

Zelenskyy said the main hotspots in recent fighting have been Kharkiv and the neighboring Donetsk region, where in February Ukraine's defenders withdrew from the stronghold of Avdiivka. For the Kremlin, taking control of all of partially occupied Donetsk is a war priority.

At the same time, and in an apparent effort to stretch Ukraine's depleted forces, Russian troops have made

incursions in the northern Sumy region.

Nearly 1,500 people, including 200 children, have been evacuated from the towns of Bilopillia and Vorozhba in that region, according to regional Gov. Volodymyr Artiukh.

"The main focus (of the fighting) is on the entire border area," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Wednesday.

Ukraine has also trained its sights on Russian regions across the border. Russia's defense ministry said Thursday that 35 Ukrainian rockets and three drones were shot down over the Belgorod region. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said one drone struck a house and exploded after being shot down, killing a woman. (AP)

A CANADIAN SERIAL KILLER WHO BROUGHT VICTIMS TO HIS PIG FARM IS HOSPITALIZED AFTER A PRISON ASSAULT

MONTREAL (TIP): Convicted Canadian serial killer Robert Pickton, who brought female victims to his pig farm during a crime spree near Vancouver in the 1990s and early 2000s, was assaulted in prison and has been hospitalized in life-threatening condition, authorities said May 21.

A 51-year-old inmate was in custody for the assault Sunday at a prison in Quebec, police spokesman Hugues Beaulieu said.

The 74-year-old Pickton was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2007, with the maximum parole ineligibility period of 25 years, after being charged with the murders of 26 women.

Police began searching the Pickton farm in the Vancouver suburb of Port Coquitlam more than 22 years ago in what would be a years-long investigation into the disappearances of dozens of women.

The remains or DNA of 33 women, many picked up from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, were found on Pickton's pig farm in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. He once bragged to an undercover police officer that he killed a total of 49 women.

Cynthia Cardinal, whose sister Georgina Papin was murdered by Pickton, said she was "overwhelmed" with happiness when she received a text message Monday with the news that he had been attacked. (AP)

Iran prepares to bury late president, foreign minister and others killed in helicopter crash

DUBAI (TIP): Iran on May 23 prepared to inter its late president at the holiest site for Shiite Muslims in the Islamic Republic, a final sign of respect for a protégé of Iran's supreme leader killed in a helicopter crash earlier this week.

President Ebrahim Raisi's burial at the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad caps days of processions through much of Iran, seeking to bolster the country's theocracy after the crash killing him, the country's foreign minister and six others.

However, the services have not drawn the same crowd as those who gathered for services for Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani in 2020, slain by a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad.

It's a potential sign of the public's feelings about Raisi's presidency that saw the government harshly crack down on all dissent during protests over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini, detained for allegedly not wearing her mandatory headscarf to authorities'



liking.

That crackdown, as well as Iran's struggling economy, have gone unmentioned in the hours of coverage provided by state television and in newspapers. Also never discussed was Raisi's involvement in the mass execution of an estimated 5,000 dissidents at the

end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Prosecutors have warned people against showing any public signs of celebrating Raisi's death and a heavy security force presence has been seen in Tehran since the crash.

Thursday morning, thousands in black gathered along a main boulevard

in the city of Birjand, Raisi's hometown in Iran's South Khorasan province along the Afghan border. A semitruck bore his casket down the street, with mourners reached out to touch it and tossing scarves and other items to be placed against it for a blessing. A sign on the truck read: "This is the shrine."

Later, Raisi will be buried at the Imam Reza Shrine, where Shiite Islam's 8th imam is buried. The region long has been associated with Shiite pilgrimage. A hadith attributed to Islam's Prophet Mohammad says anyone with sorrow or sin will be relieved through visiting there.

In 2016, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei appointed Raisi to run the Imam Reza charity foundation, which manages a vast conglomerate of businesses and endowments in Iran, as well as oversees the shrine. It is one of many bonyads, or charitable foundations, fueled by donations or assets seized after Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. (AP)

Some women can read your mind

Women are more likely to have a "mind-reading" gene mutation that gives them the ability to read a person's thoughts and emotions by looking at his or her eyes, scientists have found.

Researchers have found that women on average score better on this test and identified genetic variants in women that are linked to the ability to "read the mind in the eyes."

Previous studies have found that people with autism and anorexia tend to score lower on the Eyes Test. The team found that genetic variants that contribute to higher scores on the test also increase the risk for anorexia, but not autism.

They speculate that this may be because autism involves both social and non-social traits, and this test only measures a social trait.

"This is the largest ever study of this test of cognitive empathy in the world. This is also the first study to attempt to correlate performance on this test with variation in the human genome," said Varun Warriar, a PhD student at Cambridge. "This is an important step forward for the field of social neuroscience and adds one more piece to the puzzle of what may cause variation in cognitive empathy," said Warriar. "This new study demonstrates that empathy is partly genetic, but we should not lose sight of other important social factors such as



early upbringing and postnatal experience," he said.

"We are excited by this new discovery, and are now testing if the results replicate, and exploring precisely what these genetic variants do in the brain, to give rise

to individual differences in cognitive empathy," said Simon Baron-Cohen, at the University of Cambridge in the UK. "This new study takes us one step closer in understanding such variation in the population," said Baron-Cohen.

FOOD CORNER

Murgh Musallam



INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms chicken, 1 inch cinnamon stick, 1/2 tablespoon cumin seeds, 2 tablespoon fresh cream, 2 tablespoon almonds, 1/2 tablespoon peppercorns, 1/2 cup tomato puree, 3 clove, 1 tablespoon coriander seeds, 3 tablespoon refined oil, 2

tablespoon coriander leaves, 1/2 tablespoon turmeric, 1 1/2 tablespoon red chilli powder, 3/4 cup onion paste, 3 green cardamom

For Marination

Salt as required, 1 tablespoon ginger paste, 1/2 tablespoon black pepper, 1 tablespoon garlic paste

Method

Cut the chicken in pieces and marinate with ginger-garlic paste, black pepper powder and salt for about 30 minutes. In the meantime, dry roast the spices one by one on low flame for about 4-5 minutes. Leave it to cool and make a fine powder.

Then, add oil in a heavy-bottomed cooking vessel and shallow fry the marinated chicken pieces in a single layer. Add up to 5-6 chicken pieces at a time depending on the size of the vessel. Fry for 6-8 minutes per side or until the pieces are nice light brown. Remove using tongs on to a plate and repeat the process until all the pieces are done.

Drain the oil and take 2 tablespoons of oil from the drained oil and add to a heavy-bottomed vessel. Add brown onion paste and tomato puree. Fry for 2

minutes and add red chili powder, turmeric powder and roasted spice powder. Fry on low till oil starts to leave from sides.

Now add, the shallow fried chicken pieces one by one. Using a spoon gently fold the chicken pieces into the masala. Add half cup of water and let it cook for 15-20 minutes.

Now prepare the almond paste for a thicker and yummy gravy for the dish. For the same, soak 10 almonds in lukewarm water and after 15 minutes, remove the skin. Grind to smooth paste by adding little water.

When the chicken pieces are cooked, now add almond paste and give the curry nice stir. Cook for another 2-3 minutes and add cream if using along with fresh minced coriander leaves. Stir and turn off the flame. Serve with roomali roti, rice or naan.



Skincare tips to look younger

While age sneaks up on you, it's best to have a few tricks up your sleeve to keep looking younger. Here are some tips that will conceal and even undo many of the signs of ageing from your face and body, so that you continue to look your youthful best.

Skip heavy foundation

A thick layer of foundation will end up into the cracks, revealing the fine lines you are trying to cover. Begin with a moisturiser followed by a primer and then a light liquid foundation or BB cream. You can also use skin plumping serum after the moisturiser for a youthful glow.

Moisturise the eyelids

While doing your moisturising regimen, include the eyelids. Dry eyelids will show fine lines and will crease your eyeshadow, making the signs of ageing more prominent. Priming your eyelids before applying eye makeup is another way to conceal signs of ageing.

Groom the brows

A good set of eyebrows can make you look young in a jiffy, so take care of them. Find the right brow shape that suits your face. If the eyebrows have become thin or grey, groom them with an eyebrow pencil.

Exfoliate and moisturise the lips

Well moisturised and soft lips not only look youthful, but also make your lipstick perform better. Ensure to exfoliate your lips every two weeks to get rid of loose skin and keep your lipstick from bleeding. Keep your lips moisturised at all times to avoid cracks showing on the lips.

Plum up those lips

Succulent, plum lips are associated with youthfulness. Before applying a lipstick, apply foundation lightly on the lips. Line and fill the lips with a lip liner. Now apply a lip-plumping lipstick or apply a layer of gloss over your regular lipstick for that plumping effect.

Work on tired eyes

Tired looking eyes instantly add years to the face. Get adequate rest and stay hydrated to keep the eyes from looking tired. Apart from that, use cucumber or raw potato slices to rejuvenate the eyes and reduce puffiness.

Diminish dark circles

Dark circles can make you look aged beyond years. Apart from getting enough sleep, use good quality under-eye cream or natural oils like sweet almond oil to dwindle those dark circles and pigmentation under the eyes.

Limit intake of mangoes to avoid weight gain

Love mangoes but don't know how many you can safely consume to avoid gaining weight or experience blood sugar spikes? If you are someone who start and end their day and include the ripe fruit in all your snacks, you must exercise caution. Nutrition experts say mangoes must be consumed in moderation and combined with fibre and healthy fats to control glucose spike. Mangoes are full of antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and dietary fibre, but overconsumption can be troublesome and may derail the weight loss journey.

Eating mangoes in moderation can however improve digestion, boost your mental health, heart health and immunity. The vitamin C and carotenoids in mango can help protect the skin from sun damage. The vitamin A in mango is essential for maintaining healthy eyes and preventing age-related vision problems like macular degeneration. Mangoes are a good source of potassium, which helps regulate blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease. Besides, mangoes have tryptophan, an amino acid that can help boost mood.

