



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

18th YEAR

WWW.THEINDIANPANORAMA.NEWS

EVER TRUTHFUL

1 INDIAN AMERICAN WEEKLY : SINCE 2006

VOL 18 ISSUE 24 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JUNE 14 - 20, 2024

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

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

invites articles and advertisements for a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the

248th ANNIVERSARY of the independence of the United States of America.

AMERICA
4TH OF JULY

Last date for submission is July 1, 2024.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com

For any questions, please email or call 646-247-9458

G7 leaders commit to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems

THE DOCUMENT COMMITS TO COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS BY 75% BY 2030

INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER MODI MEETS WITH G7 LEADERS AND POPE FRANCIS



The G7 Summit was held at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Italy's Apulia region. Prime Minister Modi is seen in the second row in the center.

Credit : Narendra Modi/X

JUNE 14, 2024

BORGO EGNAZIA (TIP): Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) developed democracies will commit to accelerating their transition away from fossil fuels during this decade, according to a draft of a statement to be issued at the end of their ongoing summit in Italy, says a Reuters report.

"We will transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, accelerating actions in this critical decade, to achieve net-zero by 2050 in keeping with the best available science," said the draft seen by Reuters.

Other commitments on climate policy in the draft include a pledge "to phase out existing unabated coal power

contd on page 46

INSIDE

ARUNDHATI ROY'S SANCTIONED PROSECUTION REFLECTS INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR DISSENTING VOICES IN INDIA PAGE 02

THE MESSAGE IN THE RSS CHIEF'S SPEECH PAGE 08

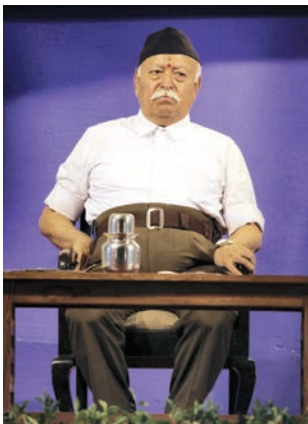
REIMAGINING INDIAN FEDERALISM PAGE 09

THE PM HAS HIS WORK CUT OUT PAGE 10

EID AL-ADHA: FEAST OF THE SACRIFICE PAGE 20

FATHER'S DAY PAGE 41

Mohan Bhagwat says Lok Sabha poll campaign by both sides increased 'social tensions'



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat during the concluding function of 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg - Dwitiya', in Nagpur on June 10, 2024. -Credit: PTI

JUNE 10, 2024

NAGPUR (TIP): Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday, June 10, called for peace in strife-torn Manipur and said campaigning for the Lok Sabha election had increased "social tensions and suspicion" among people.

Speaking during an event at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, Mr. Bhagwat, addressing Sangh workers said that while elections are an essential process of

contd on page 46

Pope Francis becomes first pontiff to address a G7 summit, raises alarm about AI



Pope Francis attends a session on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Energy, Africa and Mediterranean on the second day of the G7 Summit in Borgo Egnazia, Italy, on June 14, 2024. Credit : Reuters

JUNE 14, 2024

BORGO, EGNAZIA (TIP): Pope Francis challenged leaders of the world's wealthy democracies on Friday, June 14, to keep human dignity foremost in developing and using artificial intelligence, warning that such powerful technology risks turning human relations themselves into mere algorithms, according to a

Reuters report. Francis brought his moral authority to bear on the Group of Seven, invited by host Italy to address a special session at their annual summit on the

contd on page 46

Delhi LG grants sanction to prosecute Arundhati Roy under UAPA: Officials

JUNE 14, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena has accorded sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a former professor in Kashmir under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly making provocative speeches at an event here in 2010, Raj Niwas officials said on Friday, June 10.

