



The INDIAN PANORAMA

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



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DONALD TRUMP FOUND GUILTY ON ALL 34 CHARGES

BECOMES THE FIRST FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT CONVICTED OF FELONY CRIMES; SENTENCING ON JULY 11

MAY 31, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A New York jury convicted Donald Trump on all 34 charges in his hush money case on Thursday, May 30, in a seismic development barely five months ahead of the election where he seeks to recapture the White House.

(ALSO READ IMPLICATIONS OF DONALD TRUMP'S CONVICTION ON PAGE 2)

The verdict makes Trump the first criminally convicted former U.S. President but does not prevent him from campaigning for another term.

The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Trump and exposes him to potential prison time in the city where his manipulations of the tabloid press helped catapult him from a real estate tycoon to reality television star and



Trump becomes the first former U.S. President convicted of felony crimes. Credit: The White House Historical Association

ultimately president, says an AP report.

As he seeks a return to the White House in this year's election, the judgment presents voters with another test of their willingness to accept Trump's boundary-breaking behavior, the AP report says.

Donald Trump's sentencing for falsifying business records will take place on July 11, the judge who presided over the trial said.

Judge Juan Merchan set sentencing for 10:00 am (1400 GMT) on July 11, just days ahead of the Republican convention where Trump is expected to be named the party's presidential nominee.

Judge Juan Merchan thanked the jury for their service and giving the case the "attention it deserved." "You were engaged in a difficult and stressful task," Judge Juan Merchan said after the jury

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Modi first PM to 'lower dignity' of public discourse, says Manmohan Singh



Modi first PM to 'lower dignity' of public discourse, says Manmohan Singh. -Credit: Tribune file photo

MAY 30, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday, May 30, accused him of lowering the dignity of public discourse and the gravity of the office of the PM by giving "hateful speeches" during the poll campaign.

In an appeal to voters of Punjab ahead of the seventh-phase of Lok Sabha polls on June 1, Singh asserted that only the Congress can ensure growth-oriented progressive future where democracy and

contd on page 46

Indian companies -Reliance, Tata, Serum Institute -on TIME's list of world's most influential companies



Reliance, Tata, Serum Institute on TIME's list of world's most influential companies

MAY 30, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries and Tata Group have made it to the prestigious TIME's list of 100 World's Most Influential Companies of 2024. TIME called Reliance 'India's Juggernaut'. Serum Institute is the only other company on the list.

This is the second time that Reliance

has found its way into the TIME list. Jio Platforms, the firm that holds digital properties of the conglomerate, was included in the inaugural TIME 100 Most Influential Companies List of 2021.

TIME listed Reliance in the 'Titans' category (one of the five categories under which the companies were divided, other being Leaders,

contd on page 46

Pakistan court acquits former Pak PM Imran Khan in two cases related to May 9 riots



Pakistan court acquits Imran Khan in two cases related to May 9 riots

Credit: PTI File photo

MAY 30, 2024

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A court in Pakistan on Thursday, May 30, acquitted jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in two cases related to May 9 violence, citing "insufficient evidence" against him.

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COMMENTS



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Implications of Donald Trump's Conviction

Now that Donald Trump is convicted on all 34 counts in the Stormy Daniels hush money case, it is undoubtedly a historic moment in American politics. The conviction marks the first time a former President of the United States has been convicted on felony charges. The significance of this conviction cannot be overstated, as it would shake the foundations of the American political landscape.

For the American nation and its people, such a conviction is likely to deepen the already existing divides. Trump's supporters might view the conviction as politically motivated persecution, while his detractors could see it as a validation of their concerns about his conduct in office. The impact on political ethics in America would be profound, as it would raise questions about the accountability of those in power and the extent to which the rule of

law applies equally to everyone.

Internationally, the conviction of a former U.S. president on felony charges would undoubtedly be met with scrutiny and interest. It could impact America's standing on the global stage and raise questions about the integrity of its political system.

In terms of its impact on future elections, the conviction would likely have significant ramifications. Whether Trump, as a felon, could and should seek election as President in 2024 would become a matter of heated debate. Some might argue that his conviction disqualifies him from holding public office, while others could rally behind him as a victim of political persecution.

The issue would undoubtedly contribute to further political polarization, with both sides digging in their heels and viewing the conviction through the lens of their existing beliefs. This polarization could lead to increased

distrust in the law of the land and the judicial system, as people on both sides question the fairness and impartiality of the legal process.

In such a scenario, it would be crucial for Americans to remember the importance of upholding the principles of democracy and the rule of law. Regardless of one's political beliefs, a functioning democracy relies on the accountability of its leaders and the integrity of its institutions. The conviction of a former president is a stark reminder of the need for transparency, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law in the highest echelons of power.

Ultimately, Donald Trump's conviction in the Stormy Daniels hush money case raises profound questions about the state of American democracy, the integrity of its political institutions, and the future of its political landscape.

Addressing the Growing Crisis of Mental Health: The Role of Yoga in Cultivating Well-being

In recent years, the issue of mental health has emerged as a pressing concern worldwide. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), depression is the leading cause of disability globally, affecting over 264 million people of all ages. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health challenges, with increased levels of stress, anxiety, and depression reported across populations. As we grapple with this growing crisis, it is imperative to explore holistic approaches to mental well-being, including the ancient practice of yoga.

Mental health issues can arise from a myriad of factors, including genetic predispositions, traumatic experiences, societal pressures, and environmental stressors. In today's fast-paced world, individuals often find themselves overwhelmed by the demands of modern life, leading to burnout, anxiety disorders, and depression. Moreover, the stigma surrounding mental illness can prevent individuals from seeking help, exacerbating their symptoms and perpetuating the cycle of suffering.

While medical interventions such as therapy and medication play a crucial role in managing mental health conditions, there is a growing recognition of the importance of

holistic approaches that address the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit. This is where the ancient Indian practice of yoga comes into play.

Yoga is more than just a physical exercise; it is a holistic discipline that integrates breath control, meditation, and physical postures to promote overall well-being. At its core, yoga emphasizes the cultivation of self-awareness, inner peace, and harmony with one's surroundings. By fostering a deep connection between the mind, body, and soul, yoga offers a powerful tool for managing stress, alleviating symptoms of anxiety and depression, and promoting resilience in the face of adversity.

Research has shown that regular practice of yoga can have profound effects on mental health. Studies have found that yoga interventions can reduce symptoms of depression, anxiety, and PTSD, as well as improve quality of life and overall psychological well-being. Moreover, yoga has been shown to regulate the body's stress response system, lowering levels of cortisol and promoting relaxation.

One of the key strengths of yoga lies in its adaptability and accessibility. Whether practiced in a traditional studio setting or in the comfort of

one's own home, yoga offers a range of techniques that can be tailored to individual needs and preferences. From gentle, restorative practices to more dynamic, physically challenging sequences, there is a style of yoga suitable for everyone, regardless of age, fitness level, or prior experience.

Additionally, yoga promotes a supportive and inclusive community that encourages self-acceptance, compassion, and connection with others. By fostering a sense of belonging and mutual respect, yoga helps to combat feelings of isolation and alienation, which are common contributors to poor mental health.

As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, it's essential to prioritize mental health and well-being as integral components of overall health. By embracing holistic approaches such as yoga, we can cultivate resilience, inner peace, and vitality, empowering ourselves to lead fulfilling and meaningful lives. In the words of B.K.S. Iyengar, one of the foremost yoga teachers of the 20th century, "Yoga is a light, which once lit, will never dim. The better your practice, the brighter the flame." Let us harness the transformative power of yoga to illuminate the path towards mental well-being for all.

FIA honors Additional Director General of Police Gujarat Dr K.L. Rao

MAY 23, 2024

EDISON (TIP): FIA honored the Additional Director General of Police Director General of Police and Director-General of Prisons & Correctional Administration of Gujarat at the Meet and Greet session on Tuesday 22nd May at Akbar Restaurant New Jersey.

In attendance were Padma Shri Sudhir Parikh, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, and the Executive team of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA).

It was a significant event that celebrated the accomplishments of an extraordinary individual in the field of law enforcement. The DG of Police, who holds the distinction of being the first IPS officer with a PhD, is renowned for his compassionate initiatives that have greatly impacted the living standards of prisoners in Gujarat.

With a deep commitment to prison



FIA officers with Dr. K.L. Rao (8th from the left) .

reforms, the DG of Police has left an indelible mark on the Indian Criminal Justice system through his innovative and humane approach towards rehabilitation and reformation. His dedication to improving the lives of prisoners has not only brought about positive change within the prison system but has also earned him recognition and respect from his peers and the community at large.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of law enforcement and his tireless efforts towards prison reforms, the FIA executive team took the opportunity to honor the DG of Police during the meet and greet event.

This gesture symbolizes the appreciation and admiration of the Indian Diaspora in the USA for his unwavering commitment to making a difference in the

lives of those within the criminal justice system.

Apart from his remarkable work in the field, the DG of Police is also a published author, with his book 'Jail- History and Present's standing as a testament to his deep-seated passion for prison reforms. The book not only reflects his extensive knowledge and experience in the field but also serves as a guide for those seeking to understand and contribute to the ongoing efforts to improve the prison system in India.

Overall, the meet and greet between FIA and the DG of Police of Gujarat was a fitting tribute to a visionary leader who has dedicated his career to bringing about positive change and transformation in the realm of law enforcement and prison reforms. His exemplary work serves as an inspiration to all those working towards creating a more just and compassionate society.

GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be launched worldwide

May 26, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): After relaunching of the GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) at the GOPIO Convention 2024 held in April 2024, GCCCI held a brainstorming meeting of GOPIO officials and businesspeople from the New York area on May 23rd at the conference room of Braj Aggarwal CPA PC in New York City. The meeting discussed the implementation of GCCCI



Participants at the GICC planning meeting, Sitting - From L to R: Joe Simon, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Advocate Nachiket Dave, Prakash Shah

Standing - From L to R: T.T. Bhat, Mridul Pathak, Prof. Raj Vangapaty, Prof. Krish Girish, Srinivas Akarapu, Dr. Anil Paulose, Attorney Dilli Bhatta, Ravi Nichani, Bharat Rana and Siddarth Jain

worldwide launch. It was also an occasion to host Ahmedabad Advocate Nachiket Dave who practices in the Gujarat High Court and Supreme Court in New Delhi. Advocate Dave will be active in GOPIO-Ahmedabad and also plans to launch GCCCI-Ahmedabad.

For more information on GICC or to become a member, call 203-329-810 or email at Gopio@optonline.net

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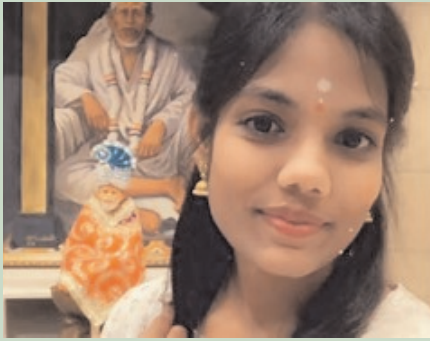
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LUNCH BY Tom Wah

INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT KILLED BY SPEEDING CAR IN FLORIDA



Guntipalli Sowmya, a 25-year-old woman hailing from Telangana's Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, was killed May 26 when a speeding car hit her while she was crossing the road in Florida.

MAY 27, 2024

BOCA RATON, FL (TIP): In a tragic accident Guntipalli Sowmya, a 25-year-old woman hailing from Telangana's Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, was killed Sunday, May 26, when a speeding car hit her while she was crossing the road in Florida.

Sowmya, who had recently earned her master's from Florida Atlantic University, was returning to her residence after buying groceries when the accident occurred. She died on the spot.

She had gone to the US two years ago to pursue her studies. Her parents, Koteswara Rao and Balamani, were devastated upon receiving the tragic news of their daughter's death, according to Indian media reports. Sowmya's family has appealed to the government for assistance in bringing her body back to Telangana.

Rao, a former CRPF jawan, shared that his daughter had recently celebrated her 25th birthday on May 11. "I even sent clothes for her," he was quoted as saying by Times of India.

A gofundme page to support Sowmya's family in their time of loss. It has raised to date \$35,244 of \$120,000 target.

Rao who operates a general store (kirana shop) in Telangana, had struggled immensely to arrange funds for Sowmya's studies, and sacrificed a lot to ensure she had the opportunity to pursue her dreams, according to the page.

"Sowmya recently graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Master's degree, full of hope and ambition to support her family financially," it said. "Tragically, her promising future was cut short when she was struck by a speeding car in Florida, USA on May 26, 2024."

Sowmya's journey was one of resilience and determination. She traveled from India to the USA, overcoming numerous hardships along the way, the gofundme page noted. As an international student, she faced the challenges of adapting to a new culture, managing academic pressures, and dealing with financial constraints.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

British Indian Labor MP Virendra Sharma not to seek re-election

MAY 28, 2024

LONDON (TIP): Virendra Sharma, Britain's veteran Indian-origin member of Parliament and a vocal advocate of closer India-UK relations over the years, has announced his decision to step back from frontline politics and not seek re-election in the UK's July 4 general election.

The 77-year-old Labor Party MP, who has won a record four general elections since a by-election victory in 2007 from the heavily Punjabi dominated Ealing Southall constituency, said it was time for a new chapter in his life as a grandfather.

The politician born in Mandhali village in Punjab moved to the UK in 1968 and started out as a bus conductor before going on to study at the London School of Economics (LSE) on a Trade Union Scholarship and becoming a prominent trade unionist of his time.

"As a British Indian and as a Hindu, as a Labor Member, Councilor and MP I have never struggled to reconcile those different, but complementary, identities," said Sharma in a letter addressed to his party on Monday evening.

"For nearly 50 years, I have served the party in one form or another. Now I believe the time has come for another



Britain's veteran Indian-origin member of Parliament Virendra Sharma has announced his decision to step back from frontline politics and not seek re-election in the UK's July 4 general election.

chapter to begin. I want to let you know that I will not be standing at the next election ... This does not dim my desire for Labor to win, and win I am sure we will.

"I will continue to support Labor, and I hope to continue to be part of the Labor project, but not from inside the House of Commons," he added.

Sharma, who chairs the Indo-British

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and co-chairs the British Hindus APPG, has been a very vocal advocate of closer India-UK relations over the years.

His election in the 2007 by-election followed the death of another long-serving Indian-origin veteran Labor MP from Ealing Southall, Piara Singh Khabra, and the constituency has remained a Labor stronghold ever since.

Sharma hailed the "constant unstinting support" of his wife Nirmala over the course of the years and pledged to continue "pounding the streets" ahead of "Labor's entry into Downing Street" with party leader Keir Starmer as the UK's new prime minister.

"It is clear to me that the country is crying out for change, and that Keir, [Deputy leader] Angela [Rayner] and the whole Labor Party represent the change this country needs," he said.

"I was proud to nominate Keir for leader in 2020, and the promises he made then to rebuild this party have put us on the path to power and made me proud to serve as a Labor MP. We swept antisemitism from the Labor Party and we have gone from our worst result in a century, to the edge of government," he stated.

Indian American professor Panneer Selvam named Engineering Mechanics Institute fellow

MAY 29, 2024



Prof. R. Panneer Selvam has been named a Fellow of the Engineering Mechanics Institute.

ARKANSAS (TIP): R. Panneer Selvam, an Indian American Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas, has been named a Fellow of the Engineering Mechanics Institute.

This prestigious recognition is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of engineering mechanics and have demonstrated

outstanding leadership within the community.

A vital member of the civil engineering faculty since 1986, Selvam is the first member of the faculty to receive this appointment, according to a university press release. His expertise and dedication to civil engineering education and research have benefitted students and colleagues alike, it says. His innovative work in computational mechanics, wind engineering, and structural dynamics has earned him a reputation as a leading authority in his field.

"It is a tremendous honor to be named a Fellow of the Engineering Mechanics Institute," said Selvam.

To become an EMI Fellow, individuals typically undergo a rigorous nomination and selection process. Nominees are evaluated based on their significant contributions to advancing the understanding and application of engineering mechanics principles, as well as their leadership and service within the engineering community.

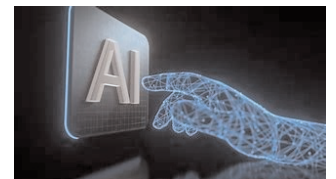
Selvam cites several factors leading up to this appointment: his four decades of work and research in engineering mechanics; most especially his work on computational fluid dynamics for wind engineering, thermal management for electronics, and nano mechanics.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American strategic finance leader Krishna Rao joins AI startup Anthropic as chief financial officer

MAY 27, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Indian American strategic finance leader Krishna Rao has joined artificial intelligence startup Anthropic as its chief financial officer and is expected to play a key role in shaping its financial strategy and operations for international expansion.



Krishna Rao has joined artificial intelligence startup Anthropic as its chief financial officer

"With nearly 20 years of experience as a strategic finance leader for customer-centric, world-class brands and as an investor, Krishna will play a crucial role in shaping Anthropic's financial strategy and operations as we continue to build on our strong enterprise momentum and advance our international expansion," the company stated announcing his appointment May 21.

Rao joins Anthropic from Fanatics Commerce, where he served as CFO, bringing with him a wealth of experience from his previous roles. At Cedar, a healthcare payments and patient engagement platform, Rao led both the finance function and operational initiatives as the company's CFO.

Prior to that, he served as Global Head of Corporate & Business Development and led Corporate and Operations FP&A at Airbnb, where he helped navigate the company through the Covid-19 pandemic and played a key role in raising over \$10 billion in equity and debt capital, including Airbnb's IPO and private financings.

Earlier in his career, Krishna spent time as a private equity investor at Blackstone and as a strategy consultant at Bain & Company. With a JD from Yale Law School and an AB in economics from Harvard College, Rao brings a unique blend of financial acumen, strategic thinking, and operational expertise to Anthropic, the company stated.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Congressional candidate Krystle Kaul raises \$1 million for campaign

MAY 30, 2024

ASHBURN, VA (TIP): Krystle Kaul, an Indian American candidate from Virginia, has raised \$1 million for her campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives. This places her among a small number of first-time candidates to reach this milestone.

Kaul has Kashmiri and Punjabi roots and practices both Hinduism and Sikhism. She is the granddaughter and daughter of immigrants. Her grandfather arrived in the United States with a dream of a better life, worked as an insurance agent, and built a life for his family in New York.

Kaul has had a career in defense and intelligence. She has worked at U.S. Central Command and the Pentagon, with experience in the Middle East and South Asia. She has held positions including Director (GS-15) at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at the Department of Defense, Director of Strategic Communications for the U.S. Air Force at General Dynamics Information Technology, and Intelligence



Krystle Kaul is among a small number of first-time candidates to raise \$1 million for her campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives

Political-Military Expert at U.S. Central Command.

After former Secretary of Defense General Mattis resigned, Kaul left her position as well. She then started a small business that assists 8(a) firms, disabled veteran and women-owned businesses, and large companies such as McKinsey, Bain, and Bank of New York Mellon with

their technology solutions. She also contributed to the Chips Act task force at Intel Corporation and collaborated with Lockheed Martin to support U.S. manufacturing jobs. Kaul teaches a course at MIT's MBA Executive Program through 2U, Inc.

Kaul has also worked on various humanitarian projects, including building electronic villages with UN Women, development projects in Afghanistan with USAID, and disaster relief in Haiti through the American Red Cross. She has collaborated with policy think tanks like the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Ibn Khaldun Center for Development and Democracy, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and RAND Corporation.

Kaul lives in Ashburn, VA, and is running to represent Virginia's 10th District. If elected, she will become the second Indian American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, after Pramila Jayapal of Washington State.

INDIAN AMERICAN STUDENT ARCHIKA DOGRA WINS 2024 SPIRIT OF PRINCETON AWARD



Archika Dogra is among eight students named winners of the 2024 Spirit of Princeton Award

MAY 28, 2024

PRINCETON, NJ (TIP): Indian American Archika Dogra and seven other students have been named winners of the 2024 Spirit of Princeton Award, honoring Princeton University undergraduates for positive contributions to campus life.

The award recognizes those who have demonstrated a strong commitment to undergraduate experience through dedicated efforts in student organizations, athletics, community service, religious life, residential life and the arts.

The selection committee received over 180 letters of nomination on behalf of outstanding undergraduate students. The Spirit of Princeton Award is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students and has been given annually since 1995.

Dogra, a senior from Bellevue, Washington, is majoring in computer science. During her time on campus, she served as president of the Entrepreneurship Club and president of Princeton South Asian Theatrics.

She contributed meaningfully to the wider Princeton community through her mentorship with Academic Service Today, her involvement as a OneRespect interviewer and her service as an accessibility notetaker, according to a university press release.

She also served as the recruitment chair for the Orange Key tour guides and as a member of the Undergraduate Student Government movies committee.

In 2017, Dogra founded Innoverge, a nonprofit aimed at promoting STEM education and addressing educational inequity. Innoverge has reached over 10,200 underrepresented students in 14 countries through 75 youth-run chapters. The organization partners with community centers, schools, and libraries to offer STEM and humanities programs for K-8 students.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India American economist Raj Chetty awarded honorary doctorate by Wesleyan University

MAY 28, 2024



Raj Chetty has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Wesleyan University, a private liberal arts university in Middletown, Connecticut

MIDDLETOWN, CT (TIP): Noted Indian American economist Raj Chetty has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Wesleyan University, a private liberal arts university in Middletown, Connecticut.

In his speech to the Class of 2024 at the university's 192nd Commencement ceremony on Sunday, he cited his research into opportunity disparity's effect on social mobility, praising Wesleyan for being a leader in expanding access to higher education.

"When a child moves to a neighborhood with better schools or gets a chance to attend a high-quality college, we see their lives transformed relative to other comparable kids who didn't get the same chances," Chetty said. "Opportunity matters. And education is one of the keys that opens the doors of opportunity." Devoting his "life to studying how we can create better opportunities for everyone in society to thrive, no matter their background," Chetty said, "What I've found is that education remains the surest pathway to a better life, based both on my personal experience and my research."

"When my mother was graduating from high school back in the 1950s in a small town in South India, there were no colleges nearby," he recalled. "At that time, it was rare for women to get a higher education, and unheard of for women to move to another city to go to college." "The year before my mother graduated, a wealthy businessman decided to open the first women's college in my mom's hometown," he said. "My mom attended that college, went on to medical school, and completed her residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the first woman to become a doctor in her community in South India."

"My father likewise grew up in a low-income family in South India and applied for scholarships to attend universities in the US," Chetty said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Ashwin Ramaswami wins Democratic primary for Georgia Senate

Ashwin Ramaswami, the first Gen Z Indian American candidate running for a US state legislature, has won the Democratic primary in Georgia Senate District 48



MAY 27, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Ashwin Ramaswami, the first Gen Z Indian American candidate running for a US state legislature, has won the Democratic primary in Georgia Senate District 48 and will face Republican Senator Shawn Still in November.

"In November, I'll face Republican Senator Shawn Still - who was indicted alongside Trump for being a fake elector in 2020," he posted on X. "It's the most flippable State Senate seat in Georgia. Let's go win this thing."

If elected, Ramaswami, who has a background in computer science and law, would become the first Indian American as well as the first Gen Z state senator in the Georgia state legislature.

Born to Indian immigrant parents from Tamil Nadu, Ramaswami attended Chinmaya Mission Balavihar and later graduated with a computer science degree from Stanford University. His early education at Chinmaya sparked an interest in Sanskrit and ancient Indian texts, blending his dual identity of Indian and American cultures.

Ramaswami's professional journey includes working with nonprofits, startups, and small businesses to leverage technology for public interest and job creation.

He has also served at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), focusing on cybersecurity and election security during the 2020 and 2022 elections. Additionally, he worked as a legal fellow in the Georgia Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

WORLD VEGAN VISION ORG
(Founder - HK / Malati Shah)
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA NY
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YOGA CRUISE

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www.worldveganvision.org

Phelps Hospital Workers Secure Tentative Contract Agreement W/Substantial Raises, No-Cost Family Health Insurance & Strong Pensions



Strike Averted In Westchester After Around-the-Clock Negotiations

File photo of Phelps Hospital workers

MAY 30, 2024

SLEEPY HOLLOW, NY (TIP): After around-the-clock bargaining sessions all week, caregivers at Phelps Hospital reached a tentative agreement at 5:13 a.m. this morning, averting a planned one-day strike for tomorrow, May 31.

"Over 900 caregivers standing together are more powerful than any of us standing alone-and that's how we won so much. Caring for our patients is our top priority and we are looking forward to working collaboratively with management to strengthen patient care," said Anne Moss, a registered nurse in the intensive care unit who has worked at the hospital since 2011.

The 238-bed Phelps Hospital is part of Northwell Health which is New York State's largest healthcare provider and private employer. In June 2022, approximately 900 Phelps Hospital caregivers including registered nurses, certified nursing assistants; housekeeping staff, food service workers, and others voted to form a union with 1199SEIU. Tens of thousands

of 1199SEIU members at other Northwell facilities, including nearby Northern Westchester Hospital, already have strong 1199SEIU contracts.

The tentative agreement with Phelps Hospital includes substantial wage increases-retroactive to April 2023-bringing the Sleepy Hollow caregivers on par with their 1199SEIU colleagues at other Northwell Health facilities. The agreement, which is modeled after the pattern established by 1199SEIU's master contract with the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes of New York, also includes no-cost family health insurance and secure pensions. Other highlights of the agreement are employer paid childcare and education funds, job security provisions, and language ensuring that frontline caregivers will have meaningful input in developing staffing guidelines to ensure the best possible patient care.

More details about the agreement will be released pending a ratification vote by the 1199SEIU hospital workers next week.

New York City Public Schools Unveils Next Phase Of Class Size Reduction Plan For 2024-2025 School Year

Plan includes an immediate \$182 million going to schools for next year to support class size reduction.

MAY 28, 2024

NEW YORK, NY(TIP): New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is proud to announce the release of the draft version of the second annual Class Size Reduction



optimizing teacher programming, reallocating existing funding, and utilizing virtual learning. They will have flexibility in how they utilize these strategies or others, working

with superintendents and school communities. To support implementation, NYCPS is providing an additional \$45 million in Contracts for Excellence funds and \$137 million earmarked exclusively for class size reduction, focused on high-need schools with space availability. In this plan, district-level targets have been set to improve the percent of classes at or below the new class size caps by 3% across all districts. Principals are being given a menu of optional implementation strategies to select from to meet this goal, including using new funding to hire staff, repurposing space,

with superintendents and school communities. To support implementation, NYCPS is providing an additional \$45 million in Contracts for Excellence funds and \$137 million earmarked exclusively for class size reduction, focused on high-need schools with space availability.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Unleashing Inner Power - A Resounding Success in Manhattan with Didi Krishna



Didi Krishna, the current spiritual leader of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, captivated the attendees with her insightful talk and guided meditation



A meditation session

MAY 22, 2024

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): The "Unlock Your Inner Power" event in Manhattan was a resounding success, drawing over 600 guests including distinguished dignitaries such as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Jagdish

Sewhani, Anna Yusim of Yale University, Dr. Candice Perkins, Kunal Sood, community leaders, Indian media houses, journalists, authors, actors, and other esteemed guests. Hosted by the Sadhu Vaswani Center for World Peace, the event united the Western and Indian communities in a profound evening of spiritual enrichment and cultural celebration.

Grammy-nominated devotional singer Krishna Das, joined by Nina Rao and Arjun on the tabla, mesmerized the audience with his enchanting kirtan and soulful singing.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj set the tone with a powerful speech, highlighting the importance of inner strength and global harmony.

Didi Krishna, the current spiritual leader of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, captivated the attendees with her insightful talk and guided meditation, guiding everyone to the source of their inner power. The event also featured a recorded video message from the revered spiritual master, Dada J.P. Vaswani, whose timeless wisdom touched many hearts.

The evening was a testament to the unifying power of spirituality, as attendees from diverse backgrounds came together to explore their inner potential and foster a sense of community. The Sadhu Vaswani Center for World Peace, dedicated to spreading the teachings of Dada J.P. Vaswani, was proud to host this impactful event for the greater benefit of all.

UPCOMING EVENT: WORLD PEACE FESTIVAL IN NEW JERSEY

Building on the success of the Manhattan event, the Sadhu Vaswani Center for World Peace is thrilled to announce the World Peace Festival, to be held on June 1st in New Jersey. This free-to-attend event promises to be a grand community and interfaith gathering, with families, friends, and community leaders engaging in essential dialogues about peace in today's world.