How many mangoes one can safely eat in a day

Nutritionist Juhi Kapoor shares the right portion of mango per day in her recent Instagram post.

"To enjoy the benefits of mangoes while practicing portion control, it's recommended to stick to a reasonable serving size, such as half a large mango or around 150 grams. This portion would provide approximately 125-150 calories, allowing you to savour the delicious fruit while maintaining a balanced calorie intake," says Kapoor.

Consider the size of mango

The nutritionist says one must consider the size of a mango before eating giving an example of a large-sized mango that could contain 250-300 gram calories.

"Consider a large mango, typically weighing around 300-350 grams. A mango of this size can contain



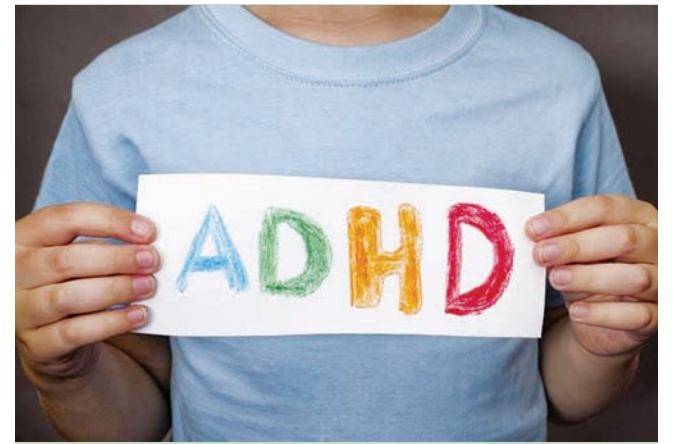
anywhere from 250 to 300 calories or more. To put this into perspective, a 300-calorie mango accounts for a substantial portion of the recommended daily calorie intake for many individuals. If an average adult requires around 2,000 calories per day, a single large mango would contribute roughly 15% of their total daily calorie needs," adds Kapoor.

Combine mango with healthy fats

Nutritionist Lovneet Batra recommends half to 1 fruit a day to prevent sugar spikes but suggests adding healthy fats.

"One medium mango has about 50 grams of carbs, so if you are having half to 1 fruit a day you are absolutely fine. But most important thing here is also how you combine this high-carb fruit. So I would suggest make sure you are having fibre and healthy fats with this. So you can have a cup of lemon water with soaked chia seeds and soaked almond and walnuts before having your mango. This will decrease the glucose spike after eating the fruit," she says.

Source: HT



Why depression, anxiety is common among children with ADHD?

A smaller brain region responsible for control over behaviour, processing of emotion, and communication may explain why about one in two children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is likely to experience depression, anxiety, and explosive outbursts, according to a study.

ADHD affects around one in 14 young people under the age of 18 and in around half of these cases it persists into adulthood.

Mood disorders such as depression, anxiety disorder, and verbal or physical outbursts due to an inability to regulate their emotions in children with ADHD were previously thought to be a result of problems with cognition and motivation.

But in the study, scientists from Fudan University in Shanghai in China and the University of Cambridge showed that emotional dysregulation occurs independently of these, and is because of a brain region called pars orbitalis.

"The pars orbitalis is a well-connected part of the brain, and if it hasn't developed properly it might make it difficult for individuals to control their emotions and communicate with others appropriately, especially in social situations," said Barbara Sahakian from the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge. For the study, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, the team identified 350 individuals with high symptoms of ADHD and found that more than half (51.4 per cent) had signs of emotion dysregulation and this was independent of cognitive and motivational problems.

Children with only low-ADHD symptoms but with a high score of emotion dysregulation at age 13 years were 2.85 times more likely to have developed high-ADHD symptoms by age 14 years.

Using brain imaging data, they found that pars orbitalis was smaller among children who scored highly for ADHD and emotional problems.

Source: IANS

Want to put brakes on obesity, leave these 4 things from today itself

Losing weight is the most difficult task in today's times. For this you have to sacrifice a lot. There are many people who have been sweating in the gym for months and have control over their diet, but still their weight is not changing even an inch. Such people should keep an eye on their diet, there are some things which people consider healthy or less harmful but due to these things your weight gets stuck. Let us know about this from health expert Kajal Aggarwal.

Packaged Idli-Dosa Batter

Nowadays people use packaged or pre-mixed food for ease of work. Idli dosa batter is also included in this list. People who want to lose weight include packaged dosa or idli batter in their diet thinking it to be healthy, but it is not healthy at all. It contains a lot of salt and preservatives which create obstacles in your weight loss journey. If you also eat it thinking



it to be healthy, then stop eating it from today itself.

Tomato Ketchup

During the weight loss journey, people often make healthy cheela but they often eat it with tomato ketchup or any kind of sauce made in the market and this is where the biggest mistake is made. According

to experts, tomato ketchup or any kind of sauce contains too much salt and preservatives, due to which your weight gets stuck. Instead of this you can consume curd or home made green chutney.

Mayonnaise

If you also use mayonnaise in sandwiches etc. then stop using it from today itself, because it is not healthy at all. Experts say that mayonnaise is a mixture of eggs and a lot of oil, due to which you consume a lot of calories and fat, which is not at all good for your weight loss journey.

Juice

People consider mocktails and packaged fruit juices to be healthy but these only increase your weight. It contains added sugar and preservatives, stay away from it today itself. Instead of this, eat fresh fruit juice or whole fruit.

Source: Herzindigi

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Meta teams up with crypto currency companies to fight online scams

Meta, in collaboration with major cryptocurrency companies, has announced a new online safety initiative aimed at combating the rising cases of online scams, including romance scams and financial fraud schemes known as pig butchering. The coalition, named Tech Against Scams, has joined the ongoing battle against cybercriminals who exploit social media and dating platforms to deceive unsuspecting victims.

According to Meta, the increasing use of social media, online dating platforms, and cryptocurrencies is also harbouring a space for online predators to use sophisticated tools to plan scams on an unprecedented scale. They try to connect with innocent users online and defraud them by tricking them, leveraging their emotional and financial vulnerabilities. These online scam cases have especially seen a rise in the last few years across the globe, specifically the cases of romance scam and pig butchering scam.

For the unaware in romance scam, fraudsters create fake identities on social media sites like Tinder or Hinge and establish intimate relationships with unsuspecting victims, typically through online dating platforms or social media. These scammers often employ flattery, affectionate messages, and promises of love and companionship to gain the trust and affection of their targets. However, once they manage to bond with the victim, they manipulate their victims into providing money or valuable information under false pretences, exploiting their emotions for financial gain.

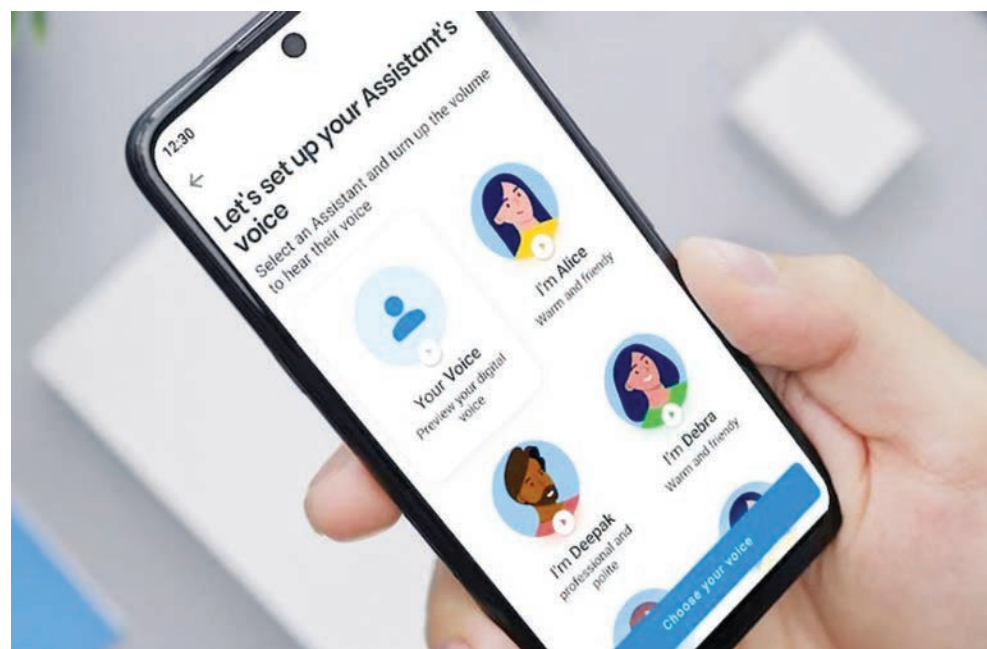
On the other hand, in the cases of pig butchering scam, scammers build trust with victims over time before tricking them into investing money in fake or non-existent opportunities. Originating from China, the term "pig butchering" refers to the gradual process of gaining someone's trust, akin to slowly cutting up a pig. Scammers often use lucrative offers and false promises of high returns to lure victims into investing large sums of money. However, once the victim has handed over their funds, the scammers disappear, leaving them with significant financial losses.

Truecaller collaborates with Microsoft to integrate personal voice with AI assistant

Truecaller is collaborating with Microsoft to significantly upgrade its existing artificial intelligence (AI)-powered AI Assistant. As a part of this partnership, the caller identification app will leverage the Microsoft Azure AI Speech feature called Personal Voice. This will be integrated with the AI Assistant to give it a replica voice of the user when the AI screens a call or responds on behalf of the user. The feature is being rolled out starting today, and it will be available in a select few countries at first. The company has confirmed the feature will be expanded to more countries soon.