(Also Read on page 2: Arundhati Roy's sanctioned Prosecution reflects increasingly repressive environment for dissenting voices in India)

The FIR against Roy and former Central University of Kashmir professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain was

contd on page 46



Author and social activist Arundhati Roy



The Supreme Court on Friday, June 14, issued notices to the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) on petitions seeking a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and irregularities in NEET-UG 2024

Supreme Court issues notices to Centre, NTA on petitions seeking CBI probe into 'irregularities' in NEET-UG; hearing on July 8

JUNE 14, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday, June 14, issued notices to the Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) on petitions seeking a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and irregularities in NEET-UG 2024, in which 67 students got a perfect score of 720 out of 720.

contd on page 46



Andy Singh

516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

718-441-7000
118-18 101 Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING
PHOTOGRAPHERS:**Baldev Singh / BJ Videos
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction
Jay Mandal,
Mohammad Jaffer,
SnapsIndia
Mohammad Shahzad,
Zia Khan,
Nisha Rani
Vaaho Photographers,
Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.**CORRESPONDENTS :****SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:A.S. Arora,
R.P.Sharma**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

COMMENT

Arundhati Roy's sanctioned Prosecution
reflects increasingly repressive environment
for dissenting voices in IndiaBY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The harassment of social activists in India continues unabated, with the latest development involving the sanctioning of prosecution against renowned writer and social activist Arundhati Roy under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). This move, authorized by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, is a troubling reflection of the increasingly repressive environment for dissenting voices in the country.

The FIR against Roy and another individual, Sheikh Showkat Hussain, was filed following an order from the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi. The charges stem from their alleged participation in a conference titled "Azadi - The Only Way" held in 2010 at the LTG Auditorium on Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. At this conference, the speakers reportedly made provocative speeches that advocated for the separation of Kashmir from India, a highly contentious issue that has long been a flashpoint in Indian politics.

This case highlights several critical issues concerning freedom of speech and the treatment of activists in India. Firstly, it underscores the misuse of draconian laws like the UAPA to stifle dissent. The UAPA, originally intended to combat terrorism, has increasingly been used to target activists, journalists, and intellectuals whose views diverge from the official narrative. The

application of such severe legislation to prosecute a writer and academic for their speech at a public conference raises serious questions about the commitment of Indian authorities to uphold democratic principles and human rights.

Arundhati Roy, an internationally acclaimed author and outspoken critic of the Indian government's policies, has faced numerous legal challenges and public attacks for her views, particularly regarding Kashmir. Her participation in the "Azadi - The Only Way" conference is part of her broader engagement with the Kashmir issue, where she has consistently advocated for the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir. While her stance is controversial and has attracted significant opposition, the use of UAPA against her is disproportionate and suggests a deliberate attempt to silence her voice.

The charges against Roy and Hussain also bring to light the broader context of shrinking space for civil society in India. In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the harassment, intimidation, and arrest of activists, journalists, and scholars. Many have been accused of sedition or terrorism-related charges, often based on flimsy evidence or for merely expressing dissenting opinions. This pattern indicates a worrying trend towards authoritarianism, where dissent is not tolerated, and critical voices are systematically suppressed.

Additionally, the timing of the FIR and the subsequent prosecution raises questions about the motives behind these actions. The conference in

question took place in 2010, and the FIR was filed many years later. This delay suggests that the charges may be politically motivated, aiming to discredit and neutralize critics of the government. It also reflects a broader strategy of using legal harassment as a tool to deter other activists and intellectuals from speaking out.

The issue of Kashmir remains a highly sensitive and polarizing subject in India. The region has experienced decades of conflict, violence, and political turmoil. While the Indian government maintains that Kashmir is an integral part of India, many Kashmiris and some Indian activists argue for greater autonomy or independence for the region. The government's response to these calls has often been heavy-handed, involving military action, curfews, and restrictions on civil liberties. The prosecution of Roy and Hussain can be seen as part of this broader strategy to control the narrative on Kashmir and silence those who challenge the official stance.

It is imperative for the Indian government to recognize that true democracy thrives on diverse opinions and robust debate. The use of draconian laws to stifle dissent only serves to undermine the democratic fabric of the nation. Instead of prosecuting activists like Arundhati Roy and Sheikh Showkat Hussain, the government should engage in constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, including those with differing views on contentious issues like Kashmir.