The festival will feature a variety of performances, a peace pageant, a guided meditation by Didi Krishna, interfaith talks, and delicious Indian food

including snacks and lunch. Over 1,000 people are expected to join this momentous occasion, making it a unique opportunity for connection and inspiration. This will be Didi Krishna's last event in person in the tri-state area for the year, so we invite everyone to participate and make the most of this special day. Just as the Manhattan event opened many hearts, we aim to achieve even greater impact with the World Peace Festival.

Join us on June 1st to partake in this transformative event and be a part of the movement for global peace and unity. For more details and to register, please visit

our website at www.sadhuvaswanicenter.com

Let us come together to create a more peaceful and compassionate world.

For more information about the Sadhu Vaswani Center for World Peace and our upcoming events, please visit our website or follow us on social media.

WEBSITE:

www.sadhuvaswanicenter.com

Instagram: @sadhuvaswanicenter

Join us on June 1st for the World Peace Festival in New Jersey - an event not to be missed!

<https://bit.ly/worldpeacefestival>



Didi Krishna has a word with India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj



ALotusinthemud.com publisher Parveen Chopra has a word with Didi Krishna. Seen in the middle is film director Neha



Kunal Sood greets Didi Krishna. Looking on is India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj



Didi Krishna poses for a photograph with her followers

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The question of Palestine's U.N. membership



BY C.S.R. MURTHY

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT PALESTINE HAS ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN U.N. MEMBERSHIP. IN 2011 TOO, ITS REQUEST WAS OPPOSED BY THE VETO-BEARING U.S. IN THE UNSC

"THE U.N. REQUIRES MEMBERSHIP SEEKERS TO BE "PEACE LOVING" STATES AND TO BE ABLE AND WILLING, IN ITS JUDGMENT, TO CARRY OUT THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE CHARTER. WHILE THE CRITERIA WERE LIBERALLY INTERPRETED, THE PROCEDURAL THRESHOLD LAID DOWN FOR ADMISSION TURNED OUT TO BE DECISIVE AND DIFFICULT AND WAS DICTATED BY THE POLITICAL EXIGENCIES OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS (P5) IN THE UNSC AT ANY GIVEN TIME. AS SUCH, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS REQUIRE RECOMMENDATION WITHOUT THE EXPRESS OPPOSITION OF ANY OF THE P5 BEFORE THE UNGA ACCEPTS THE ADMISSION REQUEST. IN OTHER WORDS, THE UNSC'S RECOMMENDATION IS RULED OUT IF ANY OF THE P5 CASTS A NEGATIVE VOTE BY EXERCISING THEIR VETO POWER, WHEREAS NO SUCH VETO POWER APPLIES IN THE UNGA EXCEPT THAT THE DECISION SHOULD BE CLEARED BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY."

Israel's war on Gaza has raised several ethical, political, and diplomatic questions. One diplomatic development that has attracted a lot of interest is Palestine's renewed application for membership of the United Nations (U.N.). Ironically, its quest is stuck at the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) due mainly to the geopolitical calculations of the U.S., which argued that membership should follow and not precede a negotiated solution to the long-standing conflict.

This is not the first time that Palestine has attempted to obtain U.N. membership. In 2011 too, its request was opposed by the veto-bearing U.S. in the UNSC. Since then, Palestine enjoys only non-member observer status.

This year, in April, after the UNSC failed to agree on Palestine's request because of the lone veto cast by the U.S. in its capacity as a permanent member, the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) stepped in to voice support to the Palestinian application. On May 10, the UNGA overwhelmingly adopted a resolution affirming Palestine's eligibility to assume full membership in the U.N. It also urged the UNSC to favorably consider Palestine's request.

NORMS AND POLITICS

The U.N. requires membership seekers to be "peace loving" states and to be able and willing, in its judgment, to carry out the obligations of the Charter. While the criteria were liberally interpreted, the procedural threshold laid down for admission turned out to be decisive and difficult and was dictated by the political exigencies of the five permanent members (P5) in the UNSC at any given time. As such, membership applications require recommendation without the express opposition of any of the P5 before the UNGA accepts the admission request. In other words, the UNSC's recommendation is ruled out if any of the P5 casts a negative vote by exercising their veto power, whereas no such veto power applies in the UNGA except that the decision should be cleared by a two-thirds majority.

U.S. VETOES RESOLUTION BACKING FULL U.N. MEMBERSHIP FOR PALESTINE

When Cold War politics stalled numerous admission requests in the UNSC in early years, the UNGA sought the World Court's opinion on whether the UNGA had the power to admit states in the absence of the UNSC's recommendation. The Court ruled in 1948 that the UNSC's recommendation is a prerequisite for the UNGA to exercise its power. Subsequently, the deadlock in



A protesting student at Columbia University flies a Palestinian flag

File photo

the UNSC was broken to recommend all pending applications. This marked successive decades of steady increase of the total membership from the 51 founding members to 193 today. It would not be off the mark to note that membership of the U.N. is invariably viewed as a sought-after confirmation of sovereign statehood of the countries which gained independence from foreign rule or occupation.

The example of Mongolia is comparable to Palestine's plea. When Mongolia's membership application was stuck in the UNSC, the UNGA intervened with a resolution similar to what was done in the Palestine case, suggesting that Mongolia deserves a favorable recommendation by the UNSC. Eventually Mongolia became a member in 1961.

INDIA'S APPROACH

India joined 142 member countries in supporting the UNGA in the May 2024 resolution favoring Palestine's case for membership. India opined that membership status could enhance the prospect of a two-state solution to the protracted Israel-Palestine conflict. Notably, India's position to the membership question is now entirely in line with the approach articulated during the Nehruvian era - that U.N. membership should be open to all state applicants without discrimination. In fact, there is not a single instance of India opposing any country's membership so far. India supported Pakistan's admission to the U.N. in 1947 and also representation of the People's Republic of China's in 1971, despite a prolonged border conflicts with the latter.

While it is true that the U.S. or the

former USSR/Russian Federation stood in the way of many applicants' prospects of becoming U.N. members, China is not free from blame either. After being seated in the UNSC in 1971, the People's Republic of China vetoed newly liberated Bangladesh's membership application.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD?

Clearly Palestine cannot assume full membership bypassing the UNSC and the U.S. China and Russia are apprehensive that such bypassing could become a precedent for the admission of Taiwan or Kosovo later. In a less likely scenario, the U.S. might refrain from casting yet again its veto or abstain from voting, as an expression of displeasure with Israel for ignoring its advice to cease attacks against Gazan civilians, thereby paving the way for the UNGA's approval of Palestine's membership. Israel might protest and quit the UN. If the UNSC stalemate continues, the UNGA could possibly consider keeping Israel out of its deliberations. Such a bold tactical move, which is short of Israel's suspension or expulsion that would be impractical without the UNSC's recommendation, has precedents. South Africa in the apartheid era and the Serb Republic of Yugoslavia during the brutal ethnic cleansing era were barred from participating in the UNGA.

Apart from these theoretical options, accretion of participatory privileges to Palestine, just short of the power to vote in the UNGA and eligibility to be elected to other major principal organs of the UN, from September would signal that might cannot become right in this age.

(C.S.R. Murthy is former Professor of International Organization at JNU, New Delhi. He is the author of 'India in the United Nations: Interplay of Interests and Principles')

India's middle class and the 'Modi factor'



BY GABRIELE
PARUSSINI

AS PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LOOKED SET TO WIN A SECOND TERM IN 2019, GABRIELE PARUSSINI DELVED INTO THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE COUNTRY'S MIDDLE CLASS VOTERS WHO WERE THE MAIN ENGINE BEHIND HIS PREVIOUS VICTORY. HIS ANALYSIS IS WORTH REVISITING TODAY.

Narendra Modi's appeal to the middle class is a case study in political communication, as his style of populism does not neatly fit any typical framework long studied by academics.

In liberal democracies the world over, the middle class is known to be an anchor of stability and a defender of the status quo. Like elsewhere, members of India's middle class are no revolutionaries. They support communal peace and social stability, they seek improvement through incremental change, not uprisings, and, above all, are keen to eschew politics altogether.

In a study of Indian middle-class voters during the 2019 election campaign, I found that most of them supported the status quo - a secular, multicultural India that emerged after Independence. These voters acknowledged the centripetal potential of religion in the Indian polity and assessed it negatively. This was true even among many supporters of Mr. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Why then does this stability-loving middle class vote for a party whose policies are aimed at changing the secular status quo? Does its shift towards a national-populist party such as the BJP represent a rebellion, a rejection of the present order; or is it the result of other dynamics, including the perception that the party is not extremist anymore?

The answer, my research found, lies partly in a double messaging by Mr. Modi and the BJP.

Of the voters I interviewed, only a tiny minority - less than a tenth of the sample - supported unconditionally the BJP's agenda items in their original, extreme, uncompromising form. A large majority of the participants, including BJP supporters, for instance, did not support the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, because they were afraid it would spark violence. They supported a compromise, and did not fully believe that the party would go ahead with the creation of the temple. In short, the BJP's promise of building the temple had low credibility.

Low credibility is usually a downside for a party because it undermines voter trust in its commitment. However, low credibility helped the BJP develop a double level of communication with its audience. The assumption that the party would not act on its most extreme, Hindutva-connotated proposals made it sound more innocuous to moderate middle-class voters.

This does not necessarily mean that there was discrepancy between the BJP's message and the middle class's understanding of it. Rather, the audience decoded the message in accordance with its own social and cultural context, even though it did not necessarily accept the underlying ideology. In other words, India's



Mr. Modi has created an original style of populism that academics are still studying.
Photo: BJP Media via ANI

middle class did not engage with the BJP's entire message, ignoring the parts it found unacceptable.

The encoder of the political message - in this case Mr. Modi and the BJP - took advantage of the middle class's willingness to ignore the obvious consequences of its choices by offering a pretense of moderation, which I call 'implicit moderation'.

Ultimately, however, this 'implicit moderation' only held true during the election campaign, fostering an impression that let voters believe that they were not choosing something revolutionary. Once it came to power, the BJP swayed to its more extreme instincts, taking peace-threatening measures such as construction of the Ram temple.

Another question this study set out to answer is to what extent the middle class is aware of the BJP's attempts to create alternative narratives aimed at changing the public perception of the record.

I found that participants could separate the effective change that has been delivered and the impression of change that the BJP was eager to convey.

For instance, many of the participants noted that the BJP had tinkered with the names of welfare schemes since it got into power, such as by adding 'PM' to the names. One participant said that attention to public perception and promotion of government action were the main differences between the BJP government and its predecessor: "Maybe [the same] was happening with Congress. But [now] the media is promoting so much, [that] we know this is happening," he said.

Despite understanding that the BJP constructs alternative narratives when it suits, middle-class voters support it again partly because of Mr. Modi's communication.

When asked what the main measures adopted by the BJP-led government until 2019 are, two-thirds of the respondents mentioned either demonetization or the introduction of the goods and services tax, or GST.

The overwhelming majority of participants thought both of these measures caused large disruption, or their implementation was botched up. Still, many of them held a positive image of the party's record in power, thanks to the government's messaging.

In demonetization, for instance, the BJP built an alternative narrative, one in which Mr. Modi's populist tactics are on full display.

The process set up was highly dramatic. Mr. Modi described himself as the hero who was leading a fight against an evil conspiracy. Demonetization became a moral tale where regular people are associated to the hero in a fight against the money hoarder, and, essentially, the rich.

The revenge narrative had a wide appeal, irrespective of participants' political allegiance. "The big people, the businessmen had the most problems...which was a good thing. Poor people did not have any problem," said one participant.

Rather than focusing on the negative consequences of these measures, participants were swayed by Mr. Modi's decisiveness. One BJP opponent said that "demonetization was very drastic", but

called it "a very good step" because Mr. Modi "didn't think twice" about it. Mr. Modi's decisiveness showed that he takes responsibility for his own actions, radical as they may be.

This research found that the middle class wants to see an affirmative, purposeful government that does not refrain from action, even if the rights and the freedom of some sections of society are curtailed.

In the last 10 years of his leadership, it is debatable whether Mr. Modi has been the 'Vikas Purush' or development man that he promised to be in 2014. But there is no debate that his development credentials with the middle class have been barely dented. That is thanks to his effective advertisement and the adoption of populist tactics to communicate with the audience. Populism thrives around a communication process that creates a direct connection between the leader and his audience, and Mr. Modi has created an original style of populism that academics are still studying.

The middle class can see through the BJP's promotional effort, but tolerates the party's aggressive communication style because it considers it to be fair game in politics. How this electorate votes in the ongoing elections will warrant further study not only to better understand the communication tools that work for populist leaders but also to get clues on the future of the world's largest democracy.

(Gabriele Parussini, who was the India correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, decided in the late 2010s to pursue a PhD under the supervision of Christophe Jaffrelot and Rafal Zaborowski at King's College, but died of blood cancer soon after submitting his thesis. He has just been awarded the title of doctor, posthumously.)

The final assault of the 2024 battle!

BALLOTS, NOT BULLETS, PUNJABIS FIRE DIFFERENTLY.



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

"WHEN THE HIGH-PITCHED CAMPAIGN WAS DRAWING TO ITS CONCLUSION, LEADERS LIKE PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH, DEFENSE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH, FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, CHIEF MINISTERS OF VARIOUS STATES, INCLUDING THOSE GOVERNED BY BJP AND AAP, WERE IN THE STATE PROMISING MOON TO THE STATE TORMENTED BY CONTINUOUS NEGLECT BY THE CENTRE AS WELL AS ITS SINKING FISCAL HEALTH AND ITS STRONG FARM FORCE OUT IN STREETS DEMANDING ACCEPTANCE OF ITS LONG-STANDING DEMANDS."

Punjabis are unique as they have a style of saying things differently. While the rest of the country was engaged in a war of "hatred", "communal and religious divides" and "character assassinations" during the first six phases of polling in the Lok Sabha elections, they were greatly amused. Political discourse had touched a new low.

For the last five days, anyone and everyone who matters in the Indian political system, was in Punjab, heaping praises on the people of this border State for their unprecedented contribution not only to the freedom struggle but also in rebuilding the nation after the hard-earned 1947 freedom.



Lok Sabha din dies in Punjab. PM Modi in Hoshiarpur; & (right) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Khatkar Kalan on the last day of campaigning.

Credit: Pradeep Tewari/Malkiat Singh - Tribune

When the high-pitched campaign was drawing to its conclusion, leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Chief Ministers of various States, including those governed by BJP and AAP, were in the State promising moon to the State tormented by continuous neglect by the Centre as well as its sinking fiscal health and its strong farm force out in streets demanding acceptance of its long-standing demands.

The farm force wanted in a democratic way to question the national political leadership in general and the BJP in particular as to why the farmers were being labelled as "urban Naxalites", "Khalistanis" or "anti-national elements" for their peaceful agitations in support of their long-standing demands, including guaranteed Minimum Support Price for their produce.

It was this final phase of campaigning that brought the two Prime Ministers - the incumbent and his immediate predecessor - face to face on how democracy should be run or governed.

Intriguingly, it did not happen in any of the first six phases that saw polling for 486 of 543 seats completed. But the last 57 seats that will go to poll on June 1 are different.

Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand besides Chandigarh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term from Varanasi.

The turnout in the first six phases was 66.14%, 66.71%, 65.68%, 69.16%, 62.2% and 63.36% respectively. Counting of votes will be taken up on June 4.

There was nothing unusual in the campaigning as the BJP leaders led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi spared no chance to heap accusations on the Congress and the INDIA alliance leaders of being corrupt, anti-Hindu and engaging in loot, appeasement and

dynastic politics. The Opposition parties, too, shot back alleging that the BJP was anti-farmer, anti-youth and was itching to change and scrap the Constitution.

Appealing to emotive voters is an art in which Indian politicians excel. Historic and religious references were galore as they did not stop short of creating wedges among communities to suit their political game plans.

In Punjab, realizing that farmers come from the Jat families, the BJP and others played a calculated plan to woo non-Jats, especially Dalits. In his last rally at Hoshiarpur, PM Modi attempted to strike a rapport with the Dalit dominated audience saying he represented Varanasi, the birthplace of Guru Ravi Dass, and he had come to pay his obeisance at "Chotti Kashi" of Ravidasias (Hoshiarpur).

Elsewhere, PM Modi was going out of way to heap praise on the Sikh community holding that one of "Panj Piaras" of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji came from Gujarat. Intriguingly, it was during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, a national holiday on the birth anniversary of the founder of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was cancelled by him. The Sikh community of Ahmedabad and the rest of Gujarat had strongly protested against the decision of the then BJP government of the State.

As the election campaigning was coming to an end, former Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, issued a three-page letter to the voters of Punjab. This surprise move by Dr Manmohan Singh has created a furor as he is known to be a man of principles. Dr Manmohan Singh accused Modi of lowering the dignity of public discourse and the gravity of the office of the prime minister by giving "hateful speeches" during the poll campaign. In an appeal to voters of Punjab, Dr. Singh asserted that only the Congress can ensure growth-oriented progressive future where democracy and Constitution will be safeguarded. He also hit out at the BJP government for imposing the "ill-conceived" Agnipath scheme on the

armed forces.

PM Modi took upon himself the onerous responsibility of spearheading the election campaign. As such he had 206 public outreach programs, including rallies and roadshows, after elections to 18th Lok Sabha were announced on March 16.

In Punjab, where the ruling AAP and its INDIA bloc partner Congress are fighting separately in a multi-cornered contest, the high-decibel campaign saw the participation of almost all top politicians of the country.

For the Congress, Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra led the campaign. For AAP, its convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, got interim bail from the Apex Court to campaign for party candidates in Punjab, Delhi and Haryana. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, out on interim bail in the excise policy case, also led an aggressive campaign for his party candidates along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Modi, while addressing a rally at Hoshiarpur in Punjab, attacked the Congress for "ranting" about the Constitution when it was the one that "strangled" it during the Emergency and did not care about it when Sikhs were killed in the 1984 riots. He also talked about various other issues, including reservations, corruption and Ram Temple.

Hitting out at the Opposition for questioning the Agnipath scheme, he accused the INDIA bloc of making the Army a "weapon of politics" and said there could not be a "bigger sin than this".

Punjab is known to set new political trends. 2024 is not going to be any different. The results of 13 Punjab seats may have a pack of surprises for many as both national and regional parties are expected to perform differently than anticipated.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

4th Annual Long Island Vaisakhi Mela draws huge crowds



Prayers go up and blessings come showering

MAY 22, 2024

LONG ISLAND (TIP): Long Island Punjabi Circle celebrated 4th annual Vaisakhi Mela, supported by Event Masters, Metropolitan Caterers, NC Asian American Affairs, IAAC, New York Kabaddi Club, Femina Spa, and LIDC on Sunday, May 19.

The marketplace attracted a large number of buyers. Clothes, jewelry, and shoes vendors did good business. Corporates showcased their products and services.

United Mortgage was the main attraction with a huge booth setup and banners all over as they were the Grand Sponsors of the event. Top Caterers like Metropolitan, Punjabi Dhaba, Badshah, Royal, Momos & Yass Tea had sumptuous food and drinks, with the unending line of customers.

The Kids Section sponsored by Patel Brothers, Hicksville, had free games, rides, Choo Choo Train, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Pony rides, Drinks, and Ice Cream.

The Raffle booth decorated with vibrant chunnis was a showstopper as KIA Car was the First prize to win. Lots of prizes including Big Screen TV's, Jewelry sets, I-Pods, and other prizes were encouraging people to buy the raffle tickets.

Famous Punjabi singer and heart throb Gulab Sidhu, Indian Idol Khuda Baksh, Voice of Punjab Harmanpreet Kaur and others gave great performances and made everyone dance to their tunes.

Bhangra & Giddha showcased the Punjabi cultural roots.

The administration of Nassau County including the



The Sikh martial art Gatka on display



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Harry Singh Bolla at the mela



An artist plays Dhol



A singer charms

office of Asian Affairs were given the credit with gratitude by Mela team. The County Executive Bruce Blakeman, NYS Senator Steve Rhoads, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, NYS Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz, NYS Assemblyman John K. Mikulin, NC Human Rights Commission Chairman Bobby Kumar Kalotee, ICCI T-20 World Cup Chairman Harry Singh Bolla, Senior Advisor Akram Chaudhary and many more graced the Stage with Citations and Proclamations apart from enjoying the event.

Every Year Mela Team helps a family with generous donation, and this time they chose a family of their own, team member, volunteer Late Davinder Singh. Apart from the \$2500 contribution from Mela, Harry Singh Bolla of Bolla Oil donated \$5000.

The Vaisakhi Mela Organizers consisting of Onkar Singh, Rajeev Maini, Deepak Bansal, Jay Sharma and Jasbir Jay Singh thanked Sponsors, Supporters, Volunteers, and the team who worked hard behind the scenes to make the event a great success.

They also thanked Metropolitan Caterers for Dinner, the celebrated singers Gulab Sidhu and Khuda Baksh as well as the Sponsors Richard Hernandez, Ravi Chopra, Purushottam ji and many others.

Gagan and Guri of One Touch Studio who took care of photography and also supported the event were also profusely thanked.

The 5th edition of the Mela will be held on 3rd Sunday of 2025.



Turn of the organizers to have their say

INDIA ELECTIONS 2024: PHASE 7

India's gruelling, acrimonious election campaign comes to an end

**NEW DELHI (TIP)**

More than two months of gruelling and acrimonious campaigning in India's general election that played out in sweltering heat ended on Thursday, two days before the final phase of polling, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency will cast its votes.

India began voting in seven phases in the world's largest election on April 19 and it is set to conclude on June 1. Votes will be counted on June 4 although television channels conduct exit polls and project results after voting ends.

Modi, who is seeking a record-equalling third straight term and is widely expected to win, began his re-election campaign by focusing on his achievements over the last 10 years but soon switched to mostly targeting the opposition by accusing them of favouring India's minority Muslims.

This change of tack, analysts said, was likely aimed at firing up his Hindu nationalist base after a low turnout in the first phase sparked concerns that supporters of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were not voting.



India's election rules stop campaigning about 36 hours before voting begins.

Modi addressed one rally in the northern state of Punjab on Thursday, while his main opponent, the Congress party's Rahul Gandhi, spoke at rallies in the states of Odisha and Punjab.

"It is clear from the overwhelming

support of people ... that there is going to be an unprecedented victory" for BJP and the alliance it leads, Modi posted on X minutes before campaigning ended.

Modi will spend the next two days meditating at the southernmost tip of India at an island memorial for Hindu philosopher Swami Vivekananda, located

at where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean converge.

Opposition parties criticised his decision, saying it was a form of campaigning as his meditation would be shown on TV and so was in breach of the rules, with the Congress complaining to the Election Commission.

"This is a blatant violation of the code of conduct. We don't mind if he goes to meditate anywhere after June 1," Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said.

Modi meditated at a cave in the Himalayas two days before the last phase of voting in 2019, an election BJP won resoundingly. While opinion polls say his popularity has not waned, his opponents have criticised him for his divisive politics and on issues such as unemployment, inflation and rural distress.

"No PM, in the past, has uttered hateful, unparliamentary, and coarse terms ... meant to target either a specific section of society or opposition," former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in a letter to voters in Punjab on May 30.

Source: Reuters

From Ram Mandir to Ambani-Adani: How BJP, Opposition fared so far in Lok Sabha campaign

NEW DELHI (TIP)

At the fag end of this year's high-octane Lok Sabha campaign, with only 57 seats left to vote on June 1, we take a look back at the important issues raised by both ruling and Opposition leaders. From trading barbs over dynasty rule, the Hindu-Muslim divide, the Ram Mandir, and the influence of business tycoons like Ambani-Adani to the alleged bid to change the Constitution, both the BJP and the Opposition INDIA bloc leaders campaigned fiercely in their bid to woo voters.

Modi's push for 400 seats and jibes at Opposition

Exuding confidence in winning a third term, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated that the past 10 years were just a trailer and more was yet to come.

Modi often lauded his achievements over the past two terms and mentioned the consecration of the Ram Temple, the abrogation of Article 370, and the introduction of the Ujjwala scheme, among others, during his speeches.

At the beginning of the campaign, Modi made repeated calls for "400 Paar". However, after the Congress vehemently opposed it and alleged that the ruling party intended to change the Constitution, PM Modi said he needed 400 seats so that the Opposition could not succeed in its plan to put the "Babri lock" on the Ram Mandir or bring back Article 370.

In the context of wealth redistribution, PM Modi referred to Muslims and used the term, ghuspaithiye (infiltrators), in a rally in Banswara, Rajasthan. Further, he claimed that Hindu women's "streedhan" (jewellery) was under threat of being taken away. PM Modi also slammed the Opposition, claiming that if the INDIA bloc came to power, it would engage in wealth redistribution to benefit the Congress's "Muslim vote bank" or "loot reservation from SCs, STs, and OBCs".

After his wealth redistribution remark went viral, PM Modi in an interview with News18 India said, "The day I do Hindu-Muslim, I will be unworthy of public life" and "it is my resolve" that "I will not do Hindu-Muslim".

While the Opposition slammed the BJP over electoral bonds, PM Modi referred to Rahul Gandhi as the shehzada (prince) of the Congress and alleged that he stopped criticising Ambani and Adani since the polls were notified. The BJP leader asked Rahul Gandhi to declare how much the party had got from these two industrialists.

In West Bengal, PM Modi slammed the Mamata Banerjee government for 'allowing Rohingyas to settle and change the demography' of the state. In a direct



accusation ahead of the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, PM Modi said, "West Bengal CM, under pressure from Muslim fundamentalists, is defaming and abusing our saints and organisations to get votes." He was referring to Banerjee's recent remarks against the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Ramakrishna Mission, and ISKCON.

How has the Opposition fared in the poll campaign?

The INDIA bloc mainly hit out at the BJP over inflation, unemployment, farmers' income, minority issues, and electoral bonds. In its manifesto, Nyay Patra, the Congress promised a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops. The grand old party announced a slew of promises, such as scrapping the Agniveer scheme, and lifting the 50 per cent cap on quota for SCs, STs, and OBCs in addition to reservations in private educational institutions.

In a mega rally in Mumbai, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Modi is a "mask" who works for a "Shakti" (power). PM Modi hit back, saying the clash is between those who worship Shakti (Divine Feminine in Hindu philosophy) and those who want to destroy it.

Rahul Gandhi also promised to conduct a caste census along with a financial survey. Midway through the campaign, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge promised to give free ration every month to the poor and Rahul Gandhi promised to deposit Rs 8,000 every month in the bank accounts of poor women.

After coming under fire for silence on the CAA issue, veteran Congress leader P Chidambaram said the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) would be repealed in the first session of Parliament after the



Lok Sabha polls.

In Lucknow, Rahul Gandhi admitted that the Congress has made mistakes and needs to change its politics. Before that, while hitting the campaign trail in Karnataka, Rahul Gandhi had attacked Modi over electoral bonds and said, "PM Modi's hands were shaking when he justified electoral bonds, it is the world's biggest scam."

Even though the Opposition faced a setback with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's midnight arrest by the ED on March 21, the campaign got a new lease of life with the AAP supremo's release on interim bail. Since then, Kejriwal has headed a rigorous campaign and mounted an attack on PM Modi saying, "He (Modi) is turning 75 next September. He is the one who made the rule that those who turn 75 had to retire. He has to retire next year. I ask the BJP, 'who is your PM pick?'"

The INDIA bloc also suffered political blows with the arrest of JMM leader and former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Meanwhile, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee said her party would support the INDIA alliance from the outside but later changed her stance claiming the coalition was her brainchild and she was

very much a part of it.

Voter turnout

The Lok Sabha elections so far have recorded an overall voter turnout of 65.63 per cent, according to EC data. The first phase of polling held in 102 constituencies across 21 states and Union Territories on April 19 saw a voter turnout of around 66.14 per cent. For the second phase held on April 26, in which 88 seats voted, voter turnout stood at 66.71 per cent.

In the third phase (93 seats), the voter turnout clocked 65.58 per cent. The fourth phase (96 seats) on May 13, recorded 67.25 per cent voter turnout while the fifth phase on May 20 registered a voter turnout of 62.15 per cent. The sixth phase held across 58 constituencies on May 25, recorded a voter turnout of 61.01 per cent.

EC notices to Congress, BJP

The Election Commission issued notices to BJP president J P Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on alleged breaches by their star campaigners, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, respectively, on April 26. The Commission acted on complaints filed by the Congress, the CPI, and the CPI (M-L) against Modi's speech referring to Muslims in Banswara, Rajasthan on April 21. The Commission's notice to Kharge was in response to complaints filed by the BJP which alleged that Rahul Gandhi and Kharge violated the MCC.

A month later, the EC directed BJP star campaigners not to make communal speeches and asked Opposition party leaders to refrain from saying that the Constitution may be abolished.