Making the announcement via a community post, Truecaller said, "With the addition of Microsoft's Personal Voice, users of the Truecaller Assistant can now create a completely digital version of their own voice to use inside the Assistant." Notably, the AI Assistant was first introduced by the company in September 2022. The voice-based chatbot offers multiple functionalities such as screening calls, responding to calls, and even taking messages on behalf of the user. It can also record calls that can be listened to later, similar to a voicemail.

While this is a useful feature, Truecaller also offered a limited number of voices that could be used by the AI Assistant. With this, when someone calls, they would hear one of these chosen voices before the call is picked by the user. However, hearing a stranger's voice had the possibility of catching the caller off-



guard. The app maker is solving this issue by introducing Personal Voice which will let people use their own voice for the AI Assistant.

This feature has started rolling out to Truecaller Premium users in the US, Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, Sweden, and Chile. It will be expanded to other regions soon, the company stated.

How to set up Personal Voice in AI Assistant

- One thing to note is that the feature is only available on Truecaller Premium. If you want to use it,

you'll have to purchase the subscription.

- To see the feature, you need to be on the latest version of the app. Ensure to update it.
- Once done, open the app and go to Settings.
- Go to Assistant settings.
- Go to Set Up Personal Voice and follow the instructions.
- You will have to record your voice for about a minute and speak out the words shown on the screen, after which your AI-generated voice replication process will be complete.

iOS 18 might bring new smart song transitions and Passthrough features for Apple Music

Just a few weeks before the WWDC 2024, a new rumour is doing rounds online. The rumour has it that with iOS 18 and macOS 15, the Apple Music app will get a few new features, namely Smarter Song Transitions and Passthrough. While Smarter Song Transition is meant to improve the experience of Apple Music, the Passthrough feature is expected to improve both Apple Music and QuickTime Player.

Apple is allegedly testing a new feature called Smart Song Transitions, according to AppleInsider. This feature is reportedly an improvement to the current crossfade option. This crossfade comes into play while transitioning from one song to the next. To explain a bit about crossfade, it bridges the gap between songs by lowering the volume of the current song playing while raising the volume of the upcoming song. This creates a successful transition without the music ever coming to an end.



The expectation of this feature is that it will let Apple Music users alter the crossfade duration from 1 to 20 seconds.

The next feature leaked is dubbed as Passthrough. According to the AppleInsider report, this feature will be included in Apple Music and QuickTime Player. However, the report adds, there is no further information on this feature. We do not know how this feature will

work or how helpful this feature will be for users. The report suggests that this feature is related to Spatial Audio with Dolby Atmos.

Additionally, Apple is also believed to be working on a Spatial Gaming feature. But just like Passthrough, no extra details have been found in this feature.

Apple is gearing up for its annual developer conference, WWDC 2024, to be held from June 10 to June 14. In this event, the company will be announcing all the major updates they will be adding up in the new generation of Apple products. The expectation this time is that Apple will introduce the most awaited next-gen iOS update -- iOS 18.

The anticipations this time have concluded that Apple's major focus will be on the AI. At the launch of iPad Pro and iPad Air, it was indicated that Apple is preparing for a major AI overhaul with iOS 18. The tech giant has hinted that the upcoming launches will be power-packed with generative AI capabilities.

Paytm posts Rs 550 crore loss in Q4, hints at job cuts

One 97 Communications Ltd, the parent company of Paytm, clocked a net loss of Rs 550 crore in the January-March period of FY24, a 3.2 times jump compared to the same period in the last fiscal year. Paytm's revenue was down by 20 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

Its quarterly result took a beating after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ban on some of the services of Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL). The company posted a 3 per cent decline in its revenue for the fourth quarter of FY24 to Rs 2,267 crore.

This comes as the company plans to achieve significant cost efficiencies through artificial intelligence (AI)-led capabilities. The digital payments major is planning a "leaner organisation structure" and the "pruning of non-core businesses", indicating there may be job redundancies at the company in the near future.

India rises to 39th rank on global tourism index

India's rank on the World Economic Forum's Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 has risen to 39th place, with global tourism activities returning to pre-pandemic levels, the annual report showed.

While the US topped the list, India is ranked highest in South Asia and among the lower-middle-income economies, the WEF said.

India was ranked 54th in the previously published index in 2021, though changes made to the index parameters limit its comparability to earlier years.

After the US, Spain, Japan, France and Australia figure among the top five in the 2024 list. The index, prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, showed India is highly price-competitive (18th) and boasts competitive air transport (26th) and ground and port (25th) infrastructure.

In particular, India's strong natural (6th), cultural (9th) and non-leisure (9th) resources help drive travel, and the country is only one of three to score in the top 10 for all the resource pillars, the WEF said.

Moreover, despite a decline compared to 2019, the country still scores well for travel and tourism demand sustainability, especially thanks to more sustainable long stays among inbound visitors.

US House approves crypto bill despite SEC warning of 'immeasurable risk'

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The US House of Representatives passed a landmark bill on Wednesday that aims to establish a new regulatory framework for digital assets, setting the stage for a potential showdown with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

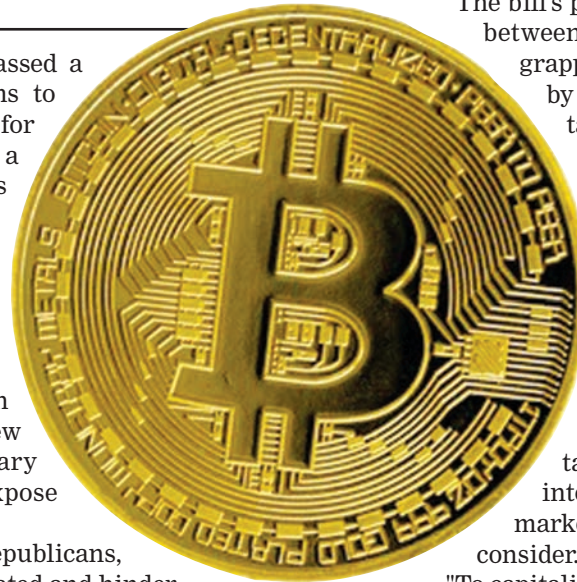
The "Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act," passed with bipartisan support in a 279-136 vote, seeks to clarify the legal status of cryptocurrencies and foster industry growth. However, the bill faces an uncertain future in the Senate and drew sharp criticism from SEC Chair Gary Gensler, who warned it could expose investors to "immeasurable risk."

Supporters of the bill, primarily Republicans, argue that existing regulations are outdated and hinder innovation in the burgeoning crypto sector. They contend the legislation would provide much-needed clarity and attract investment.

The House vote comes at a pivotal moment for the crypto industry, as the SEC appears poised to approve applications for spot ether exchange-traded funds (ETFs), a move that has boosted market sentiment.

However, in an unusual rebuke, Gensler issued a statement expressing deep concerns about the bill's potential consequences. He argued it would "create new regulatory gaps" by exempting certain crypto investment contracts from securities laws, leaving investors vulnerable to fraud and manipulation.

Gensler, who has taken a tough stance on the crypto industry during his tenure, reiterated his belief that digital assets should be subject to the same rules and investor protections as traditional financial instruments. He criticised the bill for allowing crypto issuers to self-certify their products as commodities, potentially circumventing SEC oversight.



The bill's passage highlights the ongoing tension between crypto proponents and regulators grappling with the novel challenges posed by digital assets. Whether the Senate will take up the bill and whether the SEC will mount a legal challenge remain to be seen.

Shardeum Cofounder Nischal Shetty commented, "The FIT21 Act is a huge win for the Web3 ecosystem. By offering regulatory clarity and fostering innovation, this legislation has the potential to drive wider crypto adoption and expand the Web3 landscape. The US is taking a crucial step towards integrating crypto assets with traditional markets, a move that India should closely consider."

"To capitalise on this momentum, it's vital to focus on growing the Web3 ecosystem in India. This includes educating the youth about Web3, increasing the number of developers working on Web3 products, and creating more career opportunities in this space. Developing consumer dApps tailored for the Indian market will be essential. With the clarity and support provided by initiatives like FIT21, we can expect a significant boost in adoption, which will naturally lead to better tax laws and regulatory frameworks," he added.

Meanwhile, Avinash Shekhar, Cofounder & CEO, Pi42 said, "Today's passage marks a watershed moment for the crypto industry. The FIT21 Act is seen as a crucial step towards providing the regulatory clarity needed to support the growth and maturation of the digital asset ecosystem in the US while protecting consumers and maintaining market integrity. This is a massive win for crypto considering it clarifies the roles of the SEC and CFTC in regulating crypto. ETH surges on ETF hopes. \$231M floods exchanges this week, short squeeze sends ETH price up 22%, with 9,300 ETH being liquidated on the short side over a 48-hour period."

RBI approves record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to Centre for FY24

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Reserve Bank of India will pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than double of what was budgeted expectation, helping shore up revenue ahead of a new government taking office.

The RBI board, at its meeting on Wednesday, approved the transfer of surplus, the central bank said in a statement. The government had budgeted a receipt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore as dividends from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the interim budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) presented in February this year.

The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the fiscal 2022-23. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19. The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India held under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.

"The Board...approved the transfer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2023-24," the RBI said in a statement. The central government aims to contain the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue to Rs 17.34 lakh crore (5.1 per cent of the GDP) during the current financial year.

Source: PTI



Less borrowing, more funds for growth

- The dividend payout will strengthen the Central Government's fiscal position. The government can reduce its borrowing which will leave more funds in the banking sector for loans to corporates and consumers to spur economic growth
- The amount is higher than the government expected as the interim budget documents for the ongoing financial year show a dividend of Rs 1.02 lakh crore from the RBI, public sector banks and other financial institutions

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Sikh History This Week

MAY 24 TO MAY 30

24th May



1606 Guru Arjan Dev reached Lahore for martyrdom in protection of the Dharam. For 6 days he suffered immense tortures. At the time of martyrdom, Sai Mia Meer and a priest from Puratgal, Saint Jaerom Jaevier witnessed the martyrdom.

1710 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur enters Sirhind city.

1960 Master Tara Singh and hundreds of Sikhs arrested.

25th May



1606 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Sixth, Guru Har Gobind Ji. Patshahi sixth, Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji, ascended to Guruship of GurSikhism. Just after the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, Baba Budha anointed Hargobind as the sixth Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Arjan had sent to Hargobind, five paisas and a coconut through a messenger. Baba Budha put those in front of Hargobind and applied a 'tilak' (saffron mark) on his forehead, bowed to him and declared him to be the next Guru of the Sikhs. The Guru then asked Baba Budha to adorn him with a sword. Baba Budha who had not handled a sword before, tied it on the wrong side of the Guru. On realising his mistake he wanted to move it to the right side, but the Guru said not to remove that sword, but instead to put another one on the right side, which Baba Budha did. Thus the Guru wore two swords simultaneously. He declared that one sword represented 'Piri' (spirituality) or Bhakti while the other represented 'Miri' (Temporality or Shakti). He told his followers that in the Guru's house spiritual and temporal powers would be combined. He declared that his rosary would be the sword-belt and he would wear the emblem of royalty on his turban. Further he instructed the Sikhs to keep a sword and a horse and

always recite the name of God from their lips.

1675 Kashmiri Pandits, led by Kirpa Ram, arrive in Anandpur Sahib to ask Guru Tegh Bahadur for help in preserving Hindu dharam.

26th May



1886 Maharaja Dalip Singh reentered Sikh faith. He received Khande Di Pahul (Amrit) on May 26, 1886 at Aden. Earlier, on March 8, 1853, Maharaja Dalip Singh was formally admitted into the Christian Church with water brought from Ganges nearby at his own private dwelling house. The service was conducted by the Rev. M.W. Jay, with Dr. John S. Login, Mrs. Login, Colonel Alexander and Mr. Guise signing the Baptism register as witnesses.

1960 Morcha initiated for seeking Punjabi Subha.

1984 The last meeting was held between Akalis and Indira Gandhi. The last meeting was held between Akalis and Indira Gandhi regime. Several such meetings preceded this meeting. However, by now it became abundantly clear that this was in fact a drama. The government had planned an attack on Darbar Sahib for several months. Russian KGB and even British Intelligence was guiding the invasion of Darbar Sahib.

1988 The President of India issued an ordinance banning the Sikh fundamentals of Miri-Piri (Cohesive oneness of Religion and Politics). An integral part of the Sikh religion Miri-Piri is the most fundamental to Sikh religion. This ordinance (which later became law) meant that the Sikhs shall have to adopt only that part of their religion which the Hindu majority will allow. This was the final blow to the Sikh nation which made the professing of their religion under the subjugation of the Hindu regime.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in his capacity as Prime Minister of India, visited Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar and apologized to the Sikhs for the following two abominations committed by the Government of India.

27th May



1710 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur announces the establishment of Sikh rule in a heavy Diwan organized in Sirhind city.

1921 The Governor of Punjab arrested Sardul Singh Caveeshar for spearheading the non-cooperation resolution at SGPC meeting of May 11, 1921. This meeting was really a confrontation that once again demonstrated the majority of the radicals in the SGPC.

28th May

1922 A meeting is called at Kaulgarh by Karam Singh Gargaj group to reform the Jholichuks.

1948 SGPC came under the control of Congress Sikhs.

29th May

1606 Martyrdom, Fifth Patshah, Guru Arjan Dev Ji. Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) Guru Arjan, the 'Prince of Martyrs' and the 'Prophet of Peace', proffered his precious life to nurture the glory that was to be the Sikh Panth. The Fifth Master's life was marked by divine bliss and sublime sacrifices, born of a sweet acceptance of God's Will. Gifted with a quintessential poetic afflatus, and immeasurable imaginative sympathies, the Guru gave the movement of Sikhism a definite direction, perspective and program. He made the new faith coeval or coextensive with the whole gamut of existence and raised its exquisite edifice on values for which there is neither death nor change.

Guru Arjan Dev adorned the sacred throne of Guru Nanak from Sept. 1, 1581 to May 30, 1606. Born at Goindwal on April 15, 1563, he was the youngest and noblest son of Guru Ram Das and Mata Bibi Bhani. On 23 Hadh sunmat 1636, he married Ganga Devi, daughter of Krishan Chand of Mau village. He had an innate poetic sensibility which was exquisitely displayed in the epistles that he sent to his father from Lahore. They are deeply expressive of the pangs of separation and the exuberance of Love. The Fourth Master's decision to make Guru Arjan his spiritual heir was bitterly opposed by Prithvi Chand who contended that being the eldest son, he alone was entitled to the Guruship. Thus, he could never reconcile himself to his younger brother's installation as Guru. Under Guru Arjan Dev the Sikh movement registered great progress. In sunmat 1645, he cemented the Santokhsar sarovar. Further, the Guru not only completed the construction of the Sarovars started at 'Guru Ka Chak' by his predecessor but also constructed two more Sarovars. He had the Harmandar built in the middle of Amritsar Sarovar and invited a celebrated Muslim divine, Mian Mir, to lay its foundation stone in sunmat 1645. Remarkable for its architectural and aesthetic beauty and unique in its conception, the temple with its four doors symbolizes the inborn equality of all mankind.

1606 Shashter Dharan, Sixth Patshah, Guru Hargobind Ji.

1712 Badshah Jahandar Shah seeks reinforcements to deal with Sikhs.

1923 SGPC again declares the Babbar Akalis as anti-Panthic.

1960 The first batch courted arrest for Punjabi Suba agitation.

1981 The Hindus took out anti-Sikh procession at Amritsar.

30th May

1710 Bahadur Shah called for volunteers for Jihad against the Sikhs. Bahadur Shah was appraised of the news of Banad Singh's exploits. Taking this into view the poignancy of the situation, he made up with the Rajputs and called for volunteers for "Jihad", holy war, against the Sikhs. He ordered the mobilisation of all available forces, rallied Bundhela Rajputs against the Sikhs and himself personally proceeded in person to the Punjab.



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND
CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 27 TO JUNE 2, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

Ganesha says there can be happiness and peace in family life. You may be seen spending loving moments with your spouse. You may get success in the field of education. If you want to change any subject then time is good for that also. Those who are working may get opportunities for promotion in the job, it would be better to stick to their old job. You may also be successful in expanding your business. Students can participate in any competition and win in it. If you want to invest in the stock market then this is not the right time. You can get your house decorated and repaired, expenses may be high but you may also get sudden financial gains. Health may improve.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be mixed for Taurus people. Misunderstandings may cause discord in love relationships. Nothing special is visible in marital life also. Your expenses may be higher this week. If any of your legal work is pending then you can get it completed by paying money. If you buy a new vehicle, its price may also be higher. You may gradually get success in the field of education but you may concentrate less on your studies, due to which you may get lower marks. Time is good for higher education. Considering the ongoing ups and downs in health, it would be better to consult a good doctor. You can also spend money on home decoration and repairs. There may be talk of promotion in the job. There may be an opportunity for business expansion.



GEMINI

Ganesha says you can spend loving moments with your spouse. Some confusion may arise in love relationships. You may get success in the field of education. Students may be seen trying to study diligently. Money may also be spent more. The ongoing ups and downs in health can trouble you. You can also buy a new house. New technologies can be used to increase business. It would be better for employed people to stick to their old jobs. You may have to avoid getting into any debate. Obstacles coming into your brother's marriage may be removed. An auspicious program can be organized. Today you may also get a chance to go on a trip. You can get success in competition. You may get support from teachers.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week is going to be better for you. There can be happiness and peace in family life. You can spend some of your time with family members. You may be seen working

hard to fulfil the needs of the family. Love can be seen in married life. Your love life may improve. The financial situation may remain strong. If you want to invest in property then this is a good time. If you have already made any investment then you can get full benefit from it also. Employed people may get opportunities for promotion in the job. People doing business can also make new contacts from abroad. You may get success in the field of education but you may spend some of your time with friends and on social media, which may harm your studies.



LEO

Ganesha says will get support from family. You will be seen spending loving moments with your spouse. Your spouse will get a new achievement, which will create a happy atmosphere. Love life is not going to be anything special. If you had made any investment earlier, you will get full benefit from it. If you are lending money to someone, he will repay you on time. If you are thinking of buying land or a house, then check the paperwork carefully. You will achieve success in the field of education. The youth who are preparing for the competition still need to work harder. People working will receive praise from their boss. People doing business will make new contacts, due to which they will be successful in taking their business forward.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for you. Sweetness will remain in love relationships. You will also introduce your lover to your family. Your married life will be full of happiness. Will also go on a trip to some religious place with family members, where everyone will be seen as very happy.

This week is going to be expensive for you. If you are thinking of buying some land, then this week is good for you. You may achieve success in the field of education. If you are preparing for any competition, you will have to work harder for it. People doing business will be successful in expanding their businesses. Working people will get opportunities for promotion in the job. You can get support from seniors and juniors. A good relationship will come for single people.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for you. There will be peace and happiness in family life. Your love life will be good but your mind will be a bit restless this week. You will not be able to make any decisions. Some problems can also arise due to misunderstanding in relationships. You will achieve success in the field of education.