Source: The Indian Express

Biden partially lifts ban on Ukraine using U.S. arms in strikes on Russian territory, U.S. officials say

MAY 31, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden has given Ukraine the go-ahead to use American weaponry to strike inside Russia for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the matter.

The officials, who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter, underscored that the U.S. policy calling on Ukraine not to use American-provide long-range missiles and other munitions to strike inside Russia offensively has not changed.

The move comes as Ukrainian officials have stepped up calls on the U.S. administration to allow its forces to defend itself against attacks originating from Russian territory.

Biden's decision was first reported by Politico.

Ukraine gets more military aid from Europe but Putin warns of consequences if Russian soil is hit

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday assailed Russian attempts to sow discord in democracies with misinformation after hinting the Biden administration may soon allow Ukraine to use American-supplied munitions to strike inside Russia.

With an increasing number of officials saying Ukraine must be able to defend itself by attacking targets in Russian territory, Blinken joined NATO foreign ministers for a meeting in Prague, where he said Moscow's use of misinformation and disinformation was a "poison" and signed an agreement with the Czech government to combat it.

He also toured a Czech military base, where he saw armored vehicles that Prague is sending to Kyiv to help fight Russia's invasion and received a briefing on a Czech initiative to supply Ukraine with a million rounds of ammunition by the end of the year.

"We know that a major front in the competition that we have, the adversarial relationship that we have, notably with Russia, is on the information front," Blinken said.

He said the agreement with the Czechs - the 17th such accord the US has signed with partner nations - would help "to effectively deal with misinformation and disinformation, which is a poison being injected into our democracies by our adversaries".



US Arms to Ukraine

File photo

"The more we're able to do together both between our countries but also with other countries, the more effective we're going to be exposing it and dealing with it," Blinken told reporters at a signing ceremony with Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky.

Lipavsky agreed, noting that Czech authorities had recently exposed a major Russian-backed misinformation campaign.

"We are facing confrontation between democracies and autocracies," Lipavsky said. "The Kremlin has started targeting democracies all around the world with cyber warfare, propaganda and influence operations and this danger simply cannot be underestimated anymore." At a separate NATO-related event on Thursday, Lipavsky said Ukraine needs resources to counter Russia's relentless assault.

"Ukraine cannot fight against Russia with one hand tied behind its back," he said. "Ukraine must be able to fight against Russia's barbaric invasion even on Russian territory. Political resolve must be backed by credible capabilities." Norway's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that his country believes Ukraine "has a crystal-clear right under international law to attack Russia inside Russia as part of the defense of its territory".

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and support for Ukrainian attempts to repel it will be a major focus of the NATO foreign minister meetings on Thursday and Friday - the alliance's last major diplomatic gathering before a leaders' summit in Washington in July to mark the 75th anniversary of its founding.

On Wednesday in Moldova, Blinken said that U.S. policy on how Ukraine deploys American weapons is constantly evolving, suggesting that Washington may rescind an unwritten prohibition on Ukraine's use of them for attacks on Russian territory.

Ukraine says talks on France sending military instructors ongoing

Although U.S. officials insist there is no formal ban, they have long made clear that they believe the use of American weapons to attack targets inside Russia could provoke an escalatory response from Moscow, something that Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised.

That position appears to be being reconsidered, and Blinken noted that it was a "hallmark" of the Biden administration's stance on Ukraine to "adapt and adjust" as needed. Blinken visited Kyiv earlier this month and heard a direct appeal from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to use U.S. military assistance to strike positions in Russian from where attacks on Ukraine are launched.

"As the conditions have changed, as the battlefield has changed, as what Russia does has changed in terms of how it's pursuing its aggression, escalation, we've adapted and adjusted too, and I'm confident we'll continue to do that," Blinken said at a news conference in Chisinau.

"At every step along the way, we've adapted and adjusted as necessary, and so that's exactly what we'll do going forward," he said. "We're always listening, we're always learning, and we're always making determinations about what's necessary to make sure that Ukraine can effectively continue to defend itself, and we'll continue to do that." Earlier this week, French President Emmanuel Macron and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said that Western countries should not object if Ukraine needs to strike inside Russia to defend itself. Stoltenberg reaffirmed that position on Thursday.

"I believe that time has come to (re)consider some of these restrictions to enable the Ukrainians to really defend themselves," he said. "We need to remember what it is. This is a war of aggression launched by choice by Moscow against Ukraine." The right to self-defense, he said, "includes also striking legitimate military targets outside Ukraine". (Agencies)



US envoy to India Eric Garcetti

File photo

NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts for joint mission to ISS: Garcetti

envoy to India Eric Garcetti has said.

Garcetti made these remarks while speaking at the "US-India Commercial Space Conference: Unlocking Opportunities for US & Indian Space Startups," hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and the US Commercial Service (USCS) in Bengaluru on Friday, May 24.

"NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts, with the goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station, hopefully, this year or shortly thereafter, which was one of the promises of our leaders' visit together," Garcetti said.

"And soon we will launch the NISAR satellite from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Center to monitor all resources, including ecosystems, the Earth's surface, natural hazards, sea level rise, and the cryosphere," Garcetti said, according to a

USIBC press statement issued here.

NISAR is a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"You see whether it's the pursuit of peace and the peaceful use of space, things like the Artemis Accord, we are hand in hand, arm in arm. When it comes to prosperity and jobs, which is a big part of this conference today, it can be produced by startups in this sector; good-paying, high-tech jobs for Indians and for Americans. Space is right there," Garcetti said.

The Artemis Accords lay out a framework for collaborating nations' safe exploration of the moon and beyond.

The day-long event in Bengaluru saw the participation from senior officials from both the US and Indian governments, including Garcetti, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Chairman Dr. S Somanath, representatives from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Government of India, as well as prominent leaders from the commercial space industry, industry stakeholders, venture capitalists, and market analysts.

"I must salute the visionary leadership that we have in both nations in India and the US for engaging in such an accord which looks at the moon as a sustainable place for all of us to come and work together," Somnath said in his remarks.

"The connection between the Indian partners and also the US partners in critical technologies and specifically in the space sector is really becoming stronger.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

MAY 25, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. / BENGALURU (TIP): NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts to send a joint mission to the International Space Station this year or shortly thereafter, US

Radiant Reverence: FIA Chicago's Dazzling Gala Honors Mothers and Unveils magnificent Star Awards



Unveil of the Star Award Trophy

Left to Right: Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy, Vice Chairman Neil Khot, Founder Chairman Sunil Shah, Consulate General of India Somnath Ghosh, President Pratibha Jairath



Mother's Day Special Award to First Lady Anandita Ghosh

Left to Right: Vice Chairman Neil Khot, First Lady of FIA Rita Shah, First Lady of Indian Consulate Anandita Ghosh, Founder Chairman Sunil Shah

CHICAGO, IL - On May 19, 2024, Chicago witnessed a remarkable celebration of love and appreciation at Ashyana Banquets, orchestrated by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Chicago and Desi Junction. This unforgettable Mother's Day event honored the unsung women whose unconditional love and unwavering strength shape our lives in profound ways. This event was also the big reveal and unveiling of the upcoming 'Star Awards'

The event was expertly conceptualized, conducted and managed by the Jassi Parmar and Desi Junction Team, whose charisma and wit added flair to the proceedings.

The evening began with a vibrant Social Hour, setting the stage for an enchanting journey of recognition and jubilation. The melodious performance by Payel Ganguly & Group focusing on Bollywood songs about motherhood and families

With humorous announcements about the uniqueness of personalities of Chairman and Founder of FIA, Sunil Shah, Vice-Chairman, Neil Khot, President Pratibha Jairath and past President Vinita Gulabani were invited to the stage to commence the program. Chairman and Founder President Sunil Shah spoke about the past achievements of FIA, current President eloquently spoke of Mother's Day celebration and Vice Chairman Neil Khot pumped up the excitement with teasers about the surprises to be unveiled. Past President Vinita Gulabani gave the inner workings of FIA and how FIA manages to contribute to the community and host these spectacular programs.

Chairman and Founder President Sunil Shah then invited the Chief Guest to the stage, Consulate General of India Somnath Ghosh, this was followed by President Pratibha Jairath inviting US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy to the stage. Both spoke about the role mothers play in shaping up not only the families but also the society and how we all become better citizens.

With spirited flair, the stage came alive as Chairman and Founder of FIA, Sunil Shah, Vice-Chairman Neil Khot, President



Chief Guests with Star Awards Core Team

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy, Vice Chairman Neil Khot, Founder Chairman Sunil Shah, Consulate General of India Somnath Ghosh, President Pratibha Jairath, Past President Vinita Gulabani holding the trophy with the core team members.



FIA Office bearers for Mother's Day event

Left to Right: Jt. Secretary Falguni Sukhadia, Jt. Cultural Secretary Priyanka Parekh, Past President Hitesh Gandhi, President Pratibha Jairath, Founder Chairman Sunil Shah, Vice Chairman Neil Khot, Past President Vinita Gulabani, Vice Chairman Neil Khot, Vice President Chandani Duvvuri, Tech Team Lead Kamlesh Kapoor, Secretary General Nilabh Dubey

Pratibha Jairath, and past President Vinita Gulabani took center stage to kickstart the evening's festivities. Chairman and Founder President Sunil Shah regaled the audience with anecdotes of FIA's illustrious journey, while President Pratibha Jairath eloquently championed the spirit of Mother's Day celebration. Vice Chairman Neil Khot electrified the atmosphere with tantalizing hints about the surprises awaiting, setting the stage abuzz with anticipation. Past President Vinita Gulabani spoke about the intricate workings of FIA, shedding light on the organization's profound impact on the in Chicagoland and its unwavering commitment to serve the community.

The grand Unveil, the prestigious "Star Awards" trophy, symbolizing excellence

and achievement within the community, was unveiled by the chief guests. FIA announced the categories for these awards, including Entrepreneur of the Decade, Best Medical Professional, Best Community Organization, and Community Leader of the Year etc., sparking excitement and anticipation among attendees.

FIA Ambassadors for the evening, Falguni Sukhadia, Priyanka Parekh, and Hemendra Shah, managed the awards presentations flawlessly with grace and efficiency, ensuring a seamless flow of events and controlled the backstage operations with great precision.

The highlight of the evening, the Mother's Day Awards Ceremony commenced, where extraordinary

mothers were celebrated for their sacrifices and devotion. Awardees, including Mrs. Anandita Ghosh, Riya Krishnamoorthi, Santosh Kumar, Smita N. Shah, Sweetie Loomba, Dr. Kruti Vyas, Punima Brahmabhatt, Kanan Dhingra, Aishwarya Sharma, Jaspreet Kaur, Promila Kumar, Mini Multani, Dr. Sunita Narang, Milli Jain, Asha Raj Khanna, Smita Shah, Sukhi Singh, and Kelly Suga, exemplified grace, resilience, and compassion.

Esteemed First Lady of FIA, Rita Shah wished everyone a very Happy Mother's Day and delighted all the awardees with a surprise song in her sweet voice as she sang 'Kitni Achchi Hai, Tu Kitni Bholi Hai Pyaari Pyaari Hai O Maa' celebrating the invaluable role of mothers in our lives.

The evening was further enriched by captivating performances by Rasika Bandekar with her classical dance performance and Dancing Divas (Trusha) with the medley of dance on various songs. This was followed by open dance floor with everyone jumping in pulsating beats.

During the conclusion of the event, another surprise awaited attendees, sponsored by Ramesh Punater and Naresh Shah, who generously provided special prizes in various categories such as Best Dancer, Most Enthusiastic Person, and more.

The concept, design and event management was done by team Desi Junction and we could see the amazing collaboration between these two organizations. Kamlesh Kapoor, the creative genius behind all impactful videos and presentations, led the Tech team, delivering a visually stunning experience. Dinesh Kapoor and Atul Wahi ensured all guests were welcomed and assigned to their tables, with their smooth management of Ticket Control for more than 300 guests.

Looking ahead, the "Star Awards" will encompass the celebrations of India's 78th Independence Day, with a grand red-carpet event to be held on Aug 16, 2024 at Matrix Club, promising an evening of elegance, wow factor, pride, and cultural richness.

(Press release by Falguni Sukhadia, Joint Secretary, FIA. Photographs by Asian Media USA)

Operation Bluestar: 40 years on, painful scars remain

THE MILITARY ACTION AT THE GOLDEN TEMPLE IN 1984 HAS LEFT A LASTING IMPACT ON GENERATIONS OF SIKHS, LEAVING MANY TO TRY AND PIECE TOGETHER FRAGMENTS OF PAINFUL PASTS.

Time heals all wounds. But not this one. Not yet. Operation Bluestar, the army operation to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984, has left behind a scar so deep and raw that even 40 years later, the slightest scratch threatens to reopen old wounds of people traumatized by commandos overrunning their place of worship with machine guns, rockets and battle tanks.

But then Bluestar was not a single localized incident whose fall-out could be contained; it had national and international dimensions and was preceded and succeeded by a series of cataclysmic events which changed the country's India's politics and history.

The spread of militancy and the demand for Khalistan provided the backdrop to the operation against Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed group which was operating from the precincts of the Golden Temple. They were among those killed in the assault launched on 5 June.

The operation angered the Sikhs, triggered a mutiny in some army units and led, four months later, to the assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh bodyguards on 31 October. Her death sparked off anti-Sikh riots in which marauding mobs reportedly murdered over 8,000 persons of the community, including 3,000 in Delhi alone. This fuelled another round of militancy and insurgency in Punjab until the passage of time, holding of elections and the people's desire to give peace a chance brought restored some degree of normalcy. There are five main strands to the tragic story: the cause for a separate Khalistan, the role of the army; the Hindu-Sikh relations; the government-Sikh political divide and the call for justice, specially to the victims and relatives of those who suffered or died in the anti-Sikh riots. While the first three have largely been managed and controlled, the balance and trust between a people-political class-government cannot be restored unless the victims feel that justice is done to them.

The most reliable estimates of the total number of deaths during Operation Bluestar range from 5,000 to 7,000. It was a tragedy that could have been avoided if – and it is a big if – Indira Gandhi had had the vision to reach a political settlement with the moderate Akali leadership. Most Akali Dal demands – regarding federal decentralisation, river water rights, territorial readjustment and the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab as its capital – could have been



To dislodge Bhindranwale, the army used the main gun of a tank to fire at the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, nearly reducing it to rubble in the process.

negotiated. Rajiv Gandhi did agree to each of these demands, and many more besides, in the 1985 Rajiv-Longowal Accord. He implemented none.

Indira Gandhi's political decision to use the 'Hindu card' to gain electoral victories led her to choose a dangerous path of confrontation, first with the Akalis and eventually with the entire Sikh community. This miscalculation cost Mrs Gandhi her life, and left the communities of Punjab and of India in general scarred and polarised. This polarisation peaked with the genocidal violence against the Sikh minority in Delhi and many other North Indian Hindu majority towns in November 1984 after the assassination of Indira Gandhi by two of her Sikh security guards. Sikh nationalists in Punjab were eventually defeated, at least militarily, by the 1990s, but Hindu nationalism was promoted so powerfully that the Hindu nationalists succeeded within a few decades in capturing the Indian state.

In the Sikhs' collective memory of 1984, the deaths by army action in June and those by genocidal mob violence in November constitute two ends of the



Snipers taking aim from buildings, overlooking the streets leading to the Golden Temple.

same arc of killings. The two cannot be separated and, therefore, remain indelibly linked to the memory of Operation Bluestar, which is seen as the trigger both for the killings and for later

disappearances, killings in custody and deaths by 'encounters' during the military operations against the armed Sikh opposition movement after the events of 1984.

Operation Bluestar is gradually finding a place in the Sikh practice of ardaas (prayer). This practice is unique in the history of world religions because it gives collective memory a central place. On all important occasions – birth, marriage, death, new job, promotion, passing an examination, new house, Gurburab celebrations (in honour of the gurus' birthdays), or even the daily rituals in a gurdwara – the ardaas recounts in capsule form the history of the Sikh faith.

The ardaas narrative starts with the founding of the faith by Guru Nanak, its continuation by his nine successors and the sacrifices made by the tenth guru Guru Gobind Singh's four sons (sahibzade), the five Beloved Ones (panj piare), the 40 Liberated Ones (chali mukte) and numerous other martyrs right up to the present time. Sikhs have a long memory. Udham Singh waited for 21 years to avenge the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer in 1940. The Naxalite Sikhs punished a Sikh landlord Ajaib Singh Kokri, a witness against the revolutionary Bhagat Singh, by assassinating him in 1974, 43 years after Bhagat Singh was hanged in 1931. The socialisation from early childhood of anyone growing up in a Sikh household (irrespective of the political affiliation of the household) involves such a focused exercise in historical remembrance that most adult Sikhs remember the ardaas by heart, whether they are illiterate farmers or university academics. The ardaas contributes to the making of an active historical being who remembers the past, relates that past to the present and imagines the shaping of the future.

Operation Bluestar has come to be remembered as the teeja Ghallughara (the third holocaust). Many gurdwaras outside India and perhaps some even in India have incorporated the remembrance of the teeja Ghallughara in the ardaas. In Sikh historical memory, there have been two Ghallugharas before Operation Bluestar – the chhota Ghallughara (the small holocaust) and the wadda Ghallughara (the big holocaust). The chhota Ghallughara took place in May 1746 when, according to estimates made by the celebrated Sikh historian Professor Ganda Singh, about 10,000 Sikh men and women were killed. The wadda Ghallughara took place in February 1762 when about 30,000 Sikh men, women and children were slaughtered. According to one as yet unconfirmed estimate, about half of the total Sikh population was liquidated during the wadda Ghallughara.

These were the darkest times in the history of the Sikhs. These massacres could have demoralised them to the point of extinction, but, inspired by the memories of their gurus and martyrs, they regrouped and within a few decades of the wadda Ghallughara, emerged literally from the ashes to become the de facto rulers of Punjab in the last quarter of the 18th century. By 1799, one of them (Ranjit Singh) formalised that de facto rule to become the Maharaja of Punjab. The force of memory weighed upon him too and he ruled, therefore, in the name of the gurus. Some features of feudal



By the end of his life in 1984, Bhindranwale was running a parallel government from within the Darbar Sahib complex, wreaking havoc on law and order and the state machinery. AP FILE PHOTO



Nihang Chief Baba Santa Singh and his followers performing ardaas to handover the Akal Takht after it was renovated following Operation Bluestar.

degeneration which emerged during his rule were the result of his dissociation from the memory of the path of the gurus.

During the dark times the Sikh community faced from 1716, when the Sikh warrior Banda Singh Bahadur was

martyred, to 1799 when Ranjit Singh came to power, Harmandar Sahib (later known more popularly as the Golden Temple) became the nerve centre for the moral, political, military, spiritual and even economic empowerment of the community. While living the life of

guerrilla combatants against the Moghul powers, the leading members of the community would meet twice a year on Vaisakhi and Diwali for deliberations and collective decision-making for the future survival of the community. Once in the precincts of the Harmandar Sahib, they considered themselves protected by the Guru and had no fear of any earthly powers such as the Moghul rulers they had to confront. The mystique of the Harmandar grew and this mystique has continued and strengthened over the centuries. The Golden Temple has literally become the heart of the community.

The death, destruction and sacrilege caused during Operation Bluestar pierced the heart not only of the Sikhs but also of many Punjabi Hindus. The devastation it caused in the personal lives of so many millions has still not been fully recorded and acknowledged because the political divide over the attitudes towards Operation Bluestar has overshadowed the human stories.

The most adversely affected were the community's elders – both men and women. I will share two stories from my family. One relative was an Akali activist who had faced imprisonment and police beatings during the long-drawn-out Punjabi Suba movement (the struggle for a Punjabi speaking state that succeeded partially in 1966); nevertheless, he was very proud of having lived a life of dignity. He was in his eighties when Operation Bluestar happened. He lost his mental balance – one moment, he would swear at Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister who ordered the army action at the Golden Temple, and the next he would laugh uncontrollably. Sometimes, he would regain some normality and would question why he lived the last years of his life in so much pain. His tortured inner life came to an end within a few years.

A whole generation has grown up after the Operation and many in this new generation have become parents. They hear and read about the Operation and try to understand the meaning of it to reconnect to the history of their parents, their grandparents and before. Many of them are devising new tools and media to relate to that history.

The history

The idea of Khalistan was born in the aftermath of the Partition of India into West Pakistan (now Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Punjab, the home of most members of the Sikh community, was also divided into two because of the newly-created border. It led to a sense of loss among Indian Sikhs, with culturally and religiously important cities, such as Lahore and Nankana Sahib, going to Pakistan.

As writer Khushwant Singh put it in the collection of essays *The Punjab Story*, "The sentiment (for a separate Sikh state) was expressed in a single query – Hindus got Hindustan. Muslims got Pakistan. What did the Sikhs get out of Partition and Independence?"

Additionally, there was some discontent over a few administrative issues, like river water sharing with other states, which led to demands for autonomy – and then for a sovereign Sikh

state from some quarters. It is also believed that Pakistan aided the movement with arms and funds.

In response to demands for autonomy, in 1966, the erstwhile Punjab state was divided into the Hindi-speaking, Hindu-majority states of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, and the Punjabi-speaking, Sikh-majority Punjab. However, by the 1970s, the separatist Khalistan movement was in full swing – in India and abroad.

The buildup

In this scenario emerged Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a firebrand preacher who positioned himself as “the authentic voice of the Sikhs” in a period of political uncertainty, Canadian journalist Terry Milewski wrote in his book *Blood for Blood: Fifty years of the global Khalistan project*.

While Bhindranwale was initially courted by the Congress to counter the Shiromani Akali Dal's influence in the state, by the early 1980s he had become “a problem” – he found a captive audience among the youth, the activities of his followers were becoming increasingly violent, and Bhindranwale himself was engaging in aggressive rhetoric. In 1982, he became a part of a civil disobedience movement launched by the Akalis, called the Dharam Yudh Morcha, and moved to the Akal Takht inside the Golden Temple complex to evade arrest from the authorities.

In 1983, A S Atwal, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (DIG), was shot dead after praying at the Golden Temple and his body was left to decay. “The assailant... after firing the shots from a carbine, entered the Golden Temple,” *The Indian Express* reported at the time.

The late KPS Gill, the DGP of Punjab Police who is credited with bringing the Punjab militancy under control, later wrote: “Ugly as the Atwal murder was, however, it was only a beginning... This became a regular feature; bodies, mutilated, hacked to pieces, stuffed into gunny bags, kept appearing mysteriously in the gutters and sewers around the Temple.”

By 1984, the government finally decided to step in by sending in armed forces to flush out Bhindranwale and his followers from their hideout inside the Golden Temple.

The operation

At this point, the Golden Temple complex was nothing short of a fortress. Over a period of months, Bhindranwale's men had smuggled in a huge cache of arms and ammunition inside the complex and placed guns strategically for defence. Furthermore, under the leadership of Major General Shahbeg Singh, who had been dismissed by the Indian Army over corruption charges, Bhindranwale's men received extensive military training.

On June 1, four days before the army actually entered the Golden Temple complex, the first shots were fired at the temple by the CRPF to, according to reports, “assess the training and strength of the militants inside”.

On June 3, a 36-hour-curfew was imposed on the state of Punjab with all methods of communication and public



A fortification used in Operation Bluestar on the sides of the parikrama abutting the Dukh-Bhanjani Beri (tree) that covers the entrance to Shri Harmandir Sahib.



Senior army officers involved with Operation Bluestar, AS Vaidya (centre), K Sundarji (left) and KS Brar in Amritsar.

travel suspended, electricity lines cut and complete media censorship.

The army finally commenced the operation on the night of June 5. The initial thrust of the operation was to neutralise the high-perched defensive positions built by Bhindranwale's men in the Golden Temple complex. As per the army, any assault on the temple compound could not be successful if they remained in play.

As the outer defences of the temple complex fell, the army was still hopeful for a quick capitulation. What they did not take into account was that the militants were not necessarily making “rational” decisions. The troops' entry into the Golden Temple was met with furious fire from inside.

In *The Punjab Story*, journalist Shekhar Gupta described the troops' attempts to capture the Parikrama or the

circumambulatory path around the Golden Temple: “The troops made a mad rush for the staircase at each end of the Parikrama. But Shahbeg had not earned his reputation of a wily, doughty commander in the army for nothing. He had anticipated just this and the sprinting troops ran headlong into automatic fire from men who sprang out of the manholes, strategically situated at the foot of each staircase.”

The unanticipated resistance faced by the troops resulted in the commanders calling for tank support. According to Giani Puran Singh, a temple priest, tanks began entering the temple complex at around 10 pm on June 5.

Over the next 12 hours, the army's Vijayanta tanks shelled the Golden Temple's Akal Takht – one of the five seats of power as per Sikh belief. This was Bhindranwale's location, where resistance was the strongest. Tanks had been initially avoided over possible structural damage to the complex – something that would anger the Sikh community further.

However, once tanks were brought in, they proved to be extremely effective. As dawn broke on June 6, the main defences, comprising machine guns and Chinese-made RPGs, had largely been neutralised. At around 11 am, some 25 militants rushed out of the building, firing at random and running straight towards troops, who gunned down most of them. “The generals guessed that the mad dash was an indication that Bhindranwale was either dead or wounded or had, confirming their worst fears, escaped,” wrote Shekhar Gupta.

Fortunately for the armed forces, the firebrand preacher had not escaped. As the troops finally entered the Akal Takht, now in ruins, they found Bhindranwale dead, reportedly in a heap of “about 40 corpses”. The last remaining militants either surrendered or were killed by June 10.

The aftermath

While the army initially placed total casualties at 554 militants and civilians dead, 83 troops dead (4 officers, 79 soldiers) and 236 wounded among government forces, other estimates peg the number of casualties as much higher.

Though the army has always claimed it did everything to protect civilians, including making announcements on loudspeakers prior to the attack, its actions have been questioned. In 2017, a sessions court in Amritsar ruled that there was no evidence of such warnings.

Beyond the casualties, there were reverberations across the country. The resentment among some members of the Sikh community over the operation saw its gravest manifestation on October 31, 1984, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her two Sikh bodyguards, who blamed her for the attack.

Her assassination would trigger some of the worst communal violence ever witnessed in India, as Sikhs were openly targeted and killed. Many in the government and the Congress party, which was in power at the time, were accused of playing an active role in the anti-Sikh riots, such as Congress leader

Sajjan Kumar. He was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Delhi High Court in 2018 for the murder of five persons in Delhi.

Crucially, while Bhindranwale had been killed, his death made him an almost mythological figure in some ways. "The Bhindranwale myth may, by the look of things, prove to be more powerful than the man," journalist Tavleen Singh wrote in *The Punjab Story*. The events at Golden Temple did not end violence in Punjab, with rising militancy accompanying rising repression from the state and the armed forces well into the 1990s.

KPS Gill, former DGP of Punjab, wrote in *The Punjab Story*: "In hindsight, Operation Bluestar was possibly the single most significant act of political overreaction and military incompetence that gave a lease of life to a movement that could easily have been ended in the mid-1980s."

Delayed justice

The failure to deliver justice to the victims of the anti-Sikh riots is perhaps the one single biggest reason that prevents the Bluestar scars from healing completely.

Politicians ranging from former prime minister Manmohan Singh to Congress president Sonia Gandhi have expressed regret over Operation Bluestar. "*Joh kuch June 6 ko hua, uska mujhe dukh hai,*" Sonia said in January 1998 and added while alluding to the anti-Sikh riots: "There is no use recalling what we have collectively lost. No words can balm that pain."