It will be better for you if you take advice from an expert for investing money in the share market. You will also spend on land or vehicle, which will be very good for you. To improve your health, include morning walks, yoga and meditation in your daily routine. People working will make changes in their jobs, which will be very good for them. People doing business will think of doing some new work.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for you. Will get support from family. You can spend loving moments with your partner. There will be ups and downs in your spouse's health, due to which your expenses will also increase. Time is good to invest in any kind of business. You will be successful. Time is better to invest in the share market. If you want to give a loan to someone, you can give it. Family expenses will also increase. If people doing business are investing money in some new work or project, then you will get benefits from it. Working people will get opportunities for promotion in their jobs. Students will have to work harder in the field of education. Time is good for higher education.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says there will be ups and downs in your health, due to which you will remain very worried. If you work hard in the field of education, you will achieve success. If businesspeople invest money in a new project, they will get benefits. It would be better for employed people to use their words very carefully while talking to their boss. Will get success in competition. There will be happiness and peace in family life. Will spend loving moments with your spouse. You will see some sourness in your love life. You will also spend on purchasing land and a new vehicle. This week you will think many times before spending, due to which much of your works will be stopped. Investing in the stock market will be beneficial.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is going to be full of happiness for you. Will get support from family. You will also go on a trip to some religious place with your family, where everyone will look very happy. There may be peace and happiness in married life. Your love life will not be anything special. You will achieve success in the field of education. People preparing for the competition will get success. There will be ups and downs in health. There will be an excess in your expenses. If you are planning to buy land then this week is better. It would be better for employed people to stick to their old jobs. People doing business will take the business forward by adopting new methods of business. You will get many income opportunities. Time is good to invest in the stock market.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be very happy for you. You will seem a little worried about your health, it would be better if you consult a good doctor. Students will study with less concentration, due to which they will not get the desired results in the examination. You can invest your money in buying a house, building, property, shop, plot, etc. This will give you good benefits in future. There will be discord in marital life. There will be

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 27 TO JUNE 2
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

MAY 27

Ganesha says that as the economy improves, you get the benefits of your leave. You may be in a better position financially if you start new projects and plans. You can be proud of your children's achievements. You will be relieved to know that any pending legal issues can be resolved successfully. Patients who have any chronic disease may need to take special care of themselves. The benefits of yoga and meditation are immense. Your financial commitments may increase and you may earn good profits.

MAY 28

Ganesha says that getting new sources of income can improve your financial condition. New agreements can be very beneficial. You may undertake fruitful journeys frequently which may yield desired results. You may want to seek blessings from a spiritual person or visit some holy place. Getting support and benefits from influential people can be a result of your extrovert personality. During this period, there is a possibility of transaction of real estate or purchase of vehicle.

MAY 29

Ganesha says you are urged not to trust others too much at this time, especially in important matters. It would not be in your best interest to disclose private and confidential information. The sudden influence of a spiritual person can bring amazing changes in your life. In addition to giving you love and attention, your spouse and family may be sympathetic to your concerns. Long-distance travel may take some people abroad. In a workplace environment, you may be required to handle important tasks with a high level of responsibility.

MAY 30

Ganesha says may today be a day to remember, full of success and luck. Women may benefit at this time as new opportunities may emerge to advance their job prospects. The elders and younger ones in the family may need a lot of your attention. Your spouse's health may give you cause for worry and anxiety. Students should focus on their schoolwork and plan for the future. Romance and new relationships are possible for the unmarried.

MAY 31

Ganesha says that success today means being happy in whatever you do. You may get attractive returns on past investments and long pending legal issues may be resolved in your favor. You may receive unexpected financial and kind donations from your entire family and friends. Some minor health problems may occur due to stress and tension. You may become more spiritually connected and this can have a profound effect on the way you think and behave.

JUNE 1

Ganesha says it appears that this day may bring rewards and appreciation for women working in the advertising and marketing industries as well as scientists, lawyers, and writers. As the day progresses, your financial gains may increase, due to which you may spend more on luxuries. Do not ignore medical advice when necessary as health issues may increase anxiety. If you and your family members can communicate better, your family can be happier, more peaceful, and more prosperous.

MAY 2

Ganesha says today is the ideal time to implement important changes and make decisive choices. We can resolve issues related to real estate, partnerships, and new businesses. Some positive news is expected from the children's side. Today's highlights may include reconstruction, construction, and social gatherings. Growth and success can come automatically if you focus your efforts. Opportunities for both business and leisure travel abroad may arise. Profits can be achieved through selective betting.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwalla.com
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contd from page 36

sourness in love relationships. You will spend a lot of money on repairing home decor. Time is better for the stock market. People working will have to work harder in their jobs. If you do any business related to property then you will get profit in it. Students will seem very happy after studying new subjects. You will get support from teachers.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for you. You will feel very energetic regarding your health. Students will be seen trying to concentrate on studies but some problems will arise, which you will have to face firmly. It would be better for employed people to stick to their old jobs.

You will get many good opportunities in the coming time. Businesspeople will be successful in restarting their stalled plans.

Will achieve success. Will get support from family. There can be talk of relationships between unmarried people. Disputes with spouses will end. There will be arguments in love relationships.

There will be a lot of unnecessary expenses this week, so you will have to pay attention to fixed savings also. There will be a lot of expenditure on family needs also.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his

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Budhwa Mangal falls during Jyeshtha month every year. On this day, the aged form of Lord Hanuman is worshiped and that's why it is known as Budhwa Magal. By Worshipping Hanuman ji, one can get rid of all their troubles and problems of life. So, if you also want to get relief from some problem of your life or want to get a heartfelt wish fulfilled then you can worship Hanuman ji on the day of Budhwa Mangal.

According to Hindu mythology, the first Budhwa Mangal will fall on 28th May this year.

According to mythology, Hanuman ji is the god who is still alive on earth. Following the orders of his beloved Lord Shri Ram, he does the welfare of his devotees while still alive on earth. It is a religious belief that worshipping Lord Hanuman removes all the miseries of the devotees.

The first Budhwa Mangal will be observed on 28th May 2024 and an auspicious yoga is also going to form on this day, known as Brahma Yoga. This yoga will begin on 28th May in the morning at 04:27 and will last till midnight, 02:05 am.

Brahma Yoga is an auspicious yoga that offers happiness, materialistic pleasures, knowledge, and longevity. Donations and several other auspicious things are performed during this yoga. If you are thinking of doing something good or starting a new work, then you can do it during this yoga which will form on Budhwa Mangal. All the work done during this yoga is successful.

The history of these auspicious days goes back to the Ramayana and Mahabharata period. It is believed that once, one of the Pandav Son Bheem became too proud of his strength and power. At that time, Lord Hanuman appeared in the form of an old monkey.

Lord Hanuman taught a lesson to Bhima in this form and since then, that day has come to be known as Budhwa Mangal in Hindu religion.

The story of Hanuman ji's birth is more related to the Ramayana period. When Lord Hanuman went to Lanka in search of Mata Sita, Ravana held him as a captive and set his tail on fire. In return, Hanuman ji set fire to the entire Lanka with his burnt tail.

According to beliefs, that day was the Budhwa Mangal of Jyeshtha month. Since then, the Budhwa Mangal of Jyeshtha month has been considered important to worship Lord Hanuman.

If you want the auspicious blessings of Lord Hanuman, then you must visit Lord Hanuman's temple on Budhwa Mangal and offer him Prasad. The donation also holds vast importance on this day. You can also offer a leaf of a banyan tree to Lord Hanuman.

And, when this leaf dries, let it float in a holy river. Following this remedy will help you get rid of all problems in your life.

How To Perform The Pooja On Budhwa Mangal?

On the day of Budhwa Mangal, you must wake up early in the morning and get done with your morning routine. After this, you need to clean the Pooja place of your house. You should wear neat and clean clothes on this day. Then, take the place of Kush in front of Pooja place.

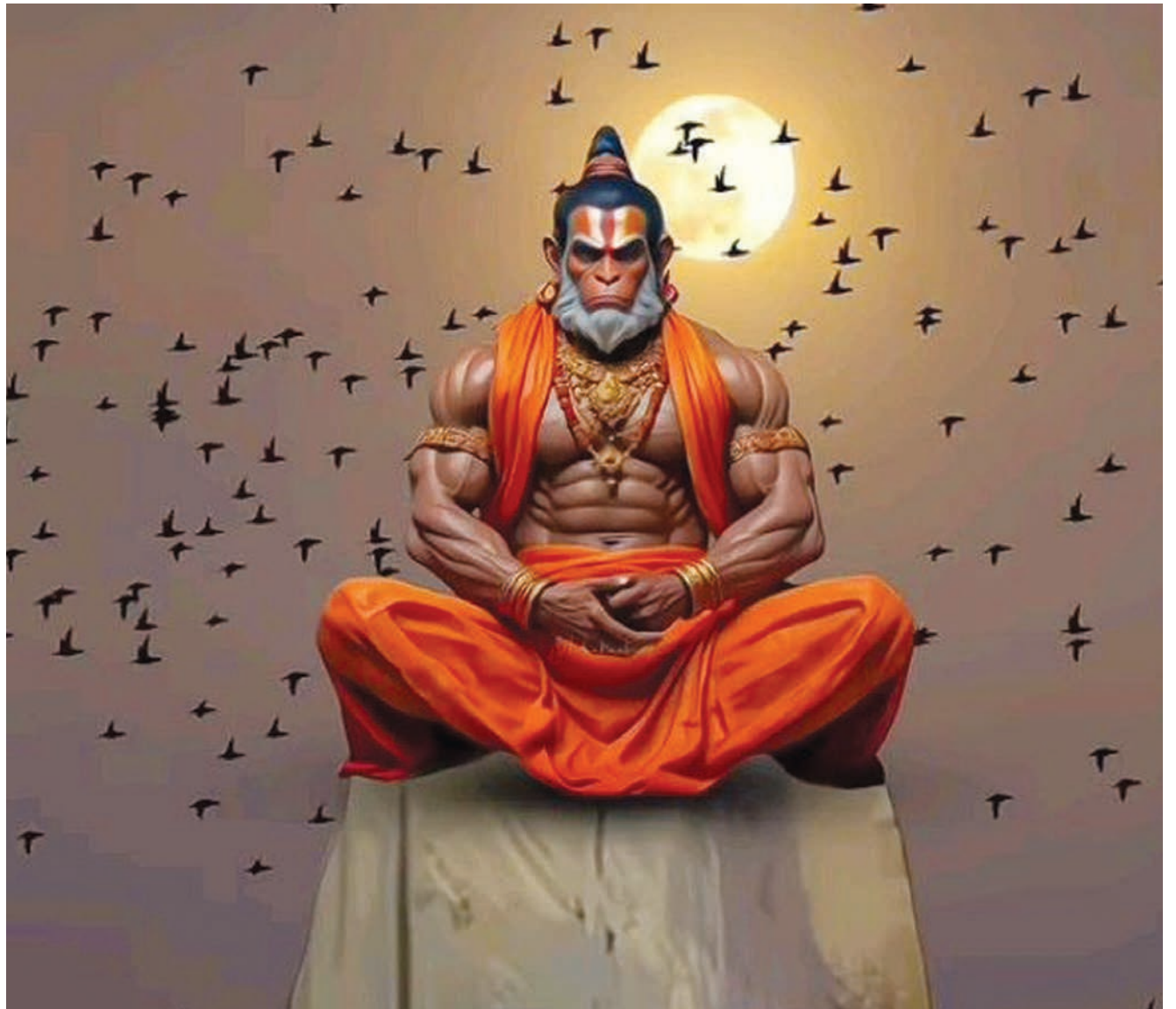
If you are observing a fast on that day, then you must light up a Diya of Ghee in front of Lord Hanuman and take an oath to keep a fast. After this, offer Sindoor, flowers, Tilak, and Dhoop-Deep to Hanuman ji. Also, he loves Boondi Ladoos so make sure to offer him this sweet on Budhwa Mangal. Later, pray to Lord Hanuman and make sure to recite Hanuman Chalisa.

Must Remember Things To Worship Hanuman

In Vedic Astrology, keeping a fast on Tuesday is considered extremely important. If someone in your house has kept a Budhwa Mangal fast, then you must avoid Tamasic foods and stay away from alcohol as well

It is inauspicious to wear white or black colored clothes on Tuesdays. Also, you should not lend or borrow money on this day.

Budhwa Mangal



Important information

Budhwa Mangal Dates in Jyeshtha month 2024

First Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 28 May 2024

Second Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 04 June 2024

Third Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Fourth Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Donate on the day of Bhudwa Mangal and don't disrespect or insult anyone. It would be best if you follow celibacy on this day.

During Bada Mangal, a certain tradition is followed every year and that is the tradition of offering Sindoor to Bajrangbali. It is believed it pleases Bajrangbali and he fulfills the desires of his devotees. But it is a thing to think about how this tradition began? Actually, there is a story related to this tradition too. So, let us know about it.

According to the Ramayana, it is said that Lord Hanuman once saw Maa Sita applying vermilion on her forehead. He asked Sita Mata that why is she applying Sindoor on her forehead? Then she answered that when she applied Sindoor, it pleased her husband Lord Rama

“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

and it also increased his life span. Then Hanumanji began to think that if a pinch of Vermilion makes Lord Rama happy then why not apply it on my whole body so that he will also be happy with me and he will be immortal.

Then he immediately covered himself in Vermillion. When Lord Rama saw him covered in Sindoor, he asked the reason for it from Hanuman ji. Then Lord Hanuman explained everything to him and Lord Rama hugged his devotee Hanuman Ji. Since that time, this tradition has begun. So, if you also have a keen desire for something, you have more problems in life, or you want to get success in any of the work, then on Bada Mangal, you must visit Hanuman Temple and offer Sindoor.

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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

Norway, Spain and Ireland recognize...

offers a political solution for Israelis and Palestinians alike: Two states, living side by side, in peace and security," Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said.

In response, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz ordered the immediate recall of the Israeli ambassadors to Spain, Ireland and Norway. "I am sending a clear message today: Israel will not be complacent against those who undermine its sovereignty and endanger its security."

The United States government reiterated its position that recognizing a Palestinian state was premature and must be the result of direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The president is a strong supporter of a two-state solution and has been throughout his career. He believes a Palestinian state should be realized through direct negotiations between the parties, not through unilateral recognition," said National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson.

More than 140 other countries around the world recognize a Palestinian state, but most are outside Europe. Before Wednesday's announcement, only a few countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Sweden, had formally recognized it.

A broader group of European nations has pressed for a two-state solution, one that includes the creation of a demilitarized Palestinian state drawn on the borders as they were in 1967, with Jerusalem as a shared capital.

That long-imagined dream - the goal, too, of generations of U.S. diplomats - has never seemed so far away.

The war is still raging in Gaza, with daily assaults by Israeli forces in the southern city of Rafah. Meanwhile, Hamas militants have shown signs of reorganizing in the north of Gaza and are still firing the occasional rocket into Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pushed back against the U.S. idea that the Palestinian Authority, which governs part of the West Bank, would play any role in governing postwar Gaza - or any kind of solution to the conflict.

On Tuesday, May 21 night, the Israeli Foreign Ministry released a statement and video on social media warning Ireland that "Recognizing a Palestinian state will lead to more terrorism, instability in the region and jeopardize any prospects for peace."

"Don't be a pawn in the hands of Hamas," the post said, accompanied by a video with images of Hamas militants celebrating their capture of Israeli hostages.

Hard-line members of Netanyahu's government also pushed back. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said in a statement from Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock, "the countries that recognized a Palestinian state this morning want to give a reward to the kidnappers of the female observers and their many supporters in Gaza - we will not allow any surrender that would even include a declaration of a Palestinian state. Hamas must be totally annihilated - not rewarded."

Israel says 125 hostages remain unaccounted for after being kidnapped by Hamas in the October attacks.

Israel's finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, said Israel should approve three new settlements in the occupied West Bank, one for each country that recognized a Palestinian state, and cut funding for the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas sparked the most recent war with its assault on Israeli towns, military bases and a music concert near the Gaza border on Oct. 7. Some 1,200 Israelis were killed. Palestinian health authorities say Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 35,000 people, mostly civilians.

The Palestinian Authority, which could end up ruling a future state, welcomed the recognition, as did its rival Hamas, which is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.

Diplomats said having three European nations recognize a Palestinian state together gave the gesture

more heft - and diluted the blowback from Israel.

The addition of Norway is especially significant, as the country was instrumental in the negotiation of the Oslo accords in 1993, which created the Palestinian Authority.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez had been visiting European and Middle Eastern countries to garner support for an announcement, as well as a possible cease-fire in Gaza, his office said.

"We will not let the possibility of the two-state solution, which is the only just and sustainable solution to this terrible conflict, be destroyed by force," Sánchez told the Spanish parliament to a standing ovation by some lawmakers.

"The time has come to move from words to actions, to tell the millions of innocent Palestinians who are suffering that we are with them, that there is hope ... the land and identity of Palestine will continue to exist," Sánchez said.

Prime Minister Simon Harris underlined that Ireland unequivocally supports Israel's right to exist "securely and in peace with its neighbors." But he also referenced his country's thirst for independence from Britain in the early 20th century. "From our own history we know what it means: recognition is an act of powerful political and symbolic value," he said.

"I'm confident that further countries will join us in taking this important step in the coming weeks," Harris said. There were reports that Slovenia may also recognize a Palestinian state soon, but on Monday it said it was not ready to do so.

Earlier this month, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed by a resounding majority a resolution in support of Palestinian membership. It also granted new rights to the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank, in its current capacity as "a nonmember observer state."

The resolution won 143 votes, with 25 countries abstaining. Nine nations voted against it: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Argentina, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Israel and the United States.

The resolution, offered by the United Arab Emirates, called for the U.N. Security Council - which must rule on Palestinian membership - to "reconsider the matter favorably." In April, the United States used its veto in the Security Council to block the Palestinian bid to become a full member of the United Nations. (Agencies)

Nikki Haley says she will vote for...

"Yes," Haley said, when asked if she would support a second bid by Trump, in whose Cabinet she served for the first half of his administration.

"I would not run if President Trump ran, and I would talk to him about it," Haley said, asked by The Associated Press if a possible Trump bid could preclude her own effort, were he to announce first. "That's something that we'll have a conversation about at some point, if that decision is something that has to be made."

"I will be voting for Trump," Haley said on Wednesday, May 22, in response to a question during her appearance at the Hudson Institute, a top conservative think-tank in the American Capital, as she delivered a speech on national security and foreign policy.

"As a voter, I put my priorities on a president who's going to have the backs of our allies and hold our enemies to account, who would secure the border, no more excuses; a president who would support capitalism and freedom; a president who understands we need less debt, not more debt," she said.

"Trump has not been perfect on these policies. I've made that clear many, many times. But (Joe) Biden has been a catastrophe. So, I will be voting for Trump. Having said that... I stand by what I said in my suspension speech," she said.

Haley was born Nimarata Nikki Randhawa in Bamberg, South Carolina, to immigrant Sikh parents from Amritsar, Punjab. Haley is the first Indian-American to serve in a presidential cabinet.

Haley said she has "no regrets" about her Republican primary bid: "We left it all on the field." She also

thanked the primary voters who have continued to back her even after she withdrew from the race - a potential warning sign for Trump. And she reiterated the call she'd made when exiting the race in March for the former president to reach out to those voters.

"Trump would be smart to reach out to the millions of people who voted for me and continue to support me and not assume that they're just going to be with him. I genuinely hope he does that," Haley said in response to the question.

Anti-Trump Republican voters largely coalesced behind Ms Haley's presidential bid earlier this year and her dormant candidacy is still picking up support more than two months after she left the race.

She won more than 20 per cent of the vote in at least two state primary elections over the past fortnight.

But she did not call on her supporters to do the same. "I stand by what I said in my suspension speech," she told the audience.

Speculation is now likely to grow over whether Haley will formally mend ties with Trump and endorse him.

In her speech, the former South Carolina governor slammed President Biden on his foreign policy and let China, Russia, and Iran grow stronger.