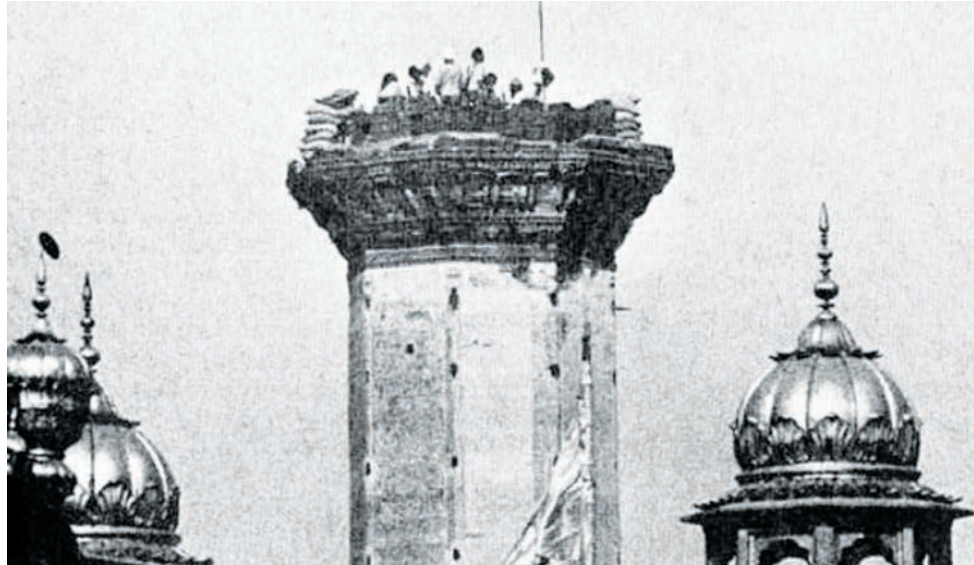
Youths and the Khalistani cause

One generation has already paid the price of militancy and insurgency in the 1970s and 1980s. In the last 40 years, the demand for Khalistan has almost receded in the state though the anniversary of Operation Bluestar continues to be observed and fires a section of the approximately 20-30 million Sikh diaspora and a dozen-odd terror outfits like the Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Zindabad Force and Khalistan Commando Force mentored by Pakistani's ISI. There are reports that nearly two dozen such militants were nabbed in the last three years. Indeed, then minister of state for home RPN Singh told Parliament in 2012 that the BKI, KZF and KCF were becoming active in the country.

Bhindranwale remains a guiding figure for these forces and the youths fed on his folklore. A foundation stone for the Bluestar memorial was laid in 2012 in the temple complex. While 6 June may be a somber reminder to most people of what should never happen again, hardliners like the AISSF and the Damdami Taksal try to use it to get the international community to break the silence on justice for the victims. Dal Khalsa had called for an Amritsar shutdown that day to signal that the Sikhs will not forget what happened that day.

How Sabotage By Indira Gandhi's Advisors Paved the Way for Operation Bluestar

The events leading up to Bluestar are reminder of how even shrewd leaders



like Indira Gandhi can become victim of the undesirable elements around them. She was surrounded by undesirable elements who lead her to the path of destruction. There were many forces working on these lines who succeeded in their mission but caused enormous damage to the country.

First act of sabotage

In the first week of April 1982, Bhindranwale visited the capital on the invitation of Jathedar Santokh Singh, who was close to Indira Gandhi and also Zail Singh, who was president at the time. Bhindranwale was moving around the capital with his armed supporters, who sat on the roof top of a bus with Bhindranwale inside, and this was a very embarrassing situation for the central government. The then home secretary, T.N. Chaturvedi and Lt. Governor of Delhi, S.L. Khurana, felt very concerned over the situation. They were in touch with the Intelligence Bureau director, T.V. Rajeshwar.

Khurana was planning to have Bhindranwale arrested in Delhi itself. Chaturvedi discussed the entire situation and its consequences with Indira Gandhi and then sent Khurana to convince her that they would be able to face the situation. Indira Gandhi asked him many questions – how would they handle the situation and what would happen if Bhindranwale died in the process. Khurana told her that Bhindranwale was always sitting inside the bus and he would not be hurt. But even if some unfortunate situation develops, we

should face it, he said. Indira Gandhi consented and authorised the police to arrest Bhindranwale. Unfortunately, information about this plan leaked. Bhindranwale received a message – that he should leave Delhi as there were plans to arrest him. Intelligence reports of the time hinted at the leak originating from persons close to Zail Singh. Whatever the truth, Bhindranwale immediately shifted to the Majnu ka Tila gurudwara on the outskirts of Delhi and left the next morning for Punjab, foiling the plan to have him arrested.

Second sabotage

The second act of sabotage took place in November 1982. Indira Gandhi had appointed a cabinet committee on Punjab, and she had asked Sardar Swaran Singh to persuade the Akalis to come for talks. Swaran Singh had a reputation as an excellent negotiator. After the Chinese aggression in 1962, talks were started with Pakistan under US pressure. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, as Pakistan's foreign minister, was leading his country's delegation. Jawaharlal Nehru deputed Swaran Singh to lead the Indian delegation – and prolong the talks as long as possible. Swaran Singh had seven rounds of dialogue with Bhutto and after the seventh, a hassled Bhutto held a press conference in Delhi which I also attended, and attacked the Indian delegation. That was the end of the talks.

Whether for his filibustering skills or his ability to actually produce a compromise, Indira Gandhi asked Swaran Singh to take up the task of

talking to Akalis who were lodged in different jails.

The veteran negotiator succeeded in bringing them to the table, so to speak. The Akalis' first agitation had failed and they were to announce their next programme on November 4, 1982 at Amritsar. Swaran Singh had pleaded with the cabinet committee on November 3, 1982, in Pranab Mukherjee's room in parliament house, that a situation should be created in which the Akalis are persuaded to postpone their plans as once they announce any programme from the Golden Temple, they would not be able to go back on that.

He spoke to various Akali leaders from Pranab Mukherjee's room and a way out was found – that the government should make a statement in parliament the next day making certain assurances. A brief statement was prepared in which the government appreciated the sacrifices made by the Sikhs in the freedom struggle and assured sympathetic consideration of their demands. As for their political demands, the government said it needed some time for consultations with other states. The Akalis agreed to accept this statement.

A copy of the draft was sent to Indira Gandhi. It was at this stage, late at night, that she succumbed to pressure from Arun Nehru and M.L. Fotedar, who supported the argument put forward by Bhajan Lal of Haryana that if this statement was made, the Congress would lose the Haryana assembly elections which were due in next few months.

At their urging, the statement was changed and the next day, Union home minister P.C. Sethi made a statement on Punjab that was different from the one that had been read out to the Akalis. Swaran Singh himself had come to parliament to listen to the home minister. After Sethi's statement, Swaran Singh told me: "This is neither the same statement nor the same spirit", and I am going to withdraw from negotiations."

So it was that on November 4, 1982, the Akalis announced their next programme – declaring a boycott of the Asian games, which led to a further cleavage between them and the government. It was during this period that Bhajan Lal, who was Haryana chief minister, played the dirtiest role and prevented the entry of Sikhs – including high court judges and army officers – coming to Delhi. News of this humiliation spread like a fire not only in India but in the Sikh diaspora in the United States, Canada and many other countries and there were protests against Indira Gandhi at many places.

There is a lesson here which leaders must learn – that if they keep undesirable elements around them, they will be misled completely and this will result in great damage to the country. Between Zail Singh on one side and the Arun Nehru-Fotedar group on the other, the people advising Indira Gandhi played a very destructive role in exacerbating the Punjab crisis. If these two acts of sabotage had not taken place, I am sure there would have been no need for Operation Bluestar, and perhaps Indira Gandhi might still have been alive.



Prajwal Revanna arrested on his return from Germany in sex video case

JD (S) suspended MP Prajwal Revanna, who was arrested in the obscene video case at the Bengaluru Airport soon after he landed is expected to be produced before the magistrate in a Special Court of People's Representatives within 24 hours of arrest.

The anticipatory bail application filed by Revanna earlier is also expected to be considered void as the JD (S) suspended MP has already been arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The SIT may request the court to hand over Prajwal to their custody. Judicial custody will also result in imprisonment.

Revanna would be taken for medical examination before being produced in court.

Bhavani Revanna, mother of Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, has filed an anticipatory bail in the kidnapping case in which her husband was earlier arrested.

Bhavani has moved the Karnataka High Court seeking relief from arrest by SIT.

The order on Bhavani's anticipatory bail application will be announced today in the Special Court of People's Representatives. If the anticipatory bail application is rejected, it is more likely that Bhavani will be arrested by the SIT.

The SIT has also filed an application in the High Court questioning HD Revanna's bail in the kidnapping case of a woman from KR Nagar, Mysore. According to SIT, Revanna should continue to remain in custody until this investigation is over and, therefore, the SIT has moved the High Court to cancel the bail.

The application will be heard in the High Court bench headed by Justice Krishna S Dixit. The hearing of the petition filed by Revanna to cancel this case will also be held today in the High Court. Prajwal Revanna who was brought to the CID office in Bengaluru after he landed at Kempegowda International Airport is likely to face a probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) over allegations of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation following a complaint by a woman who worked in his household. He returned to India from Berlin, Germany, nearly a month after leaving the country on a diplomatic passport and was immediately taken into custody.

Source: ANI

China flexes muscle, places advanced stealth fighter jets 200 km from Sikkim

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Latest satellite images have revealed that China has deployed its most advanced J-20 stealth fighter jets at its dual use military-civilian airfield at Shigatse, which is less than 200 km north of Sikkim.

All Source Analysis, a firm that looks at geospatial intelligence, on Thursday posted on X details of satellite imagery, saying "The analysis of imagery collected over Shigatse Airbase in China shows the deployment of six likely J-20 stealth fighter aircraft near the Indian border."

Multiple images collected over the course of the same day indicate the J20 aircraft arrived at the airbase on May 27 preceded by the arrival of a Y-20 transport aircraft for the probable deployment of ground crew and support equipment, the post read.

Sources in the Indian security establishment said the satellite image was genuine and the deployment had been noted. An Indian Air Force (IAF) spokesperson declined to comment on the matter.

The J-20 aircraft, a twin-engine stealth fighter was introduced in 2017, but are not permanently based at Shigatse. Shigatse is the base of the J-



10 fighter aircraft and KJ-500 early warning and control aircraft. Shigatse, the second-largest city in Tibet, has its airport at an altitude of 12,400 ft.

India does not have a stealth jet as yet, but a squadron (16 jets) of its most-modern plane, the Rafale, is located at Hasimara in northern West Bengal.

The J-20 was deployed last year at Xinjiang, north of Ladakh. India matches this Chinese expansion by significantly upgrading its own airbases with hardened shelters for its aircraft in addition to expanding its tiered surface-to-air missile defences, which has included the deployment of the Russian-built S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile system in eastern India.

The deployment of the S-400 system, which has the ability to track stealth platforms, is designed to deter offensive Chinese fighter sweeps along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In 2021, a year after the military standoff commenced in eastern Ladakh, a US-based policy research organisation, The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released a report "How is China expanding its infrastructure to project power along its western borders?"

China started constructing or upgrading 37 airports and heliports in Tibet and Xinjiang since 2017. "The pace of this activity sped up significantly in 2020," the report said.

Source: TNS

RBI shifts 100 tonnes of gold from UK to its vaults, first time since 1991

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shifted over 100 tonnes of gold from the UK to its vaults in the country.

More gold is likely to be brought back with decisions on this yearly, sources told Business Today.

This is the first time since 1991 that the precious metal has been added to the stock kept in the country.

More than half of RBI's gold reserves are held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements, and about a third of it is stored domestically.

The move will also help RBI save storage costs, which are paid to the Bank of England.

According to the data released by the RBI, the central held held 822.10 tonnes worth of gold as a part of its foreign exchange reserves as of March 31, 2024, up from 794.63 tonnes held during the same period last year.

In 1991, the Chandra Shekhar government pledged the precious



metal to tackle the balance of payments crisis. Between July 4 and 18, 1991, the RBI pledged 46.91 tonnes of gold with the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan to raise \$400 million.

The central bank bought 200 tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) around 15 years ago.

In 2009, during the UPA government's tenure, with Manmohan Singh as prime minister, India bought 200 tonnes of gold valued at \$6.7 billion to diversify its assets.

Over the last few years, a steady

build-up in gold stocks has taken place through purchases by the Reserve Bank.

The central bank's objective of holding gold in reserves is mainly to diversify its foreign currency assets base, as a hedge against inflation and foreign currency risks. The RBI has started to accumulate gold regularly from the market since December 2017.

The share of gold in the country's total foreign exchange reserves increased from 7.75 percent at the end of December 2023 to about 8.7 percent as of April 2024 end.

Within the country, gold is held in vaults in RBI's building on Mumbai's Mint Road as well as Nagpur.

According to a World Gold Council report, global central banks own about 17 percent of all the gold ever mined, with reserves topping 36,699 metric tons (MT) as of year-end 2023. They acquired the vast majority in the last 14 years after becoming net buyers of the metal in 2010.

Source: Business Today

Air India's Delhi-San Francisco flight delayed by 20 hours, passengers faint without AC amid heatwave

As Delhi burns at over 50 degrees Celsius, the delay for passengers at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport was unending.

An Air India flight to San Francisco was on Thursday delayed by over 20 hours due to multiple reasons. Flight AI 183, originally scheduled to take off at 3.20 pm on Thursday was rescheduled to depart at 11 am on Friday, May 31.

The passengers were allegedly made to wait without proper air-conditioning, causing several of them to faint.

A passenger, Shweta Punj, took to X: "If there is a privatisation story that has failed it is Air India. DGCA [aviation regulator] AI 183 flight has been delayed for over eight hours, passengers were made to board the plane without air-conditioning, and then deplaned after some people fainted in the flight. This is inhuman,"

Punj also tagged Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Responding to Punj's post, Air India said: "Dear Ms. Punj, we truly regret to note the disruptions. Please rest assured that our team is actively working to address the delay and appreciates your ongoing support and understanding. We are also alerting our team to provide necessary assistance to the passengers."

Last week, too, an Air India flight suffered an inordinate delay while passengers were made to wait without proper assistance.

The Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco was delayed by over 25 hours. During this time, passengers had to sit inside the passenger cabin for around six hours with poor air-conditioning. *Source: TNS*

After setback from top court, Kejriwal moves 2 bail pleas in Delhi court

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved two pleas in the Rouse Avenue court — one seeking regular bail in the money laundering case related to the excise policy "scam", and another for a seven-day extension on his interim bail on medical grounds. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja will hear the interim bail plea on June 1, and the regular bail plea on June 7.

Kejriwal is currently out on interim bail till June 1, granted by the Supreme Court, following which he will have to surrender. On Wednesday, the apex court registry had refused to list Kejriwal's plea to extend his interim bail by a week to undergo certain medical tests.

The registry is learnt to have communicated to Kejriwal's counsel that the plea is not maintainable as the court which reserved its order on his petition, challenging his arrest on May 17, had already given him permission to approach the trial court for regular bail.

A vacation bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and K V Viswanathan earlier said that it would refer Kejriwal's request to list the application for urgent hearing to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud for appropriate orders.

The CM was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 21 in the Delhi excise policy case, becoming the first sitting CM to be held.

He was granted interim bail until June 1 for election campaigning.

The bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, which granted him interim bail on May 10, directed him to surrender on June 2.

Seeking an extension in the interim bail, Kejriwal stated that he lost six to seven kgs during the period of his arrest and could not regain weight even after his release.

The CM further said that the sudden and unexplained weight loss, coupled with high ketone levels, could be indicative of kidney damage, serious cardiac ailments and even cancer, and early detection was essential for preventing further progress of any disease and associated life risks.

The ED had earlier said that Kejriwal was "directly involved in the formulation" of the now-scraped Delhi excise



policy, which was drafted "considering the favours to be granted to the 'South Group' — a group of individuals from the southern part of India — which the ED claims "secured uninhibited access, undue favours, attained stakes in established wholesale businesses, and multiple retail zones (over and above what was allowed in the policy)", and paid Rs 100 crore to AAP leaders in return. The agency also alleged that bribes received from the 'South Group' were funnelled into the AAP's Goa Assembly poll campaign in 2021-2022.

Other AAP leaders arrested in the same case include former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia and Member of Parliament Sanjay Singh.

While Sisodia is still in judicial custody, Singh is out on bail. *Source: The Indian Express*

Modi begins 'dhyana' at Kanyakumari's Rock Memorial

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With the conclusion of the campaigning for the last phase of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday began his 45-hour-long meditation at the famed Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari.

Upon his arrival to the city in the evening, the prime minister first offered prayers at the Bhagavathy Amman Temple before heading to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

Modi will meditate till evening of June 1 at Dhyana Mandir, the place where revered Hindu philosopher Swami Vivekananda is believed to have had a divine vision about 'Bharat Mata'.

Security has been beefed up due to Modi's visit, and 2,000 police personnel stationed during his stay. The Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy also are also maintaining a tight vigil. Follow full coverage of the Lok Sabha elections.

The beach is also out of bounds for tourists from Thursday to Saturday and private boats are not allowed to ferry, according to PTI.



PM Narendra Modi meditates at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, where Swami Vivekananda did meditation. (ANI)

Modi had taken similar breaks at the end of the election campaign in 2014 when he visited Pratapggarh, where a battle was fought between the Maratha forces led by Shivaji and the Bijapur troops under General Afzal Khan; and in 2019 when he became the first person to meditate in a special cave in Kedarnath.

PM Modi's visit to the Vivekananda Rock memorial has been opposed by the Congress. The party has alleged Modi was trying to "circumvent" the silence

period restrictions with his 48-hour meditation trip in Kanyakumari and has urged the Election Commission to ensure it is not aired by the media as it violates the model code of conduct. It has also filed a formal complaint with the poll body.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, after a meeting of a Congress delegation with ECI officials, Modi's meditation is a direct violation of the model code of conduct.

"...You are either campaigning this way or publicising yourself through new channels and print media," Singhvi said."

Campaigning for the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha elections in 57 seats in seven states and the Union territory of Chandigarh on June 1 ended Thursday evening.

Polling is scheduled in all 13 seats of Punjab and four of Himachal Pradesh, 13 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, eight in Bihar, six in Odisha and three seats in Jharkhand besides Chandigarh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term from Varanasi.

India in history this Week

MAY 31 TO JUNE 6

31 MAY

1774 The first postal service office was opened in India in 1774.

1867 Praya Samaj was established in Bombay in 1867.

1921 The flag of the Indian National Congress was adopted in 1921.

1959 The Buddhist religious Dalai Lama was granted asylum in India in 1959 after his exile from Tibet.

1964 The electric tram last ran in Bombay in 1964.

2010 The law to reserve 25% seats for poor children in every private school recognized in India was enacted in 2010.

1577 Noor Jahan, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, was born.

1725 One of the heroines of India, Ahilyabai Holkar was born.

1931 Purn Singh, one of the distinguished essayists of India, died.

1988 India's famous politician, freedom fighter, journalist, litterateur and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dwarka Prasad Mishra died in 1988.

1942 Vinod Mehta, founder of Outlook and famous journalist was born.

01 JUNE

1819 Establishment of Serampore College in Bengal.
1835 Calcutta Medical College commenced functioning.

1874 The East India Company was dissolved.

1929 Birth of Nargis Dutt, who played the most memorable mother of Hindi films in the film Mother India.



1930 India's first deluxe train Deccan Queen was introduced between Bombay VT and Pune.

1955 The Untouchability (Prevention) Act came into existence.

1964 By removing the new word from new money, it is now called money.

2001 The first World Milk Day was celebrated.

02 JUNE

1988 Bollywood's legendary actor, director, producer



and showman Raj Kapoor died on this day.

2014 Telangana officially became the 29th state of India.

1908 Sir Aurobindo was arrested in the Maniktola bombings.

1956 Mani Ratnam was born in Tamil and Hindi cinema's finest filmmakers. Very few people know that his full name is Gopal Ratnam Subramaniam.

1756 British stronghold Fort William in Bengal was surrendered to Siraj-ud-Daulah

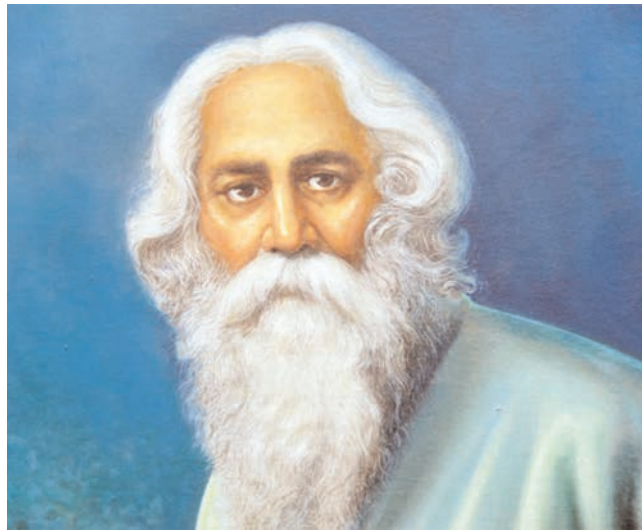
1900 The demise of Shri Ram Sharma Acharya, a freedom fighter, social reformer and leader.

03 JUNE

1867 Birth of India's famous educationist, politician, social reformer, jurist and writer Harvilas Sharda.

1901 Birth of first winner of Jnanpith Award Mahakavi Ji Shankar Krup.

1915 The British government conferred the title of knighthood on Rabindranath Tagore.



1918 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' was organized in Indore under the chairmanship of Mahatma Gandhi and based on a resolution passed in it, Hindi was considered as the official language.

1924 The birth of M Karunanidhi, five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

1930 The birth of George Fernandes, the historic railway strike organizer in India.

1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India under the British Raj, announced the partition of India.

1972 The country's first modern warship, the Nilgiris, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi.

1974 Death of Bihar Chief Minister and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahay.

1985 The Government of India started a five-day working day week.

2014 Former Union Minister Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi.

04 JUNE

1936 India's unmatched actress Nutan was born on 4 June.

1959 C. Rajagopalachari announced the formation of the Swatantra Party.

1997 Telecom satellite reached 2D chamber.

2008 In 2008, the Haryana government also announced the benefit of family pension to girls below 25 years of age.

1931 Hindi film actress Bina Rai was born in 1931.

1959 Anil Ambani, president and famous

businessman of Reliance Group, was born in 1959.

1947 Hindi and Marathi film actor Ashok Saraf was born in 1947.

1962 Achanta Lakshmi pati, famous for the propagation of Ayurvedic medicines, died in 1962.

1984 Operation Bluestar was carried out by the Indian Army in the Golden Temple located in Amritsar, Punjab, the religious site of Sikhs.

05 JUNE

1659 Aurangzeb, the ruler of the Mughal Empire, officially ascended the throne of Delhi in 1659.

1882 In Bombay (now Mumbai), about one lakh people died in 1882 due to storms and floods.

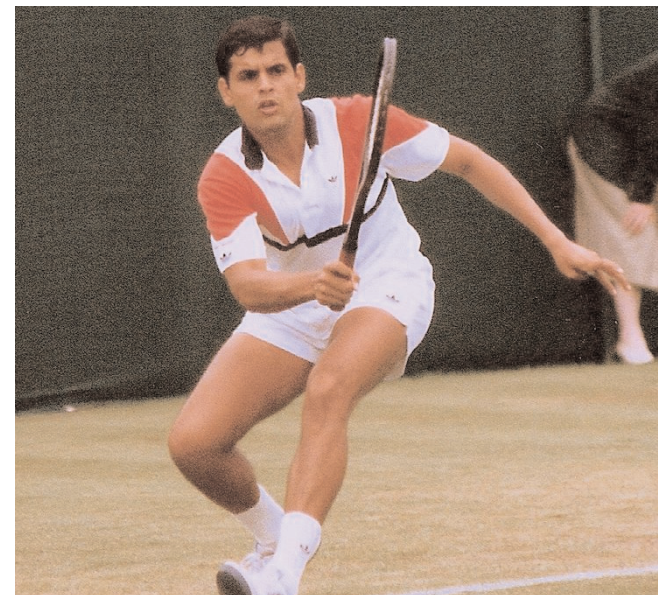
2001 In 2001 the work of investigating the royal family in Nepal was blocked by the resignation of Madhavan, a member of the royal assassination inquiry commission.

2002 In 2002 Pakistan rejected the proposal of a joint patrol along the Indian border.

2017 Successful launch of the heaviest rocket "GSLV Mark-3D-1" in 2017.

1972 Yogi Adityanath, the 21st Chief Minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh, was born in 1972.

1961 India's famous tennis coach and former tennis player Ramesh Krishnan was born.



1879 The originator of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India. M. Joshi was born.

06 JUNE

1929 Actor, politician and social activist Sunil Dutt was born in Jhelum West Punjab.



1674 Kshatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was crowned.

1981 A train fell in Bihar's Bagmati river, killing 800 of the 1000 people on board.

1997 In Bangkok, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand formed an economic cooperation group called 'Bistek'.



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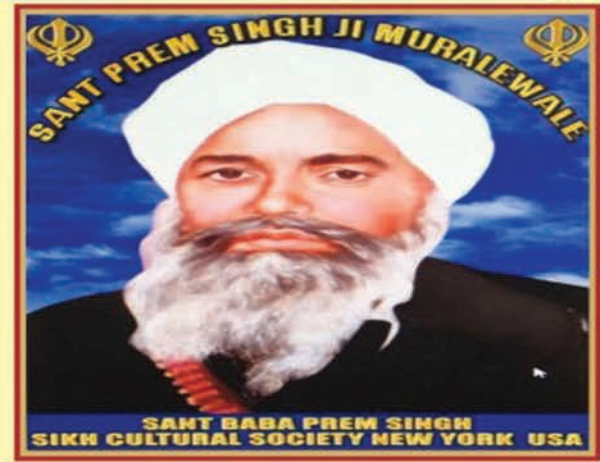
ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ ॥
ਜਨਮ ਮਰਣ ਦੁਹਰੂ ਮਹਿ ਨਾਹੀ ਜਨ ਪਰਉਪਕਾਰੀ ਆਇ ॥

ਸੰਤ ਬਾਬਾ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਆਫ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ

ਮਹਾਨ ਤਪੱਸਵੀ, ਯੁੱਗ ਪੁਰਸ਼, ਵਿੱਦਿਆ ਦੇ ਦਾਨੀ ਅਤੇ ਉੱਘੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਸੁਧਾਰਕ

ਸੰਤ ਬਾਬਾ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਮੁਰਾਲੇ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਦੀ

74 ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਬਰਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਮਿੱਠੀ ਯਾਦ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਰਪਿਤ



ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਜੋੜ ਮੇਲਾ 1-2 ਜੂਨ, 2024

(ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਐਤਵਾਰ)

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ

95-30-118 ਸਟਰੀਟ, ਰਿਚਮੰਡ ਹਿੱਲ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ 11419 ਵਿਖੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਬਹੁਤ ਹੀ ਸ਼ਰਧਾ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਸਹਿਤ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।

ਮਿਤੀ 31 ਮਈ 2024 ਸ਼ੁੱਕਰਵਾਰ
ਅਰੰਭ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 10.30 ਵਜੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ

ਮਿਤੀ 02 ਜੂਨ 2024 ਐਤਵਾਰ
ਭੋਗ ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ 10.00 ਵਜੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ

ਭੋਗ ਉਪਰੰਤ ਰਾਗੀ ਢਾਡੀ ਜਥੇ, ਕਥਾ ਵਾਚਕ ਅਤੇ ਕਵੀਸ਼ਰੀ ਜਥੇ ਕੀਰਤਨ, ਢਾਡੀ ਵਾਰਾਂ, ਕਥਾ ਅਤੇ ਕਵੀਸ਼ਰੀ ਰਾਗੀ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੱਸ ਸਰਵਣ ਕਰਵਾ ਕੇ ਨਿਹਾਲ ਕਰਣਗੇ

ਪਹੁੰਚ ਰਹੇ ਰਾਗੀ, ਢਾਡੀ ਕਥਾਵਾਚਕ ਅਤੇ ਕਵੀਸ਼ਰੀ ਜਥੇ

 ਭਾਈ ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਗੁਰਦਾਸਪੁਰੀ	 ਗਿਆਨੀ ਮੋਹਣ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਆਨੰਦਪੁਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਾਲੇ	 ਭਾਈ ਗੁਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਬੰਲੂਰਵਾਲ	 ਭਾਈ ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਨਿਊਜ਼ੀਲੈਂਡ	 ਬੀਬਾ ਦਲਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਜੀ ਨਿਊਜ਼ੀਲੈਂਡ	 ਭੁਪਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੋਪਾਰਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ	 ਗੁਰਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਕੰਗ ਫੁਆਰਬੀਨੋਟਰ ਅਤੇ ਇਲੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ	 ਹਰਬੰਸ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਿੱਲੋਂ ਕੋਆਰਡੀਨੇਟਰ ਅਤੇ ਇਲੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ	 ਸੰਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜਿੰਮੀ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ	 ਗਿਆਨੀ ਪਰਮਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਏਫ ਡਬਲਯੂ
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 ਭਾਈ ਜਿੰਦਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਹਰਬੰਸ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਿੱਲੋਂ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੰਪੀ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਭਾਈ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਈਲ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਨਿਹਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਭਾਈ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਰੀ ਸਾਹਿਬ	 ਕਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਿਲਾਣੀ ਸਾਹਿਬ
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 ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੱਸੀ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ	 ਮਾਸਟਰ ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ	 ਅਮਰੀਕ ਸਿੰਘ ਪਿਹੋਵਾ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ
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ਸੰਤ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ

 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚਾਵਿੰਡ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂਰਦਵਾਰ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ	 ਭਾਈਓਂਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਚੌਠੀਆਂ
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ਗੁਰੂ ਕਾ ਲੰਗਰ ਅਤੁੱਟ ਵਰਤੇਗਾ

ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਵੱਖ ਵੱਖ ਪਦਾਰਥਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਟਾਲ ਲਗਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।

ਬੱਚਿਆਂ ਲਈ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਪੰਝੂਰੇ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਈਡਸ ਦੋਵੇਂ ਦਿਨ ਚੱਲਣਗੇ



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ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਯੂ ਐਸ ਏ

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Sant Baba Prem Singh Ji (1882 - 1950)

A visionary and a social reformer, Sant Prem Singh proudly preached Sikhism and promoted Amrit Sanchaar. He played an important role in revitalizing the Lobana community which today is half a million and claims the whole world as its domain. He stressed the importance of education and opened many educational institutes for this purpose. He laid great emphasis on gender equality and emancipation of women. We, the Lobanas, revere Baba Prem Singh Ji as a saint, and are proud to celebrate his barsi (death anniversary) which falls in 2024 on June 2.