"Since the fall of Afghanistan, North Korea has gotten more aggressive towards South Korea and Japan. China is preparing to invade Taiwan. Of course, Iran and Russia have already started wars of their own. Without the Afghanistan debacle, Iran would have thought twice before letting Hamas attack Israel. For that matter, Russia likely would not have invaded Ukraine," she said.

"While the Ukrainians have proven to be amazing fighters, Biden refuses to help them win. He gives them just enough to survive while Russian missiles and tanks grind their country to dust. It seems like the President wants a negotiated ceasefire in which Ukraine cedes some of its territory that Russia stole. That will only leave Russia as the winner and wanting more," she alleged. The same goes for Israel, she said.

Hamas was better positioned to attack Israel because Biden spent three-plus years appeasing Iran. He eased sanctions, forked over billions of dollars, and begged the Ayatollahs to get back in the nuclear deal, she said.

"Biden has given Iran nothing but cash and time. Cash and time it used to strengthen its terrorist proxies. Cash and time are used to get to the brink of a nuclear bomb. Joe Biden's legacy is already clear. He will go down in history as the commander-in-chief who refused to stop our enemies.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

External Affairs Ministry processing...

"MEA has received a letter from the Karnataka government for cancellation of diplomatic passport in respect of MP Prajwal Revanna. This is being processed," the source said.

Prajwal Revanna, 33, is the grandson of JD(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. He is believed to have been in Europe since April 27.

Prajwal Revanna assumed that political power of family would let him get away with anything, say people in Hassan. The Karnataka government has set up a Special Investigation Team to investigate the cases against Mr. Prajwal. Besides seeking the cancellation of the diplomatic passport, the Chief Minister urged Mr. Modi to "take prompt and concerted actions to secure Mr. Prajwal Revanna's return to India".

"It is shameful that Mr. Prajwal Revanna, MP of Hassan, who is also the candidate from the JD(S) in the constituency in the 2024 general elections and the grandson of former Prime Minister, fled the country on April 27, 2024, to Germany using his diplomatic passport bearing the number D1135500 shortly after news of his heinous action emerged and just a few hours before the FIR was filed against him. He has abused his diplomatic privileges to flee the country and to escape criminal proceedings," Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Lakshadweep: Exotic and sun-kissed beaches

Lakshadweep, the group of 36 islands is known for its exotic and sun-kissed beaches and lush green landscape. The name Lakshadweep in Malayalam and Sanskrit means 'a hundred thousand islands'.

Formerly known as Laccadive Islands, Lakshadweep translates to 'one hundred thousand islands' in Malayalam. Home to a few of the most beautiful and exotic islands and beaches of India, Lakshadweep lies 400km off the southwest coast of the Arabian Sea. The smallest union territory of India has 36 islands having a total area of 32 sq. kilometres. It's made up of 12 atolls, 3 reefs and 5 submerged banks out of which ten Islands are inhabited. The main attraction of Lakshadweep lies in its stunning coral reefs, making it a haven for snorkeling, scuba diving, and other water sports enthusiasts. The islands are also famous for their rich cultural heritage, with influences from Indian, Arab, and European traditions.

Lakshadweep is typically accessed from Kochi (Kerala) and a permit is required to visit Lakshadweep for all tourists (including Indians). After permit, foreigners are permitted to just visit Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat Islands. Permits can be obtained from Kochi itself. Permits are exempted to government officials, armed force members, and their families who are either working or visiting these islands. Additionally, embarking on the Lakshadweep Samudram Cruise aboard MV Kavaratti is a maritime adventure like no other. This 5 day cruise takes you Kavaratti, Minicoy and Kalpeni islands. Another such extraordinary 5-day voyage is from Mumbai to Lakshadweep on the Cordelia Cruise.

The islands are also known for their delicious seafood cuisine, featuring fresh catches from the surrounding waters. Visitors can indulge in local delicacies such as grilled fish, prawn curry, and coconut-infused dishes, offering a tantalizing culinary experience. In addition to water sports and culinary delights, Lakshadweep also boasts a rich cultural heritage worth exploring. Visitors can visit traditional island villages, interact with local communities, and learn about the unique customs and traditions of the region. The islands are also home to several historic sites and monuments, including ancient mosques and temples, showcasing the diverse cultural influences that have shaped Lakshadweep over the centuries.

Perhaps the charm of Lakshadweep islands lies in their remoteness. Far off the beaten track, they attract no hordes of merrymakers to their shores. The islands, though all equally mystical and beautiful, each offers a unique blend of tourist spots. Some islands have been promoted for diving and water sports, still, others have been developed so that people enjoy the charm of relaxation.

Minicoy Island

One of the 36 small islets of Lakshadweep group of Islands, Minicoy, also known as Maluku in the local language is one of the best-kept secrets of India. It is



located amidst the vast expanse of Arabian Sea, just 398 km or 215 nautical miles from the shores of Cochin. The small island encompasses the total area of 4.801 sq. km and is exclusively known for its vibrant coral reefs, quaint white-sand beaches and the freshwater of the infinite ocean.

Agatti Islands

Agatti Island stands as a captivating

gem within the Lakshadweep archipelago, known for its pristine beauty and tranquil atmosphere. As one of the few inhabited islands in the Lakshadweep group, Agatti offers visitors a rare glimpse into the local way of life amidst its stunning natural surroundings. The island, spanning across approximately 8 square kilometers and home to around 8000

residents, boasts lush vegetation and picturesque landscapes at every turn, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers and adventurers.

Kalpeni Island

Kalpeni Island, nestled in the pristine Lakshadweep archipelago, offers a tranquil and idyllic escape for travelers seeking sun, sand, and sea. Located approximately 287 kilometers off the coast of Kochi, Kerala, Kalpeni is renowned for its breathtaking coral reefs, crystal-clear waters, and powdery white beaches. The island's untouched natural beauty and vibrant marine life make it a haven for snorkelers, divers, and beach lovers alike. The key reason to visit Kalpeni is to immerse oneself in its untouched tropical paradise, away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Kavaratti

Kavaratti, a pristine island nestled in the Lakshadweep archipelago, spans approximately 3.93 square kilometers, making it one of the jewels of the region. Being the capital of the Lakshadweep archipelago, it is a serene and enchanting island destination located in the Arabian Sea. With its picturesque landscapes and breathtaking views of the Arabian Sea, Kavaratti is a haven of tranquility and natural beauty. The island is renowned for its lush coconut groves, expansive marine life, and stunning white-sand beaches, offering visitors a serene retreat amidst the wonders of nature.

Bangaram Island

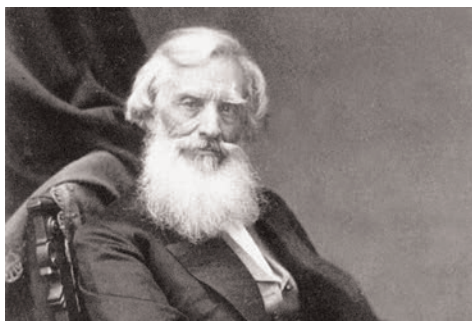
Bangaram Island is a beautiful tiny island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, India. The Bangaram Island encompasses an area of 1.234 km² and is the largest island in the chain of islands in the region (also known as an atoll) with a beautiful lagoon. With a population of only 10 and just one beach resort, it is an apt destination for people who want to disconnect entirely from the fast-paced world.

Marine Museum

The Marine Museum, located in Kavaratti, serves as a captivating showcase of marine-related artifacts, emphasizing the promotion and preservation of marine products. One of its highlights is the aquarium, boasting an array of striking sea fishes and aquatic animals. Visitors are treated to a visual feast of colorful and ornamental species, making it a delightful sight for all. Moreover, the museum provides a valuable educational experience for those keen on learning more about marine life and related subjects, making it a must-visit destination for enthusiasts and curious minds alike.

History This Week MAY 24 - 30

MAY 24

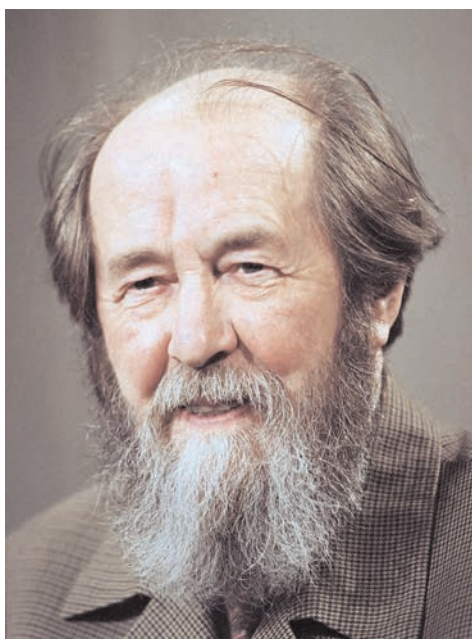


May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to Baltimore.

May 24, 1881 - A boating disaster occurred in Canada when Victoria, a small, double-decked stern-wheeler carrying over 600 passengers on the Thames River keeled over then sank, killing 182 persons.

MAY 25

May 25, 1787 - The Constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia with delegates from seven states forming a quorum.



May 25, 1994 - After 20 years in exile, Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to his homeland. He had been expelled from Soviet Russia in 1974 after his three-volume work exposing the Soviet prison camp system, *The Gulag Archipelago*, was published in the West.

May 25, 2020 - George Floyd, an African American man, died during an arrest by Minneapolis police officers, including Derek Chauvin, who knelt on his neck for over nine minutes, despite Floyd's repeated pleas that he could not breathe. The fatal encounter was captured on a bystander's video and led to widespread protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

Birthday - American author and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include: *Nature* (1836), *Essays, First Series* (1841), *Essays, Second Series* (1844), *Poems* (1847, 1865), *Representative Men* (1850), *English Traits* (1856), *The Conduct of Life* (1860), and *Society and Solitude* (1870).

MAY 26

May 26, 1940 - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.



Birthday - Interpretive dancer Isadora Duncan (1878-1927) was born in San Francisco. She revolutionized the entire concept of dance by developing a free-form style and rebelled against tradition, performing barefoot in a loose fitting tunic. She experienced worldwide acclaim as well as personal tragedy. Her two children drowned, her marriage failed, and she met a bizarre death in 1927 when a scarf she was wearing caught in the wheel of the open car in which she was riding, strangling her.

Birthday - Actor, singer Al Jolson (1886-1950) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia (as Asa Yoelson). One of the premier American vaudeville entertainers of his day, he appeared in the first motion picture with full sound, *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927.

MAY 27

May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.



Birthday - Legendary Wild West figure Wild Bill Hickok (1837-1876) was born in Troy Grove, Illinois. He was a frontiersman, lawman, legendary

marksman, army scout and gambler. On August 2, 1876, he was shot dead during a poker game by a drunk in the Number Ten saloon in Deadwood, in the Dakota Territory. In his hand he held a pair of eights and a pair of aces which became known as the 'dead man's hand.'

Birthday - American politician Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978) was born in Wallace, South Dakota. Humphrey was a mainstay of liberal Democratic politics, championed civil rights, and was considered by political friends and foes alike to be a truly decent man. He served as vice president under Lyndon Johnson. In 1968, Humphrey was the Democratic candidate for president, but lost to Republican Richard Nixon in a very close race.

MAY 28

May 28, 1961 - Amnesty International was founded by London lawyer Peter Berenson. He read about the arrest of a group of students in Portugal then launched a one-year campaign to free them called Appeal for Amnesty. Today Amnesty International has over a million members in 150 countries working to free prisoners of conscience, stop torture and the death penalty, and guarantee human rights for women.

Birthday - William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806) was born at Hayes, Kent, England. Following in his father's footsteps, he became British prime minister at age 24 and served from 1783 to 1801 and again from 1804 to 1806. Pitt was influenced by Adam Smith's economic theories and reduced Britain's large national debt brought on by the American Revolution.



Birthday - All-around athlete Jim Thorpe (1888-1953) was born near Prague, Oklahoma. He won the pentathlon and decathlon events at the 1912 Olympic Games and also played professional baseball and football.

MAY 29

May 29, 1865 - Following the American Civil War, President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation granting general amnesty to Confederates. The amnesty excluded high ranking Confederates and large property owners, who had to apply individually to the President for a pardon. Following an oath of allegiance, all former property rights, except slaves, were returned to the former owners.

Birthday - American revolutionary leader Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Studley, Virginia. He is best remembered for his speech in 1775 declaring: "I know not what course

others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

Birthday - German historian Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) was born in Blankenburg-am-Harz, Germany. He authored the influential book *The Decline of the West* which argued that civilizations rise and fall in regular cycles.



Birthday - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963) the 35th U.S. President was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was the youngest man ever elected to the presidency and the first Roman Catholic. He was assassinated in Dallas, November 22, 1963, the fourth President to be killed by an assassin.

MAY 30

May 30, 1783 - The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first daily newspaper published in America.

May 30, 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel Chester French.

May 30, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska were retaken by the U.S. 7th Infantry Division. The battle began on May 12 when an American force of 11,000 landed on Attu. In three weeks of fighting U.S. casualties numbered 552 killed and 1,140 wounded. Japanese killed numbered 2,352, with only 28 taken prisoner, as 500 chose suicide rather than be captured.



Birthday - Founder of the Russian empire Peter the Great (1672-1725) was born near Moscow. He vastly increased the power of the Russian monarchy and turned his backward country into a major power in the Western world. Among his accomplishments, he completely overhauled the government and the Greek Orthodox Church as well as the military system and tax structure. He built St. Petersburg, established printing presses and published translations of foreign books, modernized the calendar, simplified the Russian alphabet and introduced Arabic numerals. He died at age 52 and was succeeded by his wife Catherine.

Malaysia Masters: Chaliha steals Sindhu's thunder, ousts Zhang

Two-time Olympics medallist PV Sindhu survived a scare before prevailing over South Korea's Sim Yu Jin but the highlight of the day was Ashmita Chaliha's stunning win over third seed Beiwen Zhang of the USA in the second round of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 at Kuala Lumpur on May 23. World No. 15 Sindhu saw off Sim 21-13 12-21 21-14 in a 59-minute women's singles second-round match to register her third win over the Korean world No. 34.

The 28-year-old hasn't been able to hit top form ever since returning to action following a knee injury sustained in October last year.

The 24-year-old Ashmita, ranked 53rd, sizzled on her way to a 21-19 16-21 21-12 win over world No. 10 Zhang to storm into the quarterfinals.

This is her second quarterfinals appearance in a Super 500 event, having reached the last-eight stage in the 2022 India Open.

In other results, Kiran George went down fighting 13-21 18-21 against fifth seed Lee Zii Jia in a men's singles clash.

Seventh-seeded Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also lost 18-21 22-20 14-21 to the Korean pair of Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui.

The mixed doubles pair of B Sumeeth Reddy and N Sikki Reddy went down 9-21 15-21 to the top-seeded Malaysian pair of Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei, while Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker went down 17-21 11-21 to the second-seeded Malaysians Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan.

Source: PTI

IPL 17

Sunrisers' face Royals' for place in final

CHENNAI (TIP)

The best power-hitters of the IPL — Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma — will face a very different challenge against wily spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin when Sunrisers Hyderabad take on Rajasthan Royals in a high-octane second Qualifier here on May 23.

The duo have taken power-hitting to a new level — Head (533 runs at strike-rate of 199.62) and Abhishek (470 at 207.04) have hit 72 sixes apart from 96 boundaries between them.

If that's not enough, they have a swashbuckler in Heinrich Klaasen (413 runs at 180), who also has 34 sixes to his credit.

But playing on a Chepauk strip, which is usually sticky in nature, will pose a completely different challenge than what is the case at the Kotla or Wankhede.

Here, the ball stops and stroke-makers do have a tough time when it comes to hitting through the line.

Ashwin, who has played all his cricket at this ground, knows the



strip like the back of his hand and his form has improved towards the back-end of the tournament.

With the country's best leg-spinner Chahal for company, RR would be hoping that Head, Abhishek and Klaasen can be dispatched quickly to gain control of the proceedings.

As for their bowling, the onus would once again be on T Natarajan, who has been SRH's top wicket-taker this season, and playing on his home turf here, he would love to exploit the conditions.

Also, the experienced duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Pat

Cummins have a lot to deal with as the former has been wicket-less in his last two games.

As for RR, the side finally ended their five-game winless streak, thanks to the all-round show against RCB.

In batting, the top-order displayed some positive signs, especially Yashasvi Jaiswal who would love to continue the form ahead of the T20 World Cup in the Americas next month.

However, skipper Sanju Samson will have to do better, given that he hasn't crossed the 20-run mark in the last three contests.

Source: PTI

Nadal, Djokovic and an unfamiliar tag at the French Open

When was the last time Rafael Nadal entered the French Open with an air of uncertainty around his first-round victory, no matter the form and ranking of his opponent (which, in this case, is world No. 4 Italian Open champion Alexander Zverev)?

When was the last time Novak Djokovic entered any Grand Slam with his aura of indomitability breached to the extent that it has brought him down to among the pack of contenders rather than a potentially title-winning ace?

Not in the last few years at the Slams he was allowed to set foot in.

The two ageing giants, with 46 Grand Slam triumphs between them yet zero titles this season, find themselves with an unfamiliar tag in this Parisian summer — far from the favourites for the French Open.

Which, for a 14-time Roland Garros champion who has held an unshakable grip on the clay-court Slam he first won in 2005 and lost just three matches in, is unheard-of. Which, for the record 24-time Slam champion who has won three of the previous five majors besides reaching a final and a semi-final, is unwonted.

We'll get to Nadal first, because this may well be his last sighting at the French Open. The 37-year-old hasn't explicitly conveyed it yet, but everything he has done this season, which he'd said could be his last on the tour, has a farewell ring to it. Swansong or not, things haven't gone per script for the Spaniard. Out injured for most of 2023 and the first three months of 2024 due to a muscle injury post his return, Nadal



The two ageing giants, with 46 Grand Slam triumphs between them, have zero titles this season.

threw all his eggs in the clay basket.

Barcelona (second round exit) was an early gentle tester, Madrid (Round of 16) was a slightly more feel-good outing but Rome, where he was given a three-set scare by unheralded Zizou Bergs before a straight-sets hiding by 8th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz, was a wake-up call. One that confined him to the reality that his current physical shape and level of play, though good enough to still test the best on clay, isn't nearly enough to trouble them.

It made Nadal doubt whether turning up for the

French Open, a tournament he's played every year since 2005 except the last, was even worth it. "If I feel ready, I'm going to try to be there and fight for the things that I have been fighting the last 15 years; (even) if now (it) seems impossible," he said in Rome.

Nadal will have to summon every bit of that fight while taking on Rome champion Zverev first up in a brutal draw for the bruised beast. If not, the fourth (and likely final) defeat on the red dirt of Paris could bring a speedy end to a surreal record that may last for an eternity.

Djokovic's 24 majors tally too will stand the test of time, although times right now are shaky for the Serb. Not in six years, since his injury-hit 2018 season, has Djokovic entered the French Open without a title to his name in the season. If the Australian Open semi-final defeat to Jannik Sinner was hard to take, the subsequent shock losses to 123rd-ranked Lucas Nardi (Indian Wells) and 32nd-ranked Alejandro Tabilo (Rome) were hard to explain.

There's been an abrupt and alarming drop in the world No. 1's form, taking down his coach Goran Ivanisevic and fitness trainer along with it as Djokovic desperately searches for a spark to light things up again.

He celebrated his 37th birthday on Wednesday playing (and winning) at the Geneva Open, a rare instance of Djokovic competing the week before a Slam. "I need more matches, even if it's just one or two...I hope there are more," he said.

Come the French Open, he'd hope for the same.

Source: HT



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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