Baldev Singh Gilzian
516-805-3870

**Former President, Gurdwara Baba
Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center**



Simarjeet Singh Gilzian
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N2S RETURNS IN JUNE TO SPOTLIGHT NJ'S CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND DIVERSITY

BY MABEL PAIS



left to right - North to Shore Festival Hosts: Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Newark; Mayor Moore, Asbury; Performer Jarod Clemons, Governor Phil Murphy, Mayor Marty Small Sr., Atlantic City; Shané Harris, Vice President of Social Responsibility and Partnerships, President, The Prudential Foundation at Prudential Financial; Richard Parkinson, Chief Brand Officer, Prudential Financial, John Schreiber, CEO, New Jersey Performing Arts Center. -Credit Jeremy Smith / NJPAC

The North to Shore (N2S) Festival, after its astounding success with hundreds of thousands of attendees and participants at its inaugural N2S in June 2023, returns in June 2024 with a repetition of the three-city, three weekend celebration of the arts and ideas across New Jersey.

Conceived by Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, the North to Shore Festival was designed to spotlight New Jersey's culture, creativity, and diversity. The lineup begins this year in Asbury Park June 10-16, swings down the Shore to Atlantic City June 17-23, and concludes in Newark June 24-30 at several locations in each city.

The North to Shore Festival will feature scores of diverse and talented artists you won't want to miss, including Kevin Hart, Matchbox Twenty, Gary Clark, Jr., The B-52s, Gabriel Iglesias, Bleachers, Jeezy, Scarface, Barenaked Ladies, Lake Street Dive, Prince Royce & Wisin, Keyshia Cole and Trey Songz, Frankie Valli, Stephen Colbert, as well as film screenings, live podcasts, and engaging panels.



Performer Jarod Clemons

Credit Jeremy Smith / NJPAC

"Our inaugural North to Shore Festival was the beginning of a proud, new annual tradition that brings some of the biggest stars to New Jersey to bolster our tourism industry and boost demand for our local businesses," said Governor Phil Murphy. "I'm thrilled to announce this year's lineup features a number of world-renowned acts that will hit the stages in Newark, Asbury Park, and Atlantic City this June. This year's festival will be even bigger and better than ever before, and we look forward to welcoming those from near and far to experience our unique state this summer." The announcement was made during a press conference in March 2024 at the iconic Stone

Pony in Asbury Park, the heart of the Jersey Shore music scene where festival organizers, state leaders, and the arts community came together to celebrate the next edition of North to Shore.

"The North to Shore Festival is an opportunity to showcase all that New Jersey has to offer, including some of the best local and global acts, our incredible diversity and unique culture," said First Lady Tammy Murphy. "As we announce this year's lineup for the three-city, month-long celebration, I eagerly anticipate another chance to enjoy New Jersey's music, art and food scene alongside people from all over the state and nation."

In its inaugural year, North to Shore was designed to be an economic engine for the state. Organizers' goals were far exceeded as the newborn festival drew an audience of nearly 250,000 to experience more than 300 artists in more than 100 venues in three of New Jersey's most arts-rich cities. While most festival events were free to the public, ticketed events brought in \$7.6 million in ticket sales.

"Last year's inaugural North to Shore Festival proved to be a tremendous success for New Jersey's communities, cities, and economy. As part of Governor Murphy's vision to make New Jersey the best place to live, work, and raise a family, this three-week festival celebrates and showcases the strength of our state's talent and diversity in innovation and arts," said NJEDA (New Jersey Economic Development Authority) Chief Executive Officer Tim Sullivan. "The NJEDA is proud to take part in this year's North to Shore Festival, which will not only bring world-class talent back to New Jersey but will help boost the economy at the heart of the summer season by supporting local restaurants, hotels, venues, and main streets."

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) is producing this three-week extravaganza in collaboration with partners Casinoeod Reinvestment Development Authority, NJM Insurance Group, NJ Travel & Tourism, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Outfront Media, RWJBarnabas Health, and United Airlines, with leadership support from this year's title sponsor, Prudential Financial.

"We are proud to serve as title sponsor for North to Shore and help showcase the creativity and diversity that defines New Jersey and our home city of Newark," said Shané Harris, Vice President and Head of Social Responsibility, Prudential Financial, President, The Prudential Foundation. "A vibrant cultural scene is key to having thriving communities, and we are excited to continue our long-standing relationship with NJPAC to bring North to Shore's creative economic engine to Newark and across the state."

Producing partners this year include Montclair Film and Newark International Film Festival, which together will add a curated film component to the festival; TechUnited:NJ, which will join North to Shore by hosting more than 5,000 attendees at the Propelify Innovation Festival, showcasing tech leaders, emerging startups, and cutting edge technology; Stockton University, which will manage a series of E-Games competitions and soccer programming in Atlantic City; and Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ), which in collaboration with NJPAC and the NJEDA will host virtual discussions on maternal health, the arts as a catalyst to health, and food insecurity.

A portion of ticket sales to select events will support Growing Healthy Pantries - a partnership among Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Community FoodBank of New Jersey, FoodBank of South Jersey, Fulfill, Mercer Street Friends, Norwescap, and Feeding America - which addresses food security statewide. Growing Healthy Pantries helps 900 food pantries in all 21 counties promote healthy food choices to improve the overall health of New Jerseyans.

"Thousands of families rely on New Jersey's 900 community pantries and the major food banks that provide the healthy foods they distribute," said Jonathan Pearson, Horizon's Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Executive Director of The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. "Good health begins with good nutrition. Support for Growing Healthy Pantries adds an important social mission to the North to Shore Festival that expands the impact of this event to every corner of the State."

NJPAC once again provided direct grants to artists, nonprofits, small businesses, and art organizations based in each host city to self-produce performing and visual art events during the festival. The grants, which total \$367,000 this year, support the creative economy of each city, and give a platform to artists and arts organizations that call New Jersey home. A full list of grant recipients is available at northtoshore.com.

Additionally, for the first time, grants have been provided to artists interested in performing on the North to Shore Festival Community Showcase Stages, centrally located performance venues in each city, including the Audible Showcase Stage in Newark.

"We are thrilled to bring North to Shore back to the Garden State this summer to celebrate the vast diversity and top-notch talent that is quintessential New Jersey," said NJPAC CEO John Schreiber. "In its inaugural year, North to Shore proved to be an economic driver for the businesses and downtown districts that serve our state's residents day-in and day-out. I'm proud to bring that support back to three of our most

KULTURE KOOL HONORS AAPI MONTH WHILE CELEBRATING 15 YEARS



Archana Athalye, Founder-Artistic Director
Credit: kulturekool.com

BY MABEL PAIS

Kulture Kool, North Jersey's leading South Asian Cultural Center, is thrilled to celebrate its 15-year anniversary show, 'Utsav: Celebrations of India,' at the Memorial Auditorium, Montclair State University, June 1, 1-4 pm.

The event, perfectly timed to honor Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, promises to be an extraordinary journey through the vibrant festivals celebrated in India throughout the calendar year, featuring cultural immersion, entertainment, and a grand audio-visual spectacle. More than 200 performers, ranging in age from 3 to 50, will take the stage to bring the rich traditions and colorful

celebrations of India to life. Attendees can expect a captivating showcase of Indian performing arts, including dance, music, and storytelling.

The theme, 'Utsav,' embodies the spirit of joy and unity found in Indian festivals, making it an unforgettable experience for audiences of all backgrounds.

Kulture Kool has been serving the South Asian community in New Jersey for 15 years, offering classes and workshops in the Indian performing arts, languages, and cultural immersion. As the largest institute of its kind in the region, Kulture Kool has become a vital part of the community, hosting over 2,000 school assemblies and countless public events.

COLLABORATION WITH NJ SYMPHONY

The Center recently made history by organizing the first-ever full Indian music concert with the New Jersey Symphony, further demonstrating its commitment to promoting South Asian culture.

Archana Athalye, Founder and Director of Kulture Kool, shares her excitement for the upcoming event: "Utsav is more than just a show-it's a celebration of our journey over the past 15 years. We've grown from a small group of passionate individuals to a thriving community that embraces the beauty and diversity of South Asian culture. This grand celebration is our way of sharing that journey with everyone. We can't wait to see you there!"



Kulture Kool dancers

Credit: kulturekool.com

The 'Utsav' show at Montclair State University is open to the public, and tickets are available for purchase on Kulture Kool's website. Don't miss this opportunity to experience a vibrant cultural event filled with dance, music, and the lively spirit of India's festivals.

TICKETS

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit kulturekool.com or contact Archana Athalye @ 203-558-7868.

KULTURE KOOL

The Kulture Kool South Asian Cultural Center offers a wide range of programs in Indian performing arts, languages, and cultural immersion. Founded in 2009, Kulture Kool has become a cornerstone of the community, providing quality education and enriching experiences that celebrate the diverse traditions of South Asia.

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

CONTD FROM PAGE 26

N2S RETURNS IN JUNE TO SPOTLIGHT NJ'S CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND DIVERSITY

iconic cities this summer."

This year, festival goers can maximize the festival experience with the North to Shore app, where they can plan their schedule, explore artists, buy tickets, get access to exclusive content and giveaways, and more.

"Asbury Park is ready to shine for a second year as one of the host cities of the North to Shore Festival," said Asbury Park Mayor John Moor. "We are eager to share the talent and energy that makes our small city so captivating with the rest of the state and beyond."

"It is an especially proud moment for us as the iconic Stone Pony is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2024," Moor continued. "North to Shore is tapping the expected and unexpected venues in town and will be presenting a wide variety of acts and activations. We are honored to kick off this year's festival and look forward to seeing everyone in Asbury Park in June."

"The Great City of Atlantic City got to showcase why we're among the entertainment capitals of the country during last year's North to Shore Festival, and we're looking forward to getting another opportunity this time around," said City of Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, Sr. "Everything that makes our city special and unique, particularly in the arts and culture scene, will once again be on full display as we

promise this festival will be even bigger and better in year number two.

"Newark has long been a hotspot for talented artists, entrepreneurs and innovators to grow, perform and master their craft," said Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka. "With dozens of entertainment venues- including New Jersey Performing Arts Center - as well as authentic restaurants, boutique shops and recreation facilities available, Newark is a perfect location to host North to Shore."

TICKETS

Tickets to this year's festival are available now at NorthtoShore.com.

THE NORTH TO SHORE (N2S) FESTIVAL

The North to Shore Festival, launched in 2023, features all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into three extraordinary weekends of performances, screenings, parties and conversations in three of the state's most iconic cities. Hosted by Atlantic City, Asbury Park, and Newark, the North to Shore Festival brings together events at more than 100 venues for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence, aligned with Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision of a celebration worthy of the Garden State's long legacy of innovation in the arts, film and technology. For the latest updates on festival concerts, screenings and more, visit northtoshore.com and follow the festival on Instagram, X, Facebook, and TikTok.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Visit njpac.org for more information.

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

HASAN MINHAJ BRINGS HIS "OFF WITH HIS HEAD" COMEDY TOUR TO NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

Get ready to laugh and be entertained by a new comedy show on June 15 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

HASAN MINHAJ, brings his latest comedy tour to The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Victoria theater stage on June 15 at 7 PM. His show 'Off With His Head!', promises to be fearless, irreverent and thought-provoking. He fearlessly tackles controversial topics such as politics, immigration and parenting with his signature wit. Hasan Minhaj is a well-known comedian, writer and television host.

This new comedy tour 'Off With His Head' sees him return to his storytelling roots, four years after the global success of his one-hour Netflix comedy special 'Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King'. This special was critically acclaimed and won him a 2018 Peabody award for "Outstanding Motion Design" and recognized the show as a 2020 Television Academy Honor.

He is best known for his Netflix series 'Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj,' which won him an Emmy, a Peabody award and two Webby awards. In 2019, he was listed in Time's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Hasan Minhaj is a first-generation American born of Indian parents, and his unique voice as a comedian has



Hasan Minhaj

Credit: njpac.org

earned him many accolades. He was the featured speaker at the 2017 White House Correspondents' Dinner. His first stand-up comedy special, 'Homecoming King', released on Netflix in May 2017, received positive reviews from critics and won him his first Peabody Award in 2018.

Minhaj was previously a correspondent on 'The Daily Show with Jon Stewart' which he joined in 2014. After Trevor Noah took over as host the following year, he continued in that role on 'The Daily Show with Trevor

Noah' until 2018. He released his second Netflix special, 'Hasan Minhaj: The King's Jester', in 2022, and appeared in season two of the Apple TV+ drama series 'The Morning Show' in a recurring role.

His comedy specials, 'Homecoming King' and his 2018 'The King's Jester' are currently available on Netflix.

TICKETS

Tickets to see Hasan Minhaj can be purchased by visiting NJPAC.org or the Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

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NYSJFF 2024 SHEPHERDS MESSAGE OF TOLERANCE AND DIVERSITY

BY MABEL PAIS

The 26th annual New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF) opens its doors to patrons for a week-long cinematic journey, June 2-9, 2024. Watch the untold stories of tolerance and diversity within the vibrant Sephardic mosaic. The Festival takes place, primarily, at the American Sephardi Federation - Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Sunday, 2 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

6:00PM: Red Carpet VIP Meet and Greet with Alexandre Arcady, Stella Levi, Enrico Macias, & John Turturro
*Available for VIP Passholders only

7:00PM: Opening Night Pomegranate Awards Ceremony featuring a special performance by Enrico Macias and light reception

Monday, 3 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

3:00PM: Special Screening of THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS

Followed by a Q&A with David Forgacs (NYU)

6:00PM: WEDDING BLUES Followed by a Q&A with Enrico Macias North American Premiere

8:00PM: Red Carpet VIP Meet & Greet with Alexandre Arcady

*Available for VIP Passholders only

8:30PM: THE BLOND BOY FROM THE CASBAH Followed by a Q&A with Alexandre Arcady North American



NYSJFF 2024 Poster

Credit: americansephardi.org

Premiere

Tuesday, 4 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

6:00PM: SPINOZA: SIX REASONS FOR THE EXCOMMUNICATION OF THE PHILOSOPHER Followed by Panel Discussion

8:00PM: THE SECRET SABBATH NY Premiere

Wednesday, 5 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

2:00PM: Shorts Program: THE GIRL FROM SALONIKA, NY Premiere
WOMEN OF VIRTUE, NY Premiere
MAHJONG & MAHASHAS, International Premiere
Q&A with Director Carolyn Saul

6:00PM: MARIAGE MIXTE Followed by a Q&A with Alexandre Arcady

8:30PM: LE GRAND PARDON Followed by a Q&A with Alexandre Arcady

Thursday, 6 June @ASF - Center for

Jewish History

3:30PM: NATHAN-ISM Followed by a Q&A with Director Elan Golod

6:00PM: THE HOLY CLOSET NY Premiere Followed by a live performance by Chanan Ben Simon

8:15PM: KING OF THE SEPHARDIM Followed by a Q&A with Director Ofer Pinchasov International Premiere

Friday, 7 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

12:00PM: LOOKING FOR CHLOÉ Followed by a Q&A with Dr. Philippe Aghion, Gaby's son

1:30PM: Stella Levi: Songs & Stories Conversation with Stella Levi and Natalia Indrimi

8:00PM: ASF Young Professionals SOULFUL SHABBAT DINNER

Saturday, 8 June @TriBeCa Synagogue

49 White Street, New York, NY 10013

9:20PM: Israeli-Sephardi Community Habdalah with Reymonde Amsellem

9:30PM: Pomegranate Award Ceremony, followed by the screening of SEVEN BLESSINGS, and Q&A with Reymonde Amsellem

Sunday, 9 June @ASF - Center for Jewish History

12:00PM: RADIO PROPAGANDA Followed by a Q&A with Director Ofer Pinchasov. NY Premiere.

2:30PM: A Tribute to Sami Michael A"H Free Event,

RSVP Required

4:30PM: 20th Anniversary Screening of SECRET PASSAGE

6:00PM: Red Carpet VIP Meet & Greet with John Turturro *Available for VIP Passholders only

7:00PM: 10th Anniversary Screening of FADING GIGOLO

FOLLOWED BY A Q&A WITH JOHN TURTURRO

CLOSING NIGHT LIGHT RECEPTION

The American Sephardic Federation & The American Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

Learn more at americansephardi.org and the American Sephardic Jewish Film Festival at americansephardi.org/event/save-the-date-new-york-sephardic-jewish-film-festival

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

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Rani Mukerji feted with Movified Best Actor Award

Rani Mukerji has been awarded the Movified Best Actor Award in the Female Category. The actress was honoured for her work in the critically acclaimed film *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway*. In the film, inspired by true events, Rani essayed the role of a mother, who fought the legal system of Norway over the custody of her child.

Rani expressed gratitude towards Movified and its owner Neekeeta Singh. She said, "Thank you Movified, for honouring me with the Best Actor Female Award for *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway*. I am so grateful for this recognition and would like to thank my director Ashima Chibber, my producers Nikkhil Advani, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, everyone at Zee Studios, and Emmay Entertainment. My wonderful co-stars from Tallinn, Bengal and Mumbai, the Estonian crew, and all the technicians."

The actress also shared that *Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway* held a very special place in her filmography.

'Maharagni' teaser: Kajol is a woman on mission in the action-thriller

Actors Kajol and Prabhu Deva have reunited after 27 years for their upcoming film 'Maharagni'. Ajay Devgn unveiled the action-thriller's first-look teaser on Tuesday, May 28. 'Maharagni - Queen of Queens' is an intense action and gripping tale of a vengeful woman.

Ajay Devgn released the teaser which begins with glimpses of Prabhu Deva performing action sequences. Kajol, who plays the titular character in the actioner, can be seen as a woman who is on a mission. The actor is also seen engaged in high-octane action sequences. The clip ends with Kajol saying, "Power is not demanded, it is taken away."

Sharing the clip, Ajay captioned, "Ali re aali Maharagni aali (sic)." Meanwhile, Kajol wrote, "So kicked to share this with you guys. Maharagni.. aka Queen of queens. Take a moment and have fun ! Hope you guys like it. Directed by Charan Tej Uppalapati (sic)."

Helmed by Telugu director Charan Tej Uppalapati, the film also features Samyuktha, Prabhu Deva, Naseeruddin Shah, Jishu Sen Gupta, Aditya Seal, Chaya Kadam, Pramod Pathak. It is backed by Venkata Anish Dorigillu and Harman Baweja.

The director of the upcoming film said, "Collaborating with actors like Kajol, Prabhudeva, Naseer sir, Samyuktha Menon and Jisshu Sengupta



has elevated the project to new heights. Their unmatched charisma and acting abilities breathe life into the characters, and I can't wait for the audience to witness this on screen."

The film will be released in Hindi,

Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.

For the unversed, Kajol and Prabhu Deva had previously worked in the 1997 Tamil film 'Minsara Kanavu', dubbed in Hindi as 'Sapnay'.

Deepika Padukone tops IMDb's 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars, SRK is second

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone, who will be soon seen in *Singham Again* and *Kalki 2898 AD*, has topped the IMDb list of Top 100 Most Viewed Indian Stars of the Last Decade. Following her is the actor opposite whom she made her debut in *Om Shanti Om*, Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan. This list of all top Indian stars is determined by the actual page views of the more than 250 million monthly visitors to IMDb worldwide.

Deepika said, "I'm deeply grateful to be included in a list that captures the sentiment of a global audience. This recognition is truly humbling." The third spot on the list is occupied by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Alia Bhatt is on the fourth spot followed by the late actor Irrfan Khan.

Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, too find a place in the top 10. While Aamir is at number six, Salman holds the eighth spot, separated by the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput at number seven.

The list also includes Hrithik Roshan, Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Amitabh Bachchan, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Kareena Kapoor, Nayanthara, Ajay Devgn, Triptii Dimri and others. The list has actors from the Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada film industries. Kamal Haasan is at number 54.

Source: IANS



Karan Johar announces 'Dhadak 2'

Karan Johar has announced his new film, 'Dhadak 2'. Produced by Johar, the film will star Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri and will be directed by Shazia Iqbal.

Sharing the announcement video, Karan Johar wrote in Hindi, "Once upon a time, there was a king and there was a queen. They were from different castes, and that's the end of the story."

The caption also read, "Presenting *Dhadak 2* starring Siddhant Chaturvedi & Triptii Dimri. Directed by Shazia Iqbal. #Dhadak2 in cinemas 22nd November 2024 (sic)."

The movie will explore barriers of class and status stitched in the minds of societies, underscoring a narrative of love that can never be fulfilled. 'Dhadak 2', produced by Zee Studios, Dharma Productions, and Cloud 9 Pictures, features Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri in the lead roles. Directed by Shazia Iqbal, the film is slated for release on November 22, 2024.





Zac Efron & Nicole Kidman Share Steamy Scenes in 'A Family Affair' Trailer

The year of the age-gap romantic comedy is about to continue on Netflix.

The streaming service has debuted the first trailer for "A Family Affair," the new rom-com in which Nicole Kidman, 56, and Zac Efron, 36, play romantic partners.

In the film, Joey King stars as a young woman who works as an assistant for a movie star, played by Efron, and discovers he has become romantically involved with her mom, played by Kidman. The trailer begins with King walking in on them in bed together before screaming, running into a wall and passing out.

The footage then cuts to a passionate love scene between Efron and Kidman. "I went a little crazy," Kidman's character says. "I'm allowed, right?" Later, the two are seen sharing a romantic dinner in a completely empty restaurant before King's character bemoans their "gross sexcapade thing" and declares that they're "not Jack and Rose" from "Titanic."

"A Family Affair" was directed by Richard LaGravenese, whose previous movies include "The Last Five Years" and "P.S. I Love You." It also stars Kathy Bates and Liza Koshy. Efron and Kidman previously played lovers in 2012's "The Paperboy," directed by Lee Daniels.

"A Family Affair" will hit Netflix on June 28.

The film will arrive on Netflix this summer on the heels of the Prime Video romantic comedy "The Idea of You," which similarly depicted the relationship between a woman, in that case Anne Hathaway, and a famous younger man, played by Nicholas Galitzine.

Hathaway said she loved that the central relationship in "The Idea of You" provided "hope and this exploration that your life is yours and it's to be enjoyed by you, and only you know how it's going." She added, "Perhaps one of the signs of maturity is being able to define your life for yourself."

Brad Pitt and George Clooney reunite for Apple TV's 'Wolfs'

Actors Brad Pitt and George Clooney team up after 16 years for Jon Watts' upcoming action comedy, *Wolfs*. The trailer released on Wednesday shows them play two lone-wolf fixers who are looking to handle a botched killing before it gets out of hand.

The 2-minute-43-seconds long trailer sees a woman calling a fixer to help her after a murder. Unfortunately, it looks like more than one person was sent in to handle the job. George and Brad make it clear it's "not how (they) work" but are given no choice in the matter. Soon they realise that the body they're carrying might not be dead after all, leading to chaos. The person they're handling even describes them as "basically the same guy" much to their irritation.

Brad and George produce the Jon-directed film under the Plan B Productions and Smokehouse Pictures banners. Apple is also producing the film with them, while Sony Pictures Releasing distributes it. In addition to the lead pair, *Wolfs* also stars Austin Abrams, Amy Ryan, and Poorna Jagannathan.

Fans reacted to the trailer, calling it a reunion they 'deserve'. One fan wrote, "Oceans franchise meets Bullet Train. This is the best type of movie we wanted to see!" Another wrote, "Ocean's Eleven vibes man.... its gonna be a feast for cinephiles."

For the unversed, it has been 16 years since Brad and George acted together. They starred together in *Ocean's Eleven* and its sequels, *Ocean's Twelve* and *Thirteen*. Their last film together was 2008's *Burn After Reading*.

Speaking to *Entertainment Tonight* in December, George sarcastically joked that he's working with "pretty boy" Brad again because "he needed work, he's an up-and-comer." When asked if it felt like no time has passed while working on *Wolfs*, George said, "No, it feels like a lot of time has passed. Too much time."

Wolfs will hit theatres on September 20.



Jennifer Lopez calls AI 'scary', says her face is manipulated in commercials for 'selling skincare'

Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez, who stars as a data analyst in her latest film "Atlas", says she has experienced the "scary" side of artificial intelligence (AI) with skincare advertisements using manipulated photos of her face.

Lopez further said there are two sides to technological advancements and her Netflix movie does a good job at depicting them.

"Selling skincare that I know nothing about" using manipulated photos of her face covered in "wrinkles", she told *Variety* at the Los Angeles premiere of "Atlas".

"It's really scary. Right away we had them stealing our faces. So, yes, (AI) is really scary... I think you should be respectful of AI... We have to be open to all possibilities. These movies that are talking about AI — especially this one — do a really good job of showing both sides," she added.

In the movie, Lopez plays Atlas Shepherd, a brilliant but misanthropic data analyst with a deep distrust of AI, who joins a mission to capture a renegade robot (played by Simu Liu) with whom she shares a mysterious past.

"But when plans go awry, her only hope of saving the future of humanity from AI is to trust it," read the streamer's official plotline.

Directed by Brad Peyton and written by Leo Sardarian and Aron Eli Coleite, "Atlas" also stars Lana Parrilla and Mark Strong.

Source: PTI



XI PLEDGES MORE GAZA AID AT SUMMIT WITH ARAB LEADERS

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and promised more humanitarian aid for people in Gaza as he opened a summit with leaders of Arab states on May 30 in Beijing.

In a speech opening the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, Xi said, "War should not continue indefinitely." He restated China's backing of a two-state solution and pledged \$69 million in humanitarian aid for Gaza. He also promised \$3 million to a UN agency that provides aid to refugees of the war.

Meanwhile, Hamas said it had told mediators it would not take part in more negotiations, but was ready for a "complete agreement", including an exchange of hostages, if Israel stopped the war. — Agencies

COPS SEARCH EUROPEAN PARL OVER SUSPECTED RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE

BRUSSELS (TIP): Belgium's federal prosecutor's office said on Wednesday that police carried out searches at the residence of an employee of the European Parliament and at his office in the Parliament's building in Brussels over suspected Russian interference.

Prosecutors said in statement that the suspect's office in Strasbourg, where the EU Parliament's headquarters are located in France, was also searched in partnership with the EU's judicial cooperation agency, Eurojust, and French judicial authorities.

The raids took place less than two weeks before Europe-wide polls on June 6-9 to elect a new EU parliament. An investigation was announced last month by Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, who said his country's intelligence service has confirmed the existence of a network trying to undermine support for Ukraine.

"The searches are part of a case of interference, passive corruption and membership of a criminal organization and relates to indications of Russian interference, whereby Members of the European Parliament were approached and paid to promote Russian propaganda via the Voice of Europe news website," prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they believe the employee played "a significant role in this." Several Dutch news outlets identified the suspect as a staffer for EU lawmaker Marcel de Graaff of the far-right Dutch party Forum for Democracy. A person with knowledge of the investigation confirmed that the reports were accurate. —AP

Hong Kong convicts 14 pro-democracy activists

HONG KONG (TIP): Fourteen pro-democracy activists were convicted in Hong Kong's biggest national security case on May 30 by a court that said their plan to effect change through an unofficial primary election would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis.

After a 2019 protest movement that filled the city's streets with demonstrators, authorities have all but silenced dissent in Hong Kong through reduced public choice in elections, crackdowns on media and the Beijing-imposed security law under which the activists were convicted.

Those found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion included former lawmakers Leung Kwok-hung, Lam Cheuk-ting, Helena Wong and Raymond Chan, and they could face up to life in prison when sentenced later. The two defendants acquitted were former district councillors Lee Yue-shun and Lawrence Lau. But the prosecution said it intends to appeal against the acquittals.

The activists were among 47 democracy advocates who were prosecuted in 2021 for their involvement in the primary. Prosecutors had accused them of attempting to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing the legislative majority necessary to indiscriminately veto budgets.

In a summary of the verdict distributed to media, the court said the election participants had declared they



would "either actively use or use the power conferred on the (Legislative Council) by the (Basic Law) to veto the budgets." Under the Basic Law, the chief executive can dissolve the legislature if a budget cannot be passed but the leader would have to step down if the budget is again vetoed in the newly-formed legislature.

In the full, 319-page verdict, the court also said if the plan to veto bills would lead to the dissolution of the legislature, it meant "the implementation of any new government policies would be seriously hampered and essentially put to a halt."

"The power and authority of both the Government and the Chief Executive would be greatly undermined," the court

said in the verdict. "In our view ... that would create a constitutional crisis for Hong Kong."

The judges concluded that "unlawful means" are not limited only to criminal acts, and that it was not necessary for the prosecution to prove the accused knew that the means to be used were "unlawful."

Lau, who was acquitted, told reporters that he should not be the focus at the moment as other defendants in the case warrant the public's concern and love. He said if there's any "star" in the case, the judgment should be "the star" because it set out the logic and perspectives of the judges. "This is part of our rule of law," he said. — AP

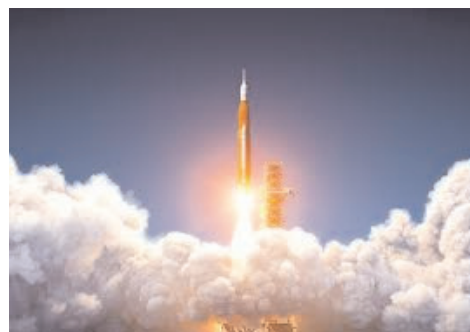
Nuclear envoys of South Korea, US, Japan condemn North Korean spy satellite launch attempt

SEOUL (TIP): Nuclear envoys of South Korea, the US and Japan on May 28 strongly condemned North Korea's latest attempt to launch a military spy satellite, casting it as a blatant violation of UN resolutions and a serious threat to peace.

Lee Jun-il, director general for Korean Peninsula policy, discussed the North's botched space rocket launch in three-way phone talks with his US and Japanese counterparts, Jung Pak and Yukiya Hamamoto, respectively, Seoul's foreign ministry said in a release.

The envoys "stressed that it was a blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions banning the North from any such launches using ballistic missile technology and that its provocations pose serious threats to peace and security in the region and beyond."

The three sides vowed to continue coordination trilaterally and with the international community to prepare for the North's potential additional provocation, saying such acts will "only



strengthen the three-way security cooperation."

The phone talks came after the North said it launched a new rocket carrying a military reconnaissance satellite from a launching site on its northwest coast on Monday. The launch failed due to the air blast of the rocket during the first-stage flight.

It was the first launch attempt by Pyongyang after it successfully put its first military spy satellite into orbit in November last year, following the two previous botched attempts in May and August, respectively. (IANS)

"THE THREE SIDES STRONGLY CONDEMNED THAT NORTH KOREA, DESPITE THE REPEATED WARNINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WENT AHEAD WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE," THE MINISTRY SAID, REPORTS YONHAP NEWS AGENCY.

Iran opens registration for June presidential election after Raisi died in helicopter crash

DUBAI (TIP): Iran opened a five-day registration period on May 30 for hopefuls wanting to run in the June 28 presidential election to replace the late Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash earlier this month with seven others.

The election comes as Iran grapples with the aftermath of the May 19 crash, as well as heightened tensions between Tehran and the United States, and protests including those over the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini that have swept the country.

While Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 85, maintains final say over all matters of state, presidents in the past have bent the Islamic Republic of Iran toward greater interaction or increased hostility with the West.

The five-day period will see those between the ages of 40 to 75 with at least a master's degree register as potential candidates. All candidates ultimately must be approved by Iran's 12-member Guardian Council, a panel of clerics and jurists ultimately overseen by Khamenei. That panel has never accepted a woman, for instance, nor anyone calling for radical change within the country's governance.

Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's interior minister, opened the registration period. The Interior Ministry, in charge of the country's police, run Iranian elections with no substantial international observation.

"These elections, like the parliamentary elections, will be held in complete safety and health, with good competition and wide participation of all dear people," Vahidi said.



Raisi, a protege of Khamenei, won Iran's 2021 presidential election after the Guardian Council disqualified all of the candidates with the best chance to potentially challenge him. That vote saw the lowest turnout in Iran's history for a presidential election. This year's parliamentary vote saw an even-lower turnout amid widespread boycott calls.

That likely was a sign of voters' discontent with both a hard-line cleric sanctioned by the US in part over his involvement in mass executions in 1988, and Iran's Shiite theocracy over four decades after its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Who will run — and potentially be accepted — remains in question. The country's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, a previously behind-the-scenes bureaucrat, could be a front-runner, because he's already been seen

meeting with Khamenei. Also discussed as possible aspirants are former hard-line President Mohammad Ahmadinejad and former reformist President Mohammad Khatami — but whether they'd be allowed to run is another question.

The five-day registration period will close on Tuesday. The Guardian Council is expected to issue its final list of candidates within 10 days afterwards. That will allow for a shortened two-week campaign before the vote in late June.

The new president will take office while the country now enriches uranium at nearly weapons-grade levels and hampers international inspections. Iran has armed Russia in its war on Ukraine, as well as launched a drone and missile attack on Israel amid the war in Gaza. Tehran also has continued arming proxy groups in the Middle East, like Yemen's Houthi rebels and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia.

Meanwhile, Iran's economy has faced years of hardship over its collapsing rial currency. Widespread protests have swept the country, most recently over Amini's death following her arrest over allegedly not wearing her mandatory headscarf to the liking of authorities. A UN panel says the Iranian government is responsible for the "physical violence" that led to Amini's death.

Raisi is just the second Iranian president to die in office. In 1981, a bomb blast killed President Mohammad Ali Rajai in the chaotic days after the Islamic Revolution. (AP)

10K asylum seekers entered UK on small boats since Jan: Govt

LONDON (TIP): Over 10,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain in small boats so far this year, updated government data showed on May 24, underlining a key challenge facing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ahead of a July 4 national election.

The number of people landing on England's southern beaches after making the dangerous Channel crossing fell by a third in 2023, but the latest numbers on a government website showed 10,170 arrived between January and May 25, up from 7,395 over the same period last year.

Sunak, who announced the election date on Wednesday, said later this week that asylum seekers who come to Britain illegally would not be deported to Rwanda before the vote casting doubt on one of his Conservative Party's flagship policies.

The plan has been bogged down by legal obstacles for more than two years, and the opposition Labour Party, which is about 20 points ahead in opinion polls and seen on track to end 14 years of Conservative rule, has promised to scrap the policy if it wins the election. — Reuters

UK's July General Election: Impact on India FTA, Indo-Pacific tilt

LONDON (TIP): The prospect of an India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) has been kicked into the long grass after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak surprised many this week with a snap summer poll on July 4, exactly a month after India's election results on June 4.

While political analysts and strategic experts have expressed confidence that very little should change on the bilateral relationship front whatever the outcome in either election, the very small window that was open for a deal being clinched by the Sunak-led Tory government has now been swept away in the election wave of both countries.

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations opened in January 2022 and are aimed at significantly enhancing bilateral trade — currently worth around 38.1 billion pounds a year.

The Opposition Labour Party, in the lead in most pre-election surveys, has committed itself to "finish the job" but the timelines will remain uncertain for some time.

"Rishi Sunak's shock poll date announcement of July 4 has skewered any prospect of the finalisation of the long-awaited and much-anticipated FTA with India by a Conservative government," said Rahul Roy-Chaudhury, Senior Fellow for South and Central Asian Defence, Strategy and Diplomacy at the London-based think

tank International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"The Labour Party, widely expected to form the next government in the UK, has maintained steadfast support for such a deal, subject to an examination of the 'fine print' once it comes into office. The prospect for such a trade deal appears positive, providing an early boost to relations between the two new governments — the Labour and the widely expected third Modi government," he said.

Dr Chietigj Bajpae, Senior Research Fellow for South Asia, Asia-Pacific Programme at Chatham House, described the FTA as a "key watchpoint" for its broader strategic significance in terms of deepening the bilateral relationship.

There are 26 chapters in the FTA, including goods, services, investments, and intellectual property rights.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty.

On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such as scotch whiskey, electric vehicles, lamb meat, choco lates, and certain confectionary items. (PTI)

TAIWAN PARLIAMENT PASSES 'PRO-CHINA' BILLS, SPARKING PROTEST

TAIPEI (TIP): Taiwan's opposition-controlled legislature passed changes on May 25 that are seen as favouring China and diminishing the power of the island's president, sparking protests by thousands of people.

The changes pushed by the opposition Nationalist Party and its allies would give the legislature greater power to control budgets, including defense spending that the party has blocked in what many see as a concession to China.

It remains unclear whether the package of bills will become law. The Executive Yuan, the executive branch of government headed by the premier, may veto legislation or pass it on to the president, who has to proclaim bills into law within 10 days. If the Executive Yuan or the president does not comply, the bills will not become law.

Thousands of people gathered outside the legislature to protest the changes. The legislative chamber was festooned with banners promoting both sides in the dispute, while arguments on the floor broke into shouting and pushing matches.

The Nationalists, also known as the KMT, officially back unification with China, from which Taiwan separated during a civil war in 1949. —AP

YOUNGEST INDIAN EVEREST SUMMITTER FELICITATED BY NEPAL PM PRACHANDA AMONG OTHERS

KATHMANDU (TIP): Kaamya Karthikeyan, the youngest Indian Mount Everest summitter, was on May 29 felicitated by Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' at a special function here on the International Everest Day along with other veteran international summiters.

The International Everest Day is celebrated on May 29 every year to mark the first ascent of the world's highest peak at 8,848.86 metres. 71 years since Nepal's Tenzing Norgay and New Zealander Edmund Hillary stood atop Everest in 1953, more than 8,000 people have scaled it.

At just 16 years and 9 months old, Kaamya reached the top of the world on May 20 from the South Col on the Nepalese side successfully along with her father S Karthikeyan, 45, an Indian Navy Commander.

Kaamya said she got attracted to climbing Everest when she had trekked to the Everest Base Camp seven years ago. "I am overwhelmed by the love and affection that the people of Nepal have shown during my journey here," she said.

The young Indian student has embarked on a journey to climb all the highest peaks on the seven continents; Mt Everest being her sixth peak. She plans to climb Mt Vinson Massif in Antarctica in December.

Besides Kaamya, Prime Minister Prachanda also felicitated Kami Rita Sherpa, who climbed Mt Everest for a record 30 times this spring, and Phunjo Lama, who climbed Everest in just 14 hours and 31 minutes becoming the first female to do so in the shortest time. (PTI)

Pakistan arrests 140 suspects for alleged involvement in attacks on Christians in Punjab province

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's Punjab police on May 29 claimed to have arrested a total of 140 suspects involved in attacking members of the Christian minority, their properties and police personnel on the issue of alleged desecration of the Quran.

A charged mob led by radical Islamist Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activists last week attacked the Christian community in Mujahid Colony in the Sargodha district of Punjab, some 200 km from Lahore, that left two Christians and 10 policemen injured.

The mob burned and ransacked the homes and properties of the Christians.

According to Punjab police spokesperson Mubashir Hussain, some 140 suspects involved in the Sargodha incident have been taken into custody so far. "They are arrested in light of video and CCTV footage. It has been ensured that no innocent is rounded up," he said and added many of them have been sent to jail on judicial remand.

Police booked over 450 people under terrorism and other charges.

According to the FIR, a mob surrounded the residence and shoe factory of Nazir Masih alias Lazar Masih (an elderly Christian), accusing him of desecration of the Quran.

The enraged mob set fire to the shoe factory, some shops and a couple of houses. "The mob also brutally torched Masih but the timely arrival of a heavy contingent of police saved the lives of Masih and 10 other members of the Christian community," the FIR said. It says some pages of the holy Quran were reported to have been found



outside the shoe factory of Masih. This instigated the locals. Although the family of Masih denied desecration of the Quran the mob wanted to lynch him.

"The enraged mob pelted stones at police personnel when they resorted to baton charge to disperse it. At least 10 policemen, including officers, have been injured," as per the FIR.

According to the residents' accounts recorded by a team led by Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation (CICF), the blasphemy charges brought up against Lazar Masih were a "consequence of a festering resentment between Lazar's family and the local Muslim community over a drainage issue."

Masih's nephew, Irfan Gill also confirmed that the former's grandsons were often drawn into a fight by the local

Muslims over the same issue.

"On May 22, three days prior to the incident of May 25, the provocation was dispensed by Ayub, a neighbour working as a dairyman. Two of Masih's grandsons somehow got involved in a fight with Ayub and ended up going to the local police station to file a complaint against the dairyman," CICF said.

Three days later, the Mujahid Colony's loudspeakers were resounding with charges of blasphemy against Masih.

Last year, at least 24 churches and over 80 houses belonging to Christians in Jaranwala tehsil of Faisalabad district, some 130 km from the provincial capital, were burnt down by a mob enraged over reports that two Christians had desecrated the Quran. (PTI)

Bangladesh launches massive evacuation as cyclone Remal approaches from Bay of Bengal

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh on May 27 launched an intensified evacuation campaign in vulnerable areas as it prepares for severe cyclonic storm 'Remal' forecast to make landfall by evening or midnight with a potential high tidal surge and heavy rainfall in the country's coastal districts of Satkhira and Cox's Bazar.

According to the latest cyclone warning bulletin, 'Remal' is likely to move in a northerly direction and may cross Sagar island of West Bengal-Khepupara coast near Mongla by evening or midnight, the BSS news agency reported.

"A large-scale evacuation has already started. All vulnerable people are presumed to be moved to safer places at the shortest possible time," Director General of the Department of Disaster Management Mizanur Rahman was quoted as saying by the BSS.

On Saturday, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Md Mohibur Rahman said that the authorities have kept ready the cyclone centres and taken all types of preparations to tackle it.

"The district administration has turned social, educational and religious institutions to makeshift



shelters alongside 4,000 designated cyclone shelters in coastal districts to accommodate a large number of people including the most vulnerable ones living in remote areas," Mohibur said.

"A total of 78,000 volunteers from the Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) have been kept ready to deal with cyclone 'Remal' in the coastal district," he said.

Around 4,000 cyclone shelter centres have been readied

in the coastal districts, equipped with adequate dry food supplies. Some 8,600 Red Crescent volunteers and others joined a campaign asking people at risk to move to safety alongside the government officials while the district administration mobilised transports to carry them to the cyclone shelters, the minister said.

Leaves of officials of all ministries, divisions and subordinate offices have been cancelled to tackle the possible aftermath of Cyclone Remal, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

The Chattogram Port Authority has suspended all operations in the port as cyclone Remal heads towards the coast, it said. According to the Dhaka Tribune newspaper, flight operations at the Chittagong airport have been suspended for eight hours.

On Sunday morning, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department asked the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar ports to hoist great danger signal no 9, the paper said. The coastal districts -- Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Barguna, Bhola, and Patuakhali will also be under great danger signal number 10. Cyclone Remal has now intensified into a severe cyclonic storm. (PTI)



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Manicure mistakes you're making

No beauty look is complete without a flawless manicure. It's the finishing touch everyone needs for a balanced look whether you favor bright polish and nail art or keep your nails entirely bare. And if you happen to treat yourself to a professional mani regularly, chances are you want to extend the life of it as long as possible. Following simple rules for upkeeping your mani is key when a salon visit isn't in the cards. We all know the importance of the standard nail filing and using quality polishes to achieve a clean and neat look.

Don't apply too many coats

Applying thick coats of nail paint gets you one step closer to ruining your perfect manicure. Slapping on layers of polish will increase your chances of getting smudges and nicks as the paint will take much longer to dry completely. To avoid such accidents, apply thin coats of the paint to ensure faster drying. Always wait for a few minutes before adding more layers of polish. Also, paint it in just one direction to achieve a smooth finish.

Avoid hot water

If you're looking for a manicure that lasts, then avoid contact with hot water for at least six hours after getting a manicure. Hot water can ruin your hard work, so wear gloves while doing water related chores and save your polish from chipping.

On the other hand, cold water will be your savior. Dip your nails into a bowl of ice water for 1-2 minutes.



This will set and dry your polish in a matter of minutes.

Don't shake the bottle

DO NOT shake your bottle before applying the nail paint. Shaking creates air bubbles which should always be avoided if you're looking for an immaculate manicure. When air gets trapped inside the bottle, it creates froth making your nails chip faster. Instead of shaking, roll your bottle in your hands and see the difference.

Don't skip the base coat

Just like a good primer can keep your make-up looking flawless every day, using a base coat will provide the same service to your nails. A layer of base coat can easily extend the wear of your manicure by at least a couple of days. Soaking a cotton swab in

rubbing alcohol or white vinegar and applying to your nails before the base coat will help in sealing the natural oils and giving an even finish to your manicure.

Don't cut your cuticles

Cutting your cuticles is a major health risk. Even beauty experts agree that cuts can easily get infected and it's not an ideal to commit this sin. Rather, push them back using cuticle pusher tool. This will prevent the paint from sticking to the cuticles which can heft the polish from the nail bed and cause chipping. If you don't have a cuticle oil handy, make your own using a combination of olive and coconut oil. You can even add a few drops of your favorite essential oil to the mixture. Apply your homemade oil directly to your cuticles and gently massage.

Benefits of hydraulic acid

Hydraulic acid (HA) is making headlines as the magic ingredient in over-the-counter beauty products worldwide. And for good reason too! It is naturally found in the body (about 15g), and lends itself to moisturising the skin and staying youthful. However, as one ages, it doesn't help to have that boost of HA from an external source and apply it topically.

Using it regularly on your skin helps enhance tissue function. As the skin ages, and loses moisture and elasticity, HA helps hold in water and aids skin health and longevity. The skin is smoother and more supple. Microscopic studies across the world have shown a delay in the onset of wrinkles. Applying HA ensures that the moisture is locked in, and the layer of serum or cream on your skin means that harmful UVA and UVB rays of the sun don't damage your skin.

Worried that you might be getting too much moisture? HA is considered a 'smart' ingredient. It adjusts itself according to each body and skin type's need, the weather conditions, humidity and so on. Taken only on the advice and prescription of your dermatologist, and as an oral supplement, HA can enhance collagen production, keeping the skin cell structure intact for longer. Collagen is one of the most effective proteins that makes the skin firmer and more supple, and HA boosts the synthesis of this protein. Certain HA creams are not meant for the face. Instead they are used on the joints topically to repair damaged tissue, and are particularly useful in cases of osteoarthritis.

However, you need to watch out for a few things. Make sure that the serum or cream you're opting for does not contain alcohol, parabens or sulfates, since these ingredients will counter all the good being done by HA, and could backfire. Consult your skin specialist before you make any choices.

Why Vitamin C is good for your skin

Vitamin C is one of the most effective nutrients for your skin and is known for various benefits. Vitamin C infused in skincare products protects skin from sun damage and harmful rays. This ingredient also helps to smoothen out dark spots for a clearer skin. It helps to boost collagen production, which helps to hold the skin together, making it tighter and brighter. This ingredient also rejuvenates skin, keeping dryness at bay and improving skin's clarity and glow.

How to get Vitamin C

This vitamin can be included by various fruits like oranges, grapefruits, and lemons to name a few. A medium sized orange has about 70mg of Vitamin C, which is one of the popular sources. Apart from this many Vitamin C skincare products like serums, cream, lotions work great for topical use. It is best to consult a dermatologist for the right dosage. You can also look for facial therapies which infuse Vitamin C for skin lightening and brightening.



FOOD CORNER

Tomato Fish

INGREDIENTS

250 gm tomato, 1 large onion, 2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon ginger paste, 1 teaspoon coriander powder, 1 pinch salt, 1 tablespoon coriander leaves, 500 gm fish, 2 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 1 teaspoon red chilli, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, 3 tablespoon refined oil.

Method

- Remove any pin bones from the fish fillets and cut into large chunks. Rub 1 ½ tsp turmeric powder and 1 tsp salt over the fish and set aside for 10 minutes.
- Boil water in a pan. Make a cross cut on the stem side of the tomatoes. Plunge the



tomatoes in boiling water for 30 seconds and remove. Peel the tomatoes and chop them finely. Also, chop onions very finely.

- Heat oil in a large pan. Spread the fish pieces on the pan and fry till golden in color. Turn and fry on the other side as well. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
- Add the onions to the same

pan. Saute for 5-6 minutes till soft and cooked. Add the turmeric powder, red chili powder, cumin powder, coriander powder, ginger paste, sugar and chopped tomatoes. Mix well and cook for 4-5 minutes till the tomatoes are tender.

- Remove from fire, cool slightly and blend in a blender to get a coarse paste. Return the paste to the pan on the fire. Add 1 cup water and bring to a boil. reduce the heat and allow to simmer for a minute. Whisk the yoghurt and add to the simmering curry.
- Add the fish pieces along with any juices and simmer for 4-5 minutes. Add the chopped coriander and mix well.
- Remove from fire and serve hot with rice or rotis.

Medical tests women in their 30s and 40s must undergo

Women may be at risk of a range of diseases and infections compared to men due to biological differences and gender inequalities. As per WHO, globally, adolescent girls and young women are twice as likely to be at risk of HIV infection compared to boys and young men. This higher HIV risk is associated with unsafe and often unwanted and forced sexual activity. During pregnancy, malaria, HIV and TB all can pose significant risks to pregnant women, her foetus and the newborn child.



Important tests for women in their 30s and 40s.

Pap smear and HPV tests

This is a test for detection of abnormal cell growth that causes cervical cancer. A regular screening between a time period of 3-5 years is recommended based on age and previous results. Human papillomavirus testing is also important for sexually active women because it can also lead to cervical cancer.

Mammogram and breast self-examination

It is a breast cancer screening test. It can detect breast tumours and abnormalities at an early stage when treatment is most effective. Depending on your situation, annual or biennial tests are recommended. A breast self-examination allows a female to understand the normal look and feel of their breasts. Any changes

Thyroid function test

TFT determines levels of the thyroid hormone in the body, helping in detection of diseases like hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

Blood pressure and cholesterol tests

The risk of cardiovascular diseases increases with age. A test for blood pressure and cholesterol every 4-6 years will help prevent heart diseases and brain strokes.

Blood glucose test

An annual blood glucose test is advised to detect conditions like diabetes and pre-diabetes. This test becomes more crucial for people who are obese or have a family history or have any other risk factor.

Bone density test

A dexa-scan is important for detection of diseases like osteoporosis and bone loss, especially if people have risk factors.

Cancer screening

People at risk may also go for colon and skin cancer screening based on age, family history and other risk factors.

Source: HT



Statin therapy can reduce heart disease and death in elderly

Using statin therapy as the first line of treatment for cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention was found effective in preventing heart disease risk and all-cause mortality, even in adults aged 85 years and older, according to a study on Tuesday.

Statins are known to lower cholesterol levels in the blood, thereby decreasing the risk of CVDs.

Previously, the consensus on using statins for primary prevention of heart disease in adults aged 75 years or older has been little because of a lack of proper representation of the population in randomised controlled trials, said researchers from the University of Hong Kong.

The study, published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, included adult patients over 60 without pre-existing diagnosed CVDs.

The average follow-up was 5.3 years.

Of the 42,680 adults aged 75 to 84 years, 9,676 developed CVDs. Among the 5,390 adults aged 85 years or older, 1,600 developed CVD.

The results showed that in all age groups, initiating statin therapy was associated with a lower incidence of CVD and all-cause mortality, said the researchers.

This was seen “even among the older population aged 85 years or older,” they added.

The new study showed that statin use did not increase the risk for adverse events such as myopathies and liver dysfunction.

The researchers also acknowledged limitations like unmeasured confounders, such as lifestyle factors like diet and physical activity. Source: IANS

Lifestyle choices for optimal kidney health

It is essential to our general health to keep our kidneys in good working order. The kidneys are essential to many bodily physiological processes, and maintaining good health depends on the kidneys operating properly. Our lifestyle decisions have a big impact on whether kidney illnesses arise or not, as well as on maintaining the health of the kidneys. For the best possible kidney health, consider these healthy lifestyle options and how to incorporate them into your daily routine.

Consume a Well-Balanced Diet

Our kidneys digest everything that we eat or drink. Bad eating habits can eventually cause renal and other health issues. As a result, choose meals like vegetables, whole grains, fresh fruits, low-fat or fat-free dairy products that are good for your kidneys and your body as a whole. Reducing your intake of salt and added sugars is also crucial.

Exercise

Exercise and physical activity are beneficial for more than simply your weight when included into your daily routine. It can reduce your chance of developing long-term illnesses, such as chronic kidney disease. In addition, it can greatly lower blood pressure and improve heart health, all of which are essential in preventing kidney injury. Including exercise or physical activity in your routine does not require you to push yourself to the limit, like finishing a marathon.



Maintain Hydration

Staying hydrated during the day requires consuming a lot of fluids, as maintaining a regular water intake is beneficial to the kidneys. Water reduces the incidence of chronic kidney disease and aids in the kidney's removal of toxins and sodium. Aim for 1.5 to 2 litres of fluid each day at the very least.

Control your blood sugar

Kidney damage can occur in people with diabetes or other conditions that result in high blood sugar. Your kidneys have to work harder to filter your blood when the glucose (sugar) in it cannot be used by your body's cells. Years of exertion may cause potentially fatal consequences from this. On the other hand, damage is less likely if you can control your blood sugar. Additionally, a doctor can take action to lessen or stop further damage if the injury is discovered early.

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AI darling Nvidia's market value surges closer to Apple

Nvidia's shares rallied around 6% to hit a record high leaving the AI chipmaker's stock market value about \$100 billion away from overtaking Apple in a major reshuffle of Wall street's biggest players.

Last trading at \$1,128, Nvidia's market capitalisation reached \$2.8 trillion, compared to a market value of \$2.9 trillion for Apple, which is Wall Street's second-most valuable company after Microsoft.

Its stock surged as much as 8% to \$1,149.39 during the session, an intraday record high. Apple's stock was down 0.2% in afternoon trading.

Nvidia's shares have surged nearly 13% since it forecast second-quarter revenue above Wall Street expectations last week and announced a stock split, which excited investors as they continue to bet on the AI poster child.

"The market has been struggling to keep up with the company's ever improving growth trajectory. At a mid-thirties forward earnings multiple, this still doesn't feel like bubble territory," said Derren Nathan, head of equity analysis at Hargreaves Lansdown.

WhatsApp might be able to generate images quickly using Meta AI

Before AI (artificial intelligence) tools made their way in our lives, generating images was something that only accomplished designers could do. However, anyone can create the image they want with tools like Midjourney, Microsoft Copilot (earlier Bing) and Google Gemini. Now, as per recent reports, creating images will be even more feasible since WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature.

According to a WA Beta Info report, WhatsApp is working on a new feature to generate AI-powered images quickly. A new shortcut within the chat attachment sheet is being tested to help users generate these images efficiently. According to the screenshot shared by WA Beta Info, this upcoming feature could use Meta AI, an advanced assistant capable of complex reasoning, executing instructions, visualising concepts, and solving intricate problems.

At present, users can generate images directly within the Meta AI chat or by using a command in group chats. The upcoming update is expected to simplify this process by adding a shortcut to the chat attachment sheet. Hence, users will not have to switch to their Meta AI chat in order to generate images, they can do so by just tapping a single button.

Monster sunspot that triggered solar storm on Earth returns with a bang

Monster sunspot, designated AR3664, responsible for the May 10 solar storm that triggered the strongest auroras on Earth in over five centuries is back.

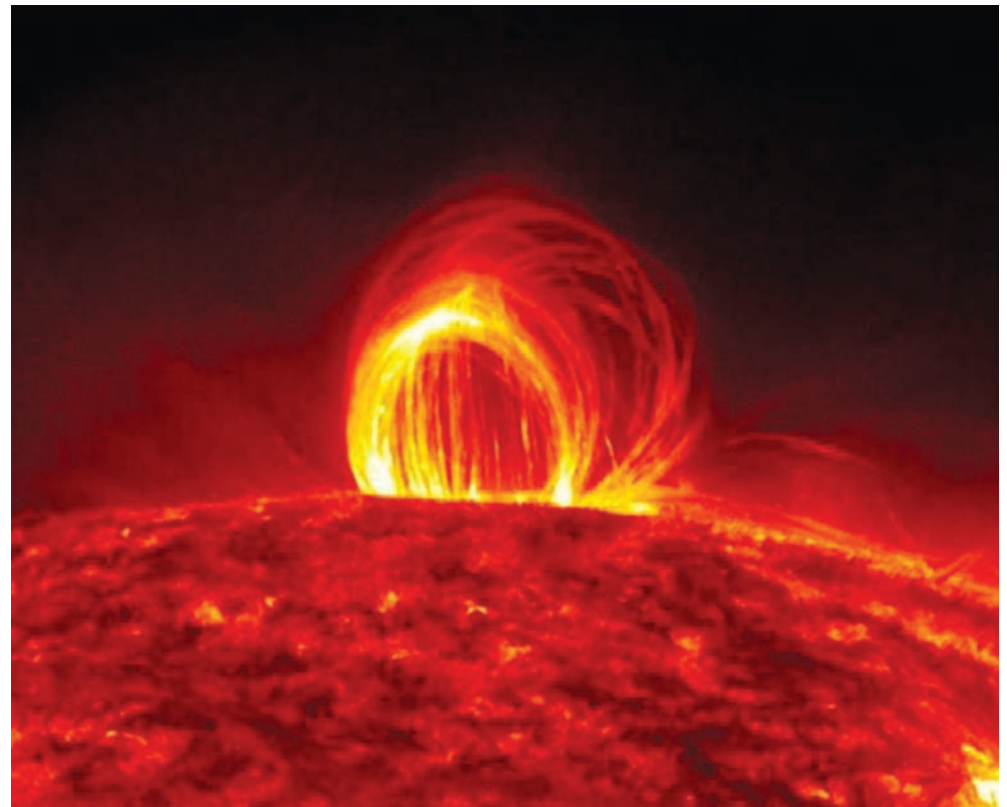
After disappearing from Earth's view, the sunspot bigger than the planet has returned. The gargantuan sunspot announced its arrival with a massive solar flare and the image of the explosion was captured by amateur astronomer Michael Karrer.

The explosion was so big that it caused a deep shortwave radio blackout over East Asia and hurled a bright coronal mass ejection (CME) into space. A CME is one of the most powerful explosions from the Sun that travels at millions of kilometres per hour carrying plasma and material across the vacuum of space.

In the early weeks of May this year, Earth was slammed by a series of seven solar storms over the weekend that triggered strong auroras in several parts of the world.

Travelling at a staggering speed of 48 lakh kilometres per hour, the coronal mass ejections barrelled through space to slam into Earth. Starting May 10, the intense activity kicked off a stunning display of auroras in several parts of the world including India, the rarest of rare occurrences.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a rare severe geomagnetic storm warning when a solar outburst reached Earth on



Friday afternoon, hours sooner than anticipated. The effects of the Northern Lights, which were prominently on display in Britain, lasted through the weekend and are possibly to go into the week. The auroras were so bright that it was visible even in India. Hanle in Ladakh witnessed a bright red flash in the skies as the charged particles from the Sun struck into Earth's magnetic

field. As the solar storm struck Earth, space agencies across the world scrambled to protect assets and astronauts in space. American space agency, Nasa, India's Isro and SpaceX all had to adjust and course-correct their satellites to evade the stress.

With the sunspot returning to view, more activity and explosions are expected. *Source: India Today*

Indian-origin researcher discovers way to charge laptops, phones in just a minute

In the modern world of science and technology, we spend most time charging our electric appliances. But what if we tell you that you will now be able to charge your dead laptop or smartphone in just a minute? Well, the technology is here. Recently, an Indian-origin researcher has revealed a novel technology that can help in charging a laptop and phone in one minute. Moreover, using the same way, you can charge your electric car in 10 minutes only. Let's see what this technology is.

How is it possible?

Ankur Gupta, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering at the US-based University of Colorado Boulder and his team of researchers discovered this new technology. In a study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers explained how tiny charged particles, called ions, move within a complex network of minuscule



pores. The breakthrough could lead to the development of more efficient energy storage devices, such as supercapacitors, said Gupta, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering.

Gupta said, "Given the critical role of energy in the future of the planet, I felt inspired to apply my chemical engineering knowledge to advancing energy storage devices. It felt like the

topic was somewhat unexplored and, as such, the perfect opportunity."

Gupta explained that several chemical engineering techniques are used to study flow in porous materials such as oil reservoirs and water filtration, but they have not been fully utilised in some energy storage systems.

The study stated that this discovery is not only for storing energy in vehicles and electronic devices but also for power grids, where fluctuating energy demand requires efficient storage to avoid waste during periods of low demand and to ensure rapid supply during high demand.

Supercapacitors, energy storage devices that rely on ion accumulation in their pores, have rapid charging times and longer life spans compared to batteries. The researcher said that the primary appeal of supercapacitors is their speed. "So how can we make their charging and release of energy faster? By the more efficient movement of ions," said Gupta.

Markets rebound in early trade after 5 days of decline

Equity benchmark indices rebounded in early trade on Friday, May 31, after falling for the past five days, amid a rally in Asian markets along with buying in index majors Larsen & Toubro and Mahindra & Mahindra.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 550.22 points to 74,435.82 in early trade. The NSE Nifty went up by 147.15 points to 22,635.80.

In the five days of fall, the BSE benchmark tanked 1,532 points or 2 per cent.

From the Sensex basket, Larsen & Toubro, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors and Titan were the major gainers.

Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Technologies were among the laggards.

The electioneering for the ongoing general elections halted on Thursday ahead of the last phase of polling to be held on Saturday, June 1.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the positive territory.

Wall Street ended lower on Thursday, May 30.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude went lower 0.34 per cent to USD 81.58 a barrel.

Unclaimed deposits with banks rise 26%

Unclaimed deposits with banks have witnessed a 26 per cent jump year on year to Rs 78,213 crore at the end of March 2024, as per the RBI Annual Report released on Thursday. The amount with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund stood at Rs 62,225 crore at the end of March 2023.

Banks, including cooperative banks, transfer unclaimed deposits of account holders lying in their accounts for 10 or more years to RBI's Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

As a measure to assist the account holders and with a view to consolidating and rationalising the extant instructions on inoperative accounts, the Reserve Bank issued a comprehensive guidelines earlier this year on the measures to be put in place by the banks covering various aspects of classifying accounts and deposits as inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits, as the case may be.

Google to invest \$2 billion in Malaysian data center and cloud hub

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP)

Google plans to invest \$2 billion in Malaysia, developing its first data center and a Google Cloud hub in the latest big foray by a U.S. tech giant in the Southeast Asian country.

The news follows Microsoft's recent announcement that it would put \$2.2 billion over the next four years into building Malaysia's new cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim hailed Google's investment as a sign of faith in Malaysia's governance and economy. Anwar said Thursday that the investment is expected to add \$3.2 billion to the economy and create 26,500 jobs by 2030.

The investments are a coup for Anwar as he seeks to consolidate his strength against a strong Islamic opposition.

Google said in a statement that the new hubs will be developed at a business park in central Malaysia's Selangor state, to meet growing demand for cloud services and for artificial intelligence literacy programs for Malaysian students and educators.

Malaysia will be the 12th country to house a Google data center. The Malaysian Google Cloud hub — which will deliver services to large enterprises, startups and the public sector, will join 40 regions and 121 zones currently in operation around the world, it said.

"This investment builds on our partnership with the government of Malaysia to advance its 'Cloud First Policy,' including best-in-class cybersecurity standards," said Ruth Porat, Alphabet Inc.'s president and chief financial officer.

Anwar met with Porat and other business leaders during visits to the U.S. last year. *Source: AP*



IMF UPGRADES ITS FORECAST FOR CHINA'S ECONOMY

The International Monetary Fund has upgraded its forecast for China's economy, while warning that consumer-friendly reforms are needed to sustain strong, high-quality growth. The IMF's report said the world's second-largest economy will likely expand at a 5% annual rate this year, based on its growth in the first quarter and recent moves to support the property sector. That is a 0.4 percentage point above its earlier estimate. But it warned that attaining sustained growth requires building stronger social safety nets and increasing workers' incomes to enable

Chinese consumers to spend more. The IMF also said Beijing should scale back subsidies and other "distortive" policies that support manufacturing at the expense of other industries such as services.

The ruling party has set its annual growth target at "around 5%," and the economy grew at a faster-than-expected 5.3% in the first quarter of the year, boosting the global economy. The IMF said its upgraded forecast also reflects recent moves to boost growth, including fresh help for the property industry such as lower interest rates and smaller down-payment requirements on home loans. *Source: AP*

S&P raises outlook for India to 'positive'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

After a gap of about 10 years, S&P Global Ratings has upped India's outlook to positive from stable on robust growth prospects for next three years and public spending, and raised hopes for an upgrade in two years provided the government continues reforms and policies to keep fiscal deficit under check.

While retaining India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-', S&P said it expects broad continuity in economic reforms and fiscal policies, irrespective of the election outcome.

Results of the ongoing general elections will be announced on June 4.

"India outlook revised to positive on robust growth and rising quality of Government spend," S&P said, while affirming long-term rating at 'BBB'.

The ratings are looked at by investors as a barometer of the country's creditworthiness and has impact on borrowing costs. Last in 2014, S&P had upped India's outlook to stable from negative.

"Our positive outlook on India is predicated on its robust economic growth, pronounced improvement in the quality of government spending, and political commitment to fiscal consolidation. We believe these factors are coalescing to benefit credit metrics," S&P said.

US economic growth last quarter revised down from 1.6% to 1.3%

The U.S. economy grew more slowly in the first quarter than previously estimated after downward revisions to consumer and equipment spending and a key measure of inflation ticked down, keeping the Federal Reserve on track to possibly begin cutting interest rates before the end of the year.

Gross domestic product - the broadest measure of economic activity - grew at an 1.3% annualized rate from January through March, the Commerce Department reported on Thursday, down from the advance estimate of 1.6% and notably slower than the 3.4% pace in the final three months of 2023.

The downgrade of first-quarter growth followed recent softness

in other readings of retail sales and equipment spending.

Details of the report showed that consumer spending growth, revised down by 0.5 percentage point to a 2.0% annualized rate, mostly reflected a larger-than-earlier-reported drop in household spending on goods. Outlays for big ticket durable goods like motor vehicles and parts dragged on growth by the most since the third quarter of 2021. That drag outpaced upward revisions in the report to business and residential investment.

A measure of inflation during the first quarter was also revised down to 3.3% from 3.4%, the stiffest quarterly price-pressure growth in a year. *Source: Reuters*

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Sikh History This Week

MAY 31 TO JUNE 6

31st May



1981 Sikh procession to seek Holy City status for Amritsar. The Sikhs brought out a procession to demand Holy City status for Amritsar. More than 25,000 Sikhs joined the procession. To quote a Hindu newspaper, the Tribune: Until 29 May it seemed that only 500 to 1,000 Sikhs would join the Sikh procession on Sunday when all the shops are closed in the city. Following yesterday's massive Hindu procession the number will be very high. This procession was a direct result of unfilled promises for the declaration of Amritsar as a Holy City. The SGPC chief, G. S. Tohra, had met with the Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, on September 24, 1980.

1986 In 1986 the International Sikh Organization (ISO) was established to educate the public and the U.S. Congress about the Sikh religion, the violations of human rights by the Indian government, India's genocide against the Sikhs, and the Sikh struggle for an independence. The Council of Khalistan was established on October 7, 1987, when Khalistan declared its independence.

1st June

1748 Small Holocaust that saw 10,000 Sikhs massacred in a single day. At least 10,000 Sikhs were massacred by Yahiya Khan and Lakhpat Rai, who had taken vow to avenge the death of his brother by annihilating the Sikhs. Diwan Lakhpat Rai, a katri of Kalanoar, was the Chief Minister to the Governor of Lahore, YayahKhan. When his troublemaker brother, Jaspat, was killed by Sikhs near Badoki Gusayia village, he unleashed a campaign of terror against the Sikhs to avenge the death of his brother. Jaspat Rai was actually killed in a skirmish with a Sikh outfit. However, Lakhpat Rai issued orders to shoot the Sikhs at sight. For some period, Lakhpat Rai even assumed completed control of Lahore, under orders of Ahmad Shah Abdali. Lakhpat Rai attacked Sikhs at Kahnoowal jungles and ordered to set the whole jungle on fire. Baba Deep Singh was among the Sikhs who escaped and subsequently fought back at the Beas River bank, and finally reaching Malwa. This incident culminated in what is common known as the "Chotta Ghalughara" (small genocide) in Sikh history.

1813 Maharaja Ranjit Singh obtained Kohinoor from Shahuja Amir of Kabul.

2nd June

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces annexed the province of Multan into the Sikh State, after several years of fierce battles. The nawab of Multan, Muzaffar Khan had agreed to pay tribute to the Khalsa army. He had also made a resolution and had agreed that he will not conspire against the Khalsa Darbar. Later, however he gave asylum to Raes Ahmad Khan of Jhang and plotted against the Khalsa army with Kutubdin. He broke his word and never paid tribute on time. As a result the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked

Muzaffar Khan who was ready to defend himself with an army of 20,000 and a large number of holy warriors (mujahuddins). The Khalsa army, under the command of several Sikh generals attacked the fort of Multan and broke the wall at two places, but they were repaired quickly. The enemy had put up a stiff resistance. The stand-off continued for three months.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh had partially recovered from his stroke of 1838 yet was very feeble, when he suffered another stroke accompanied by dropsy and fever. Dr. Steel was sent by British to treat the Maharaja.



1984 Indian Armed forces replaced the Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) as a readiness step towards the Operation Bluestar.

3rd June

1947 Mountbatten announced the division of the Punjab.

1984 All communications including phone lines to and from Punjab are cut. Road blocks prevent anyone from entering or leaving Punjab and all journalists are expelled from Punjab. A total curfew is imposed and as many as 10,000 pilgrims are trapped inside the temple complex. Milk vendors from the villages who supply milk to the city of Amritsar are shot dead for violating the curfew orders. Operation Bluestar: Sikh homeland occupied by Indian Army. Curfew declared and undeclared Martial law promulgated.

4th June

1398 Bhagat Kabir was born. Kabir was the most celebrated revolutionary saint of the Bhakti movement. He condemned social and religious abuses and emphasized the fundamental equality and fraternity of all mankind. Kabir was born to a widowed Brahmin on Jaeth Sudi 15 sunmat 1455. However, his mother left the new born baby next to a water pool near Banaras. Ali (Niru), a local weaver found the baby. Ali and his wife Nima together brought up this child as their own son. Child was named Kabir in accordance with the Muslim traditions of the time. Further, Kabir was educated in Islam studies. Kabir married Lohi and a son, Kamaal, was born.

1606 Guru Hargobind arrived in Daroli village near Moga, Ferozepur.

1987 US Congress discusses atrocities against Sikhs.

5th June

1984 Operation Bluestar: Fierce battle in Golden Temple Complex, Sri Akal Takhat is attacked with heavy artillery and tanks. And June 6 nights saw fierce battle between the Indian Army and GurSikhs inside the Golden Temple Complex. The onslaught began

around 7pm. 15,000 hand-picked and well-trained solidiers supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers were involved in the assault. While another 35,000 solidiers tried to put down any internal rebellion. It was rumored that Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalee has gone towards the Golden Temple. In response, the army sent their divers into the sacred tank, but they all were killed at the hands of the GurSikh freedom fighters. Subsequently, 60 commandos were sent to Sri Akal Takhat. 59 were killed in the first attack by the GurSikhs. Army's disappointment led to the deployment of heavy artillery and tanks started firing upon Sri Akal Takhat. By 9:30 AM, the army took control of the Golden Temple complex. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalee and Amrik Singh received martyrdom in this attack along with many of their companions.

1996 Baldev Singh Chahal passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He successfully campaigned to change the British law that exempted GurSikhs from wearing helmets on motorcycles.

6th June

1628 Guru Har Gobind Sahib fought and won the first battle of Amritsar against the Mughal army.

1663 Janam, Bhai Mohkam Singh, one of the first five GurSikh initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam Singh was born at Dwarka to father Teerath Chand Shanbae and Mata Dev Bhai. Bhai Mohkam Singh was one of the first five GurSikhs initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam died while fighting at Chamkaur.

1711 The Khalsa Dal forces, under the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur, defeated the forces of Delhi emporer, Bahadhur Shah, at Behrampur.

1737 Martyrdom Bhai Mani Singh Ji.

1984 Operation Bluestar: Indian Army occupied the Sikh Shrines, archives, libraries, museums. Most of them were later set abalze.



The fascist Indian Armed Forces, under the orders of Indira Gandhi (then prime minister) and Zail Singh (then President) launched the final assault on the Golden Temple complex. Today, the whole Sikh Nation salutes all those GurSikh martyrs who gave their lives while protecting the sanctity of Sri Akal Takhat and Sri Darbar Sahib. So many GurSikhs were killed that although the army paid Rs. 50 for picking up a dead body and loading it onto the awaiting trucks, there weren't enough people to get this work done. People clearing dead bodies were also given permission for retain all valuables recovered from the body. The most notable GurSikhs included Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh. Giani Puran Singh, Darbar Sahib's high priest, was told by the soldiers that the bodies of Bhindranwalee, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh were found in the courtyard of Sri Akal Takhat. Ropes were tied to the body of Gen. Shahbeg Singh. His body seemed to have been dragged from Sri Akal Takht.



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND
CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 3 TO JUNE 9, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

Ganesha says if any case is pending in the court, you may feel uneasy thinking about its outcome. Due to this, the family atmosphere will also appear disturbed. People who drive will need to be more careful while driving this week. Because you may violate traffic rules like talking on the phone, driving at high speed, etc., for which you will have to pay a heavy fine. This may cause you financial loss as well as wasting your time. You will not get the support of your family in any major decision taken in your personal life. Due to this, you will feel quite lonely and you may even think of going away from them. This week you need to understand that if you want to get the full benefit of your hard work then try to keep your mind positive. This week is going to be more important than usual for your career, as a result of which you are likely to get many new opportunities during this period. Apart from their studies, students of this zodiac sign can spend all their time fulfilling their luxuries this week.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week, you will have to remove the fog prevailing over you with your efforts by adopting positivity in your thinking. Because you have to understand that this very dust is hindering your progress. So this is the time to come out of this and do something good. This week you will get support from your friends, but differences of opinion with family members on some small matter can disturb the peace at home. Due to this, there will be a possibility of developing wrong feelings towards them in your mind. There are chances of good profits in your income this week. Because the hard work done by you during this period will bear fruit in the workplace. So that you will be able to get all the good results that you deserve. However, during this period, do not leave any work incomplete due to ego, otherwise, it can cause problems for you. This week, all students are especially advised to take the help of meditation and yoga to increase their concentration and always try to keep themselves calm instead of reacting hastily if the circumstances are adverse.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week you may feel like eating sweet things. Which you will also be seen completing. But during this time you should not forget that this desire of yours can give you the problem of diabetes or weight gain in the future. Those businessmen who had earlier made a deal to get a profit may get a big auspicious sign this week. Because your deal may be successful, it will give you the possibility of getting money or profit soon. This week, many people in your family will not be seen talking to you directly, the reason for which may be that you consider yourself supreme. In such a situation, instead of always keeping yourself above yourself, you will have to learn to give importance to the thoughts of others. This week will

also prove to bring auspicious results for you in terms of work-related travels. Because these trips will provide you with new opportunities. Apart from this, for those who are involved in the import-export sector, there is a possibility of financial gain from a trip. Students of this zodiac sign can get the desired results in the field of education after a long time this week. Because in the beginning of the week, you may have to work harder, but by the end of the week you will be successful in getting many auspicious and favorable results.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week, people of this zodiac sign will be less likely to suffer from any major illness other than minor health problems. However, in case of any seasonal illness, instead of treating it at home, you are advised not to take medicines without a doctor's advice. This week you will suddenly get money from new sources, which will keep your mind happy. This will not only increase the positivity in your mind but you can also plan to take a gift for the younger members of the family while going home. Some kind of event may take place in the family this week, on which you will have to spend a lot of your money. This will increase your mental stress and you will find yourself unable to concentrate on your work due to excess of household work. You may fail to complete earlier incomplete tasks for which you had to get scolded by your superiors earlier this week. This will not only increase your mental stress but there is also a possibility that this work may be taken from you and given to another colleague. However, luck will favor you during this time, due to which you will be successful in remembering whatever subject you study.



LEO

Ganesha says this week you need to work on things that can improve your health. For this, you will have to eat fruits and green leafy vegetables while eating a good diet. If married, married people are advised to take special care of their children from the beginning of this week. Because there is a possibility that due to their poor health, you may have to spend a lot of money on their health. Due to this, there will be a possibility of your financial condition worsening in the coming time. Your family may be quite unhappy this week due to your many bad habits and mentality of living life on your terms. Because of this, you may get many lectures on morality from different members of the household. This will not only bring stubbornness in your nature, it will also hurt your relationships. There will be many auspicious opportunities for career promotion this week for the people of your zodiac sign related to business. Due to this the already deteriorated situation will come back on track during this period. This week, students may have to face some kind of rebuke from their parents or elders regarding their studies. Due to this, your mood will remain bad this whole week. In such a situation, do not do any work from the beginning which may cause you trouble.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week is bringing special auspicious results in the lives of those people who were suffering from eye-related disorders. During this time you will not only be successful in taking proper and proper care of your eyes, but can also take any decision to improve them. This week you have to understand that as long as you have money in front of you, your

expenses will continue to increase at the same pace. In such a situation, before all the money is exhausted, you will have to keep your extra money in a safe place from where it will not be easy for you to withdraw it. For this, you can also give that money to your parents. By using this money in the future, you will be able to avoid many financial problems. This week you will be seen imposing your suggestions and views on friends and relatives. However, you are advised to avoid doing so. Because not only will it not prove particularly beneficial for your image. You can make others angry and make them stand against you. This week, luck will favor you in every career situation. This shows that at this time you will also receive proper praise and support from your superiors. If you were thinking of taking admission in a good and big college away from home, then the prospects are looking a little more favorable at this time. So for this many students will need to take cooperation from their teachers. However, avoid adopting shortcuts for any reason during this period, otherwise, you may have to repent throughout your life.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week you may feel a lack of confidence. Due to this, you will not be able to make any important decisions. Therefore, you have to remember that a lot rests on your shoulders, and keeping this in mind, you have to make the right and clear decision at the right time. This week, whatever plans you had made earlier regarding financial matters may become completely useless. Due to this, you will have to borrow money and it can also put you under mental stress. Also, there will be many good dishes in front of you to eat, due to which you may face the problem of which one to choose first. Taking advice from others not only helps us make better decisions but also brings changes for the better in our lives. But this week, the feeling of extreme insecurity inside you will prevent you from taking advice from others, due to which you will be forced to make many big and important decisions alone. This week, students pursuing higher education will have to avoid creating unnecessary doubts in their minds. Instead of doing this, you should solve the questions arising in your mind regarding your studies and if necessary, increase your abilities by taking admission in a professional course.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says from a health point of view, this week will be better than usual for you. Because this week the vision of your zodiac lord will not let you suffer from any major disease. Although you will have to face some minor physical problems from time to time, your health will improve significantly compared to before and you will feel positive changes in your health. If a large part of the money was stuck somewhere for a long time in the form of compensation and loan etc. Because at this time, the position and vision of many auspicious planets indicate the possibility of many people of your zodiac sign getting financial benefits. This week you will feel a little irritated by the behavior of people around you, especially your family members. This will also increase your mental stress and you may have a dispute with them. The beginning of the week is going to be quite impressive. Because an

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 3 TO JUNE 9 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 3

Ganesha says that although you work hard and are honest; Due to your sad, fearful, and jealous nature, you often have to face a lot of criticism. It can be very beneficial for those who are willing to take financial and business risks today. A wonderful but brief new romance may emerge. It can bring comfort and peace in travel or pilgrimage. There may be some exciting changes happening in the organization you work for. There are more likely to be multiple sources of financial gain. You will also benefit from investments in bonds and real estate.

JUNE 4

Ganesha says your helpful nature makes you good at talking and helps you make friends quickly, but you need to control your tendency to be fussy, wasteful, and stubborn at times. Today, along with good financial gains, recognition and many awards are expected. The formation of new alliances and partnerships seems to be supported by your stars. Some people may get a promotion and transfer. Thoughtful estimation will be beneficial, so be extra careful not to lose your hard-earned money.

JUNE 5

Ganesha says that although you are endowed with excellent imagination and intuition and have excellent leadership qualities, sometimes you need to control your temptation to act extravagant, hypocritical, and stubborn. Today both your financial health and physical health may remain good. Entrepreneurs can finance more profitable projects. Promising contacts may increase with the help of social gatherings and travel. Despite your chaotic behavior with you, your spouse may be quite friendly and show you all his love and affection.

JUNE 6

Ganesha says you have a great appreciation for good writing and music, and you like to hang out with people who share your interests. However, you have to learn to control your tendency to be irrational, impatient, and destructive from time to time. Today you should be ready to handle new tasks and positions with important responsibilities. Your financial position becomes stable as previous investments start giving returns. Better finances bring prosperity and happiness to the home. It may be possible to travel frequently and earn more money for it.

JUNE 7

Ganesha says you are enthusiastic and extremely helpful, but you should learn to control your tendency to sometimes act impatiently, rashly, and timidly. Today your confidence may increase. Amazing company entrepreneurial talent will be beneficial for you. There will be many new tasks and assignments to increase your prosperity. Receiving some exciting news from abroad in the latter part of the day can increase the emotions of the entire family. Concerns may arise regarding the health of a family member's child. The journey will be beneficial if new relationships are formed.

JUNE 8

Ganesha says that today new alliances and collaborations can lead to financial gains. You may be at the peak of your self-assurance and determination. Profit is recovered in the form of money in the form of bad debts and late payments. A long journey for any pilgrimage or any auspicious ritual cannot be ruled out. Real estate and stock speculation may prove profitable. Employed people may experience stressful times at the workplace due to their boss's erratic behavior. Your partner can understand



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

your concerns and show you love and affection.

JUNE 9

Ganesha says that today your happiness and financial success are certain. You should not take any shortcuts to achieve your objectives. Entrepreneurs can explore new, exciting directions. Any property-related dispute may be resolved to your satisfaction. You may be worried about your spouse's health. You may be tired but happy at the end of the day. Spending time with friends can be beneficial as they can empathize with your problems.

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important journey in your life will begin during this time, therefore, before doing so, definitely get permission from your parents. Otherwise, they may object later and embarrass you in front of others. This week, the God of Wisdom will work to make many students successful by giving them the fruits of their hard work. Along with this, students preparing for competitive exams will also be on the side of luck at this time.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius

Ganesha says this week you have to be especially careful about your company. Because a selfish person from your company may become a cause of stress for you. If you do business in partnership, then this week you will have to improve your relationship with your partner. Because only by doing this you will be able to earn good financial profits with their help. Therefore, keeping this in mind, keep moving your efforts in the right direction. Short meetings with relatives can prove to provide some comfort and relaxation in your busy life. During this period, you will be successful in giving enough time to your family. In such a situation, make them feel that you care about them. For this, spend quality time with them and do not give them a chance to complain about you. People of this zodiac sign who do business in partnership will get help in recovering from all types of past losses during this period. This time will prove to be very good for your career, due to which you will be seen meeting many big personalities and making proper plans to grow your business. This week, the overconfidence and laziness of many students can become the main reason for their downfall. Therefore, you need to stay away from these symptoms, otherwise, you will be out of the race for your goal even if you don't want to.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, due to your poor health, you will see an increase in negative thoughts in your mind. Therefore, improve your health, because you also understand well that a weak body makes a person's mind also weak. You also understand very well that if you are getting financial benefits at this time, such a situation doesn't need to continue tomorrow also. In such a situation, it would be better that you prepare in advance for every future economic challenge and invest wisely. Therefore, invest your hard-earned money in a scheme only after thinking carefully. This week, the happy atmosphere at home will reduce your stress. This week will also help you understand that you have to work hard continuously for the well-being of your family. For this, there should be a feeling of love and foresight behind your every action. This week, many students will not get results as per their hard work in the exams, which may create a feeling of disappointment for them. In such a situation, you will need to calm yourself by understanding that there are wins and losses in life.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week you should avoid all kinds of travel, otherwise, you will feel tired and stressed. Whose negative impact will also be visible on your health. Because during this time you are likely to get benefits and rewards from the government, which will give you a good level of benefits. Your energetic, lively, and warm behavior will bring happiness to people around you, especially your family members. Due to this, you will get love and affection from your parents also. This week, your mind will be more focused on fulfilling your luxuries than on work. In such a situation, focus your attention only on your goal and avoid emotional things. Otherwise, trouble may arise for you. So

instead of wasting time thinking about small matters or domestic issues, just concentrate on your studies.



Pisces

PISCES

Ganesha says this time is very important for you from a health point of view. Because you will not have to face health-related problems during this period, you will be seen including yoga and exercise in your daily routine to keep yourself healthy. This week you will have to go on some kind of journey. Although this will give you some relief from your busy routine, this journey can also prove to be tiring and stressful. All your tiredness will go away when you are successful in earning good money financially during this journey with your efforts. This week you may take an interest in household chores and help other women in the house. This will not only increase respect in the family but will also strengthen your relationships with other members. This week's career horoscope indicates that people associated with the business sector of this zodiac sign may get favorable results from the position of many planets and constellations. In such a situation, they are also likely to earn good income from various fields during this period.

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 advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com.
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Bhadrakali Jayanti is a Hindu festival that celebrates the birth anniversary of Goddess Bhadrakali. This festival is observed on the 'ekadashi' (11th day) of the Krishna Paksha (the dark fortnight of the moon) in the month of 'Jyeshtha' in the Hindu calendar, which corresponds to May or June in the Gregorian calendar. The word 'Bhadra' means 'good' in Sanskrit, and it is believed that worshipping the Goddess on this day ensures her protection over the good. In some regions of India, this day is also known as 'Apara Ekadashi,' and in Orissa, it is called 'Jalakrida Ekadashi.'

Mythological Significance

According to Hindu mythology, Goddess Bhadrakali appeared from the hair of Lord Shiva when he became angry after learning about the death of Goddess Sati. The goddess appeared to kill Daksh Prachapati, the father of Goddess Sati. The main purpose of his appearance was to destroy all the demons on earth. Bhadrakali Jayanti is an important day for Hindus and is celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country. It is especially important for Arya Saraswat Brahmins, with notable celebrations in the Indian states of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir.

Importance of Bhadrakali Jayanti

The significance of Bhadrakali Jayanti is mentioned in the 'Nilmat Purana' or 'Vitasta Mahatmya'. Worshipping Goddess Kali on this day is believed to help devotees overcome all obstacles in their lives. Devotees believe that by offering prayers to Goddess Bhadrakali, all horoscope problems, including 'Grah Dosha,' can be resolved. Additionally, it is believed that worshipping on this day can fulfill eleven desires, as Bhadrakali Jayanti falls on Krishna Paksha Ekadashi. When the festival falls on a Tuesday or during the 'Revati' Nakshatra, it is considered even more auspicious. If it coincides with the 'Kumbh Mela,' it gains even greater significance.

Celebrations of Bhadrakali Jayanti

People across India celebrate Bhadrakali Jayanti 2024 with enthusiasm and devotion. Additionally, they decorate temples dedicated to the goddess with flowers, lights, and offerings to honor the special day. Moreover, devotees gather in temples and at home to perform special puja ceremonies, where they offer prayers, fruits, flowers, and sweets to the goddess. Lastly, they believe that these offerings bring blessings and protection from Bhadrakali.

Many devotees also observe a fast on this day as a mark of respect and devotion to the goddess. Throughout the day, prayers and chants fill the air. Additionally, people sing hymns and kirtans in praise of Bhadrakali. In some places, processions take place with the idol of the goddess carried through the streets. Moreover, these processions are accompanied by music and dance. Ultimately, these celebrations bring the community together and strengthen their faith.

Traditions and Rituals of Bhadrakali Jayanti

Bhadrakali Jayanti 2024 is a day of deep devotion and spiritual practices. Devotees observe various traditions and rituals to honor the goddess and seek her blessings. These customs strengthen their faith and connection with the divine.

Fasting

Many devotees observe a day-long fast as a mark of respect for the goddess. This fast helps them focus on their devotion and spiritual growth.

Special Puja

Devotees perform special puja ceremonies at home or in temples, offering fruits, flowers, and sweets to the goddess to seek her blessings.

Homa

People conduct fire rituals, known as homa, to invoke the goddess and seek her divine protection

Bhadrakali Jayanti



and blessings for prosperity.

Chanting Mantras

Chanting mantras dedicated to Bhadrakali is a way to connect with the goddess and ask for strength and courage.

Devotional Songs

Singing bhajans and kirtans in praise of Bhadrakali fills the air with devotion and creates a peaceful atmosphere for worship.

Decorating Temples

Temples are beautifully decorated with flowers, lights, and other ornaments to create a festive and spiritual ambiance.

Offerings

Devotees make offerings of coconut, sweets, and other items to the goddess as a gesture of devotion and gratitude.

Cultural Performances

In some regions, people organize cultural performances like dance and music to celebrate Bhadrakali Jayanti 2024, showcasing local

traditions.

Processions

Devotees may organize processions with the idol of the goddess carried through the streets, accompanied by music and dance.

Meditation

Many people spend time meditating and reflecting on the goddess's qualities, seeking her guidance and inner peace. These traditions and rituals help devotees deepen their spiritual connection with the goddess and receive her blessings. Through these customs, people honor Bhadrakali's divine presence and strive to live in alignment with her teachings.

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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."

"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

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Donald Trump Found Guilty on all 34...

convicted the former U.S. President of 34 counts of falsifying business records. "You gave this matter the attention it deserved."

Trump's conviction drew quick reactions.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who served as Donald Trump's White House press secretary and has been considered a potential contender to be his running mate, shortly after the verdict called his hush money trial a "politically-motivated sham trial."

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, the leading Democratic candidate for Michigan's U.S. Senate seat, said she first heard the news while looking at a garden on the island with other people around, describing the situation as a "weird experience." She said felt sad because presidents "should be respectable, serious people that kids can look up to."

Prosecutor Alvin Bragg said "the jury has spoken" after Trump was found guilty on all charges at his hush money trial.

"Our job is to follow the facts and the law without fear or favor," Manhattan District Attorney Bragg told reporters.

"We did our job. (There are) many voices out there, the only voice that matters is the voice of the jury, and the jury has spoken."

Michael Cohen, Donald Trump's former personal lawyer who was a key prosecution witness in his trial, hailed the guilty verdict against the former President.

Major Republican donors say they are going to keep pumping cash into supporting Donald Trump's presidential run, excited by polls showing him in the lead and fired up by his unprecedented criminal conviction, according to interviews with around a dozen donors and fundraisers.

"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial," Trump told reporters after leaving the courtroom. "The real verdict is going to be November 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here."

The White House said it respects the "rule of law" after Donald was convicted in a criminal trial.

"We respect the rule of law, and have no additional comment," Ian Sams, White House Counsel's Office spokesperson, said in a statement.

House of Representatives Committee Chairman Jim Jordan says "The verdict is a travesty of justice. The Manhattan kangaroo court shows what happens when our justice system is weaponized by partisan prosecutors in front of a biased judge with an unfair process, designed to keep President Trump off the campaign trail and avoid bringing attention to President Biden's failing radical policies. Americans see through Democrats' lawfare tactics and know President Trump will be vindicated on appeal."

Donald Trump's conviction shows that "no one is above the law", his election rival President Joe Biden's campaign said.

"In New York today, we saw that no one is above the law," Biden-Harris campaign communications director Michael Tyler said in a statement.

"But today's verdict does not change the fact that the American people face a simple reality. There is still only one way to keep Donald Trump out of the Oval Office: at the ballot box."

Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson described Donald Trump's conviction on all charges in his hush money case as "shameful."

"Today is a shameful day in American history. Democrats cheered as they convicted the leader of the opposing party on ridiculous charges, predicated on the testimony of a disbarred, convicted felon. This was a purely political exercise, not a legal one," he said in a statement.

Shares of Trump Media & Technology Group, the owner of social networking site Truth Social, slumped on Thursday, May 30. Trump Media's stock was down about 9% in after-hours trading as news of the verdict emerged. *(With inputs from agencies)*

Modi first PM to 'lower dignity' of...

Constitution will be safeguarded. The senior Congress leader also hit out at the BJP government for imposing an "ill-conceived" Agniveer scheme on the armed forces.

"The BJP thinks that the value of patriotism, bravery and service is only four years. This shows their fake nationalism," he said in a letter to voters of Punjab.

Mounting an attack on Modi, Singh said, "I have been keenly following the political discourse during this election campaign. Modi ji has indulged in the most vicious form of hate speeches, which are purely divisive in nature. Modi ji is the first prime minister to lower the dignity of public discourse, and thereby the gravity of the office of the prime minister.

"No prime minister in the past has uttered such hateful, unparliamentary and coarse terms, meant to target either a specific section of the society or the opposition. He has also attributed some false statements to me. I have never in my life singled out one community from the other. That is the sole copyright of the BJP," the former prime minister said.

Modi had accused Singh of saying that Muslims have the first right on the country's resources.

Singh said people of India are seeing through all of this. "This narrative of dehumanisation has now reached its peak. It is now our duty to save our beloved nation from these forces of discord," Singh said in the letter. (Source: PTI)

Indian companies -Reliance, Tata...

Disrupters, Innovators, and Pioneers).

Tata was listed in 'Titan's' category while Serum under 'Pioneers'.

"Reliance Industries was founded as a textile and polyester company 58 years ago by Dhirubhai Ambani. Today the sprawling conglomerate-which has aligned its growth with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'self-reliant' India-is the country's most valuable company, with a market capitalization of more than USD 200 billion," TIME said.

Now led by Dhirubhai's son Mukesh, the Mumbai-based company has ventures in energy, retail, and telecommunications, among others, and has made its chairman Asia's richest man, it said.

The publication went on to stated that in February, Reliance came out on top in a fiercely competitive race to dominate India's burgeoning streaming market by striking a USD 8.5 billion merger deal with Disney's India business. "The deal will bring together more than 100 television channels and give the combined group around a 31 per cent share of India's streaming market compared to rivals Netflix and Amazon Prime with 8 per cent each," according to analytics firm Comscore.

Reliance has revolutionized several economic sectors in the world's most populous country by making world-class products and services available at affordable prices with multiple innovations.

Under Mukesh Ambani, the firm's telecom arm Jio revolutionized India's digital landscape and drove digital inclusion on an unprecedented scale with the most affordable mobile data tariffs in the world.

It set up the world's largest single location refining complex.

Reliance Retail is ranked among the top 100 retailers globally and in FY24 it registered 1.06 billion footfalls across its 18,800+ stores (67 per cent of which are in small towns and villages).

Reliance is investing USD 10 billion in building the most comprehensive ecosystem for new energy and new materials in India and has set an ambitious goal to reach net-zero carbon by 2035.

TIME described Serum as the world's biggest vaccine maker, churning out billions of vaccines. The company makes 3.5 billion doses every year, including for measles, polio, and most recently, HPV.

"Serum's CEO Adar Poonawalla says the company's success can largely be chalked up to its private

ownership. Not being beholden to shareholders allows it to keep vaccine prices low (the R21 will cost USD 4 a shot)," the publication said.

Tata Group, it said, was founded in 1868 and has a vast portfolio extending from steel, software, watches, subsea cables, and chemicals, to salt, grains, air-conditioners, fashion, and hotels.

"But as rivals have aggressively courted new businesses, it struggled to keep up with stiff competition. In 2017, after over a century of family management, N Chandrasekaran took over as chairman despite having no personal ties to the family-highly unusual when India's business landscape is ruled by family succession plans," TIME said.

As chair, he has transformed the group by investing in tech manufacturing, AI, and semiconductor chips.

In 2023, it became the first Indian company to assemble iPhones, and is building another plant, it said, adding that in September, Tata announced a partnership with Nvidia to develop an AI cloud in India.

"And this year, it announced plans for the country's first major semiconductor manufacturing facility. The moves seem to be paying off: in February, Tata's combined market capitalization reached a whopping USD 365 billion, more than the entire economy of India's neighbor and rival, Pakistan," it added.

This is the fourth edition of annual TIME100 Most Influential Companies list, highlighting companies making an extraordinary impact around the world.

To assemble the list, TIME solicited nominations across sectors, and polled its global network of contributors and correspondents, as well as outside experts.

Then, TIME editors evaluated each on key factors, including impact, innovation, ambition, and success. The result is a diverse group of 100 businesses helping chart an essential path forward. (Source: PTI)

Pakistan court acquits former Pak...

The supporters of Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, vandalized public property, including sensitive army installations last year following his arrest in an alleged corruption case.

The petition challenging the two cases lodged at Shehzad Town police station against the PTI founder was approved by Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir of the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad.

While acquitting Khan, 71, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, the court said in its verdict: "Because of insufficient evidence presented by the prosecution, the PTI founder has been acquitted."

On May 15, Khan was acquitted in two cases linked to the May 9 vandalism.

His acquittal orders were issued by Judicial Magistrate Sahib Bilal, who approved the former prime minister's plea challenging the cases. Both those cases against Khan were filed in Khanna police station in Islamabad.

The cases were registered against the PTI founder for the long march and violation of Article 144.

Khan, who remains behind bars in the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, and several others including some PTI leaders are facing various allegations in the cases related to the violence following his arrest on May 9. After Khan was arrested, hundreds and thousands of his followers and party workers vandalized a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander House), Mianwali Airbase and the ISI building in Faisalabad.

The Army headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi too was attacked by the mob for the first time.

(Source: PTI)

Mahabaleshwar is a hill station in India's forested Western Ghats range, south of Mumbai. It features several elevated viewing points, such as Arthur's Seat. West of here is centuries-old Pratapgad Fort, perched atop a mountain spur. East, Lingmala Waterfall tumbles off a sheer cliff. Colorful boats dot Venna Lake, while 5 rivers meet at Panch Ganga Temple to the north.

PLACES TO VISIT

There are many places to visit in Mahabaleshwar, which add to the laidback vibe of this gorgeous hill town. From the serene Venna Lake (where you can go boating too), and the cliff-tops which are the best vantage points here, to the Pratapgarh Fort soaked in history, and the lush Mapro gardens—there's lots to do here. Ideal for family vacationers, backpackers and couples, Mahabaleshwar is an ideal getaway for those who want to immerse themselves in nature's splendour and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Mapro Garden

One of the most popular tourist places in Mahabaleshwar is the Mapro Garden. It is located at Gureghar on Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani road which is approximately 11 km from Mahabaleshwar. This isn't an ordinary garden; it encompasses attractions that would entice both children and adults like a Chocolate factory, a small nursery and a children play area. There is a restaurant serving mouth watering refreshments like sandwiches, fruit salads, strawberry shakes and ice creams. Visitors can also purchase the Mapro products like jams, preserves, marmalade, toppings, syrups and squashes, from the retail outlet here. Around March/April, the Mapro conducts a fascinating four days, Strawberry Festival. Where they present variety of strawberry based delicacies like strawberry pizza, strawberry bhel, chocolate dipped strawberries and strawberry sandwiches. This would make an amazing time to visit the Mapro Garden.

Wilson Point (Sunrise Point)

Stand tall at 4,710 ft above the sea level and mesmerise yourself as you watch the sun rise from the Wilson Point. The rising sun brightens up your life and rejuvenates you for the journey ahead. There are three stone platforms built for tourists to sit and conveniently admire the pristine nature. The Wilson point, which is also known as the Sunrise point is the highest point in Mahabaleshwar. It is named after Sir Leslie Wilson, who was the Governor of Bombay when the British ruled. This Sunrise point has three watch towers, from where tourists can see the breath taking scenic beauty of Mahabaleshwar.

Mumbai Point

The Sunset Point at Mahabaleshwar is known as the Mumbai Point, as it is situated on the old road to Mumbai. Several tourists consider this as one of the must places to visit in Mahabaleshwar. Each time the sun sets it paints the sky with varied colours

Mahabaleshwar: The hill station of Western Ghats



luring its spectators. Standing atop the hill you see the sun submerge in the valley and vanish. The soothing atmosphere and a pleasant weather, makes this place a perfect spot for rejuvenation. One can plan a picnic with friends and family at this the Mumbai Point, an age old tourist attraction. The Mumbai Point is open for visitors on all days.

Arthur's Seat

Amongst the several places to visit in Mahabaleshwar, one of the most popular is the Arthur's Seat. It is also known as the Queen of the Points or the Madhi Mahaal. The Arthur's seat is at a height of 1470m and is located approximately 13 KM from the market in Mahabaleshwar. The speciality of this point is that, in case you throw light weighed thing in the valley, it comes up again due to air pressure. The Arthur's seat is situated amidst fascinating panorama, one can admire the Konkan and the Deccan on another. The best time to visit the Arthur's Seat is from the month of October to the month of June. The temperature throughout is moderate, the winters are cool and the summers are moderate.

Mahabaleshwar Temple

The Mahabaleshwar Temple that is located 6 km to the north of the main city is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple is one of the significant pilgrimage sites for the Hindus. It was built in the 16th century and it portrays a typical South Indian architectural style. The temple is very beautifully built, it has stone walls and is divided into two parts, one being the sanctum sanctorum and the other is the central hall.

History This Week MAY 31 - JUNE 06

MAY 31



May 31, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Seven Pines occurred as Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army attacked Union General George McClellan's troops in front of Richmond Virginia and nearly defeated them. Johnston was badly wounded. Confederate General Robert E. Lee then assumed command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee renamed his force the Army of Northern Virginia.

May 31, 1889 - Over 2,300 persons were killed in the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. Heavy rains throughout May caused the Connemaugh River Dam to burst sending a wall of water 75 feet high pouring down upon the city.

Birthday - American poet Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was born in Long Island, New York. His poem *Leaves of Grass* is considered an American classic. His poetry celebrated modern life and took on subjects considered taboo at the time.

JUNE 1

Birthday - Founder of Utah and patriarch of the Mormon church Brigham Young (1801-1877) was born in Whittingham, Vermont. Called the "American Moses," he led thousands of religious followers across the wilderness to settle over 300 towns in the West, including Salt Lake City, Utah.



Birthday - Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen). Following an unstable childhood spent in foster homes and orphanages, she landed a job as a photographer's model which led to a movie career.

She later married baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. Beneath her glamorous movie star looks she was fragile and insecure and eventually succumbed to the pressures of Hollywood life. She died in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills on August 5, 1962.

Best known for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953), *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), *Bus Stop* (1956), *Some Like It Hot* (1959), and *The Misfits* (1961).

JUNE 2

Birthday - Marquis de Sade (1740-1814) was born in Paris. He was a military leader, governor-general, and author, whose acts of extreme cruelty and violence resulted in the term sadism being created from his name to describe gratification in inflicting pain.

JUNE 3



June 3, 1937 - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson in Monts, France. As King Edward VIII, he had abdicated the British throne in December of 1936 amid tremendous controversy to marry Simpson, an American who had been divorced. Following the wedding, the couple lived in France and had minimal contact with the British Royal family. The Duke died in Paris on May 28, 1972, and was buried near Windsor Castle in England.

June 3, 1972 - Sally Jan Priesand was ordained a rabbi thus becoming the first woman rabbi in the U.S. She then became an assistant rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City.

June 3, 1989 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, died. On February 1, 1979, after 15 years in exile, he had staged a triumphant return to Iran which led to the downfall of the Shah. Khomeini then reorganized the government on Islamic principles. On November 11, 1979, a group of students loyal to Khomeini seized 66 hostages in the American Embassy in Teheran after the former Shah had entered the U.S. for medical treatment. Thus began an international political crisis lasting until January 20, 1981, when they were released.

Birthday - Confederate president Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) was born at Todd County, Kentucky. After the Southern states formed the Confederacy in 1861, he hoped to be named commander of the Confederate military forces but was instead chosen to be president, serving until 1865. Following the Civil War, he was imprisoned but never brought to trial. He died at age 81 in New Orleans.

JUNE 4

June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans

might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

June 4, 1972 - An express train packed with more than 600 people rammed into a stalled train at full speed in the main station of Jessore, Bangladesh, killing 76 and injuring over 500 persons.

June 4, 1989 - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The protest had started on April 16 as about 1,000 students marched to mourn the death of Hu Yaobang, a pro-reform leader within the Chinese government. Despite government warnings, pro-reform and pro-democracy demonstrations continued for a month drawing ever-larger crowds of young people, eventually totaling over a million persons. On May 13, three thousand students began an eight-day hunger strike. The government imposed martial law on May 20 and brought in troops. On June 2, in their first clash with the People's Army, demonstrators turned back an advance of unarmed troops. However, in the pre-dawn hours of June 4, the People's Army, using tanks, machine-guns, clubs and tear gas, opened fire on the unarmed protesters. Armored personnel carriers then rolled into the square crushing students still sleeping in their tents. The Chinese government later claimed only 300 died in the attack. U.S. estimates put the toll at over 3,000. Following the massacre, over 1,600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.



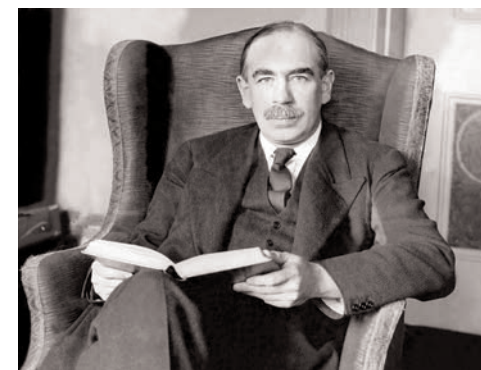
Birthday - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American Revolution was directed.

JUNE 5

June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death. President John F. Kennedy had named his brother and campaign manager, Robert Francis Kennedy, to the post of U.S. Attorney General in 1961. Robert served as the president's closest confidant. After the assassination of JFK, Robert remained as Attorney General until 1964, when he resigned to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate

from New York. Allied with the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in America, he spoke out against racial discrimination, economic injustice and the Vietnam War. In March of 1968, he had announced his candidacy for the presidency. And with the win in California, appeared headed for the nomination.

Birthday - Scottish economist and philosopher Adam Smith (1723-1790) was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. He wrote *An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, published in 1776. The book described the workings of a market economy and established him as one of the most influential figures in the development of modern economic theory.



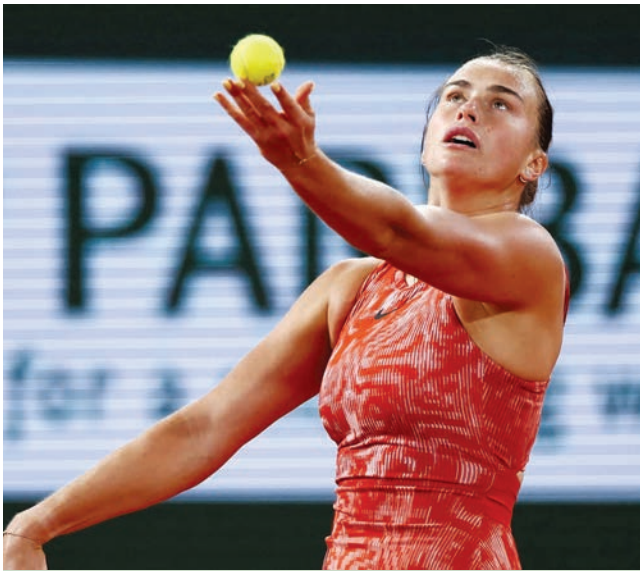
Birthday - British economist John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) was born in Cambridge, England. He wrote *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* in 1936, stating his ideas about government responsibility and commitment to maintaining high employment. He claimed that business investors and governments, not consumers, were the source of business cycle shifts.

JUNE 6

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches.



Birthday - American patriot Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was born in Coventry, Connecticut. During the American Revolution, he volunteered for a dangerous spy mission in Long Island and was captured by the British on the night of September 21, 1776. Brought before British General William Howe, Hale admitted he was an American officer. Howe ordered him to be hanged the following morning.



Aryna Sabalenka won in straight sets.

French Open: Top seeds blossom in Paris rain

Aryna Sabalenka and Novak Djokovic soared into the third round of the French Open May 30 as tournament organisers stepped up their fight against unruly fans by announcing an alcohol ban in the stands while also dealing with the wet-weather backlog. Playing under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier even as Roland Garros officials were scratching their heads over what to do with the schedule after a fifth straight rain-hit day, second seed Sabalenka blew away qualifier Moyuka Uchijima 6-2 6-2. "That's the little advantage we get as top players because we play in big stadiums with the roof," Sabalenka said. "So I knew that no matter what the weather is going to be, I'm going to play my match. That's really helpful."

Defending champion Djokovic then outclassed Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena 6-4 6-1 6-2.

Djokovic has been some way from his convincing best in an erratic season where he is bidding to win a record 25th Grand Slam title and the top-seeded Serbian was dragged into a battle by Carballes Baena after recovering an early break.

"There's always conviction and belief inside of me that I can win a Grand Slam," Djokovic said. "That's the reason I'm still competing at this level. I still of course sense that I have the game and I have the goods to go far," he added. *Source: Reuters*

Pragg claims maiden classical win over Carlsen to avenge World Cup final loss

STAVANGER (TIP)

Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa crushed world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen for the first time in the classical format to emerge as the sole leader in the Norway Chess here.

Having lost to him in the final of the last World Cup, Pragganandhaa finally got past the home favourite in what would be known as a clear classical triumph. The Indian has also beaten him a few times at online and faster versions of the game in the past.

Following the third-round win, the 18-year-old Indian now leads the men's section with 5.5 points, half-a-point clear of American Fabiano Caruana who scored his first victory in classical against reigning world champion Ding Liren of China.

Carlsen, on three points, is third in the updated standings but with each classical win worth three points, this might not hold for too long.

Hikaru Nakamura of the United States, Firouzja Alireza of France and Liren are all joint fourth currently on 2.5 points in the six-player double round-robin contest.

"I wish Magnus would take similar risks against us old folks," said Nakamura on Carlsen's choice of playing a risky battle against Pragganandhaa.

Classical chess, also known as slow chess, allows players significant amount of time to



The win helped R Pragganandhaa jump to the top of the standings with 5.5 points.

Photo: Norway Chess

make their moves, usually at least one hour. Carlsen and Pragganandhaa had drawn their previous three encounters in this format.

In the women's event, Pragganandhaa's elder sister R Vaishali maintained her sole lead after getting past Anna Muzychuk of Norway in the Armageddon game after drawing the classical one. Vaishali ensured a draw in Armageddon as black against Muzychuk.

Vaishali rose to 5.5 points and enjoys a point's lead over women's world champion Wenjun Ju of China, who is sole second by half-a-point margin over compatriot Tingjie Lei.

Muzychuk, Pia Cramling of

Sweden and Koneru Humpy share the fourth spot on three points each.

It was a Sicilian Kan, an opening that does not find many takers in the elite chess circles, wherein Pragganandhaa got an advantage through better space control right from the beginning.

The middle game saw Magnus' king stuck in the centre and the Indian super-talent capitalised with some deft manoeuvres after the minor pieces were off the board.

Eventually, the king's vulnerability came to question as Pragganandhaa posed some dangerous checkmate threats. The game lasted just 37 moves.

Source: PTI

Wearing India jersey is different feeling, hope to make it count: Pant



NEW YORK (TIP)

It would be 527 days since his life-threatening accident when Rishabh Pant dons the India jersey on June 5 at the Nassau County ground for the opening T20 World Cup match against Ireland and he can't wait for it.

On March 23 this year, Pant wore the blue of Delhi Capitals while making an emotional comeback after the horrific car crash in 2022 but he is more eager to wear a different shade of blue -- the 'India Blue' to be specific.

"Getting back on the field with an Indian jersey on is a different feeling altogether. This is something I missed a lot... Hopefully I (can) make it count and make it better from here," Pant told BCCI.TV on the sidelines of India's first net session ahead of the warm-up game

against Bangladesh on June 1.

Pant, who underwent an intense 15-month rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy, had teammate Suryakumar Yadav for company during this interaction and recalled the time how his presence helped him cope with the loneliness of his injury management programme in the NCA.

"Seeing the team here and meeting them again, spending time, having fun with them, having a conversation with them, I really enjoyed," a beaming Pant said. Having scored 446 runs in 13 IPL games, Pant is slowly getting back into the groove. The leaner and fitter Pant looked in nice touch at the India nets at the Citi Field on the outskirts of New York City.

Pant also spoke about the prospects of cricket gaining popularity in the USA

going forward. He felt the T20 World Cup could be the start of an eventful chapter.

"We are used to playing in certain countries but this is a different prospect. It has opened up a different channel for sport because I feel cricket is growing around the world and... getting the exposure here would be nice for cricket as well as USA cricket," he said.

He spoke about the drop-in pitches that will be used during the tournament and also the bright sunshine that he and the rest of the team is getting used to. "New pitches are there. I'm just getting used to the conditions. The sun is a little bit brighter here, so just getting used to the conditions over here. Let's see how it goes," Pant concluded.

Source: PTI



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An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

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