GUEST COMMENT

LONG-DELAYED JUSTICE

PUNJAB EX-COPS JAILED FOR 1993 STAGED KILLING

In a significant verdict on Friday, June 14, a CBI court in Mohali sentenced former Punjab Police DIG Dilbagh Singh to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and ex-DSP Gurbachan Singh to life imprisonment for their roles in the 1993 fake encounter killing of Gulshan Kumar, a fruit vendor. This case, a chilling reminder of the dark days of unbridled police brutality in Punjab, highlights the systemic lapses that had plagued the state. Extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions and staged encounters had become distressingly common. The details of this case are harrowing. On

June 22, 1993, Gulshan, along with his father and brothers, was abducted by a police team led by Dilbagh and Gurbachan. While the others were released, Gulshan was kept in illegal custody for a month before being killed in a staged encounter. His body was cremated as 'unclaimed', a common practice then to cover up extrajudicial killings. The case, initially overlooked, was taken up by the CBI in 1995 on the Supreme Court's directive, culminating in the conviction nearly three decades later.

The law has at last been catching up with rogue cops. In September 2023, three ex-officers received the life

sentence for the 1992 fake encounter killing of three youths. A year before that, a retired sub-inspector was sentenced to 10 years in another fake encounter in 1992. These cases reveal a pattern of grave misconduct and long-overdue comeuppance.

The delivery of justice underscores the resilience of the victims' families amid numerous challenges, including the death of several accused during the trial and witness attrition. This is crucial for restoring faith in the rule of law and can serve as a deterrent against abuse of power.

(Tribune, India)

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

Sriniketan Foundation celebrates Buddha Purnima with music and dance



Lighting of the Lamp by honorable guests

JUNE 10, 2024

FLUHING, NY (TIP): Sriniketan Foundation headed by Purnima Desai, a dedicated practitioner and promoter of Sanskrit language and Indian music and dance forms organized a music and dance evening with international artists in celebration of the Buddha Purnima. The "performance was inspired by the Buddha's last words: "Be a lamp unto thyself", said Mrs. Desai.

It was a rare, soulful cultural program at which renowned artists created ripples of pleasure for the audience who watched and listened to the performances with rapt attention.

The program on May 25 started with devotional songs rendered by Mrs. Purnima A. Desai, who founded Sriniketan as a nonprofit in 2015. Captivating instrumental and vocal music recitals, as well as dance performances, mesmerized the appreciative audience of over 200 people.



Award-winning and internationally acclaimed Manipur and contemporary dancer Sanjib Bhattacharya with his disciples Jeslin Jacob, Jolly Lairenjam, Chaobithoi Lairenjam Devi, and Jessi Leirenjam

The highlight of the evening program at the Ganesh Temple community center in Flushing, NY, was "Nalanda-The Lotus Flower Givers," choreographed by the award-winning, internationally acclaimed Manipur and contemporary dancer Sanjib Bhattacharya. Featuring his disciples Jeslin Jacob, Jolly Lairenjam, Chaobithoi Lairenjam Devi, and Jessi Leirenjam, it delved into the profound teachings of Lord Buddha.

Inspired by Buddha's last words, "Appo deepo bhava" (Be your own lamp), the performance replete with graceful movements invited all to reflect on their own journey towards self-discovery and enlightenment. Chants of "Om Mani Padme Hum" and "Buddham Sharanam Gachami" resonated in the hall.

OTHER ARTISTS WHO PERFORMED INCLUDED:

Minakshi Majumdar -
Classically trained
Vocalist

Anirban Chakrabarty -
Harmonium Player

Minakshi Majumdar -
Classically trained Vocalist
accompanied by Anirban
Chakrabarty on Harmonium
and Amit Kavthekar on Tabla



Oindrila Roy Mallick -
Bharatanatyam, an Indian
Classical dance form

Chief guest Prof. Indrajit S
Saluja honored Oindrila Roy
Mallick who gave a scintillating
performance of
Bharatanatyam, an Indian
Classical dance form. In the
picture, from L to R: Mrs.
Purnima A Desai, Oindrila Roy
Mallick, Prof. Indrajit s Saluja



Pandit Partha Bose -
World renowned Sitarist

Pandit Partha Bose - World
renowned Sitarist- with Indranil
Mallick on Tabla



Suddhashil Chatterjee -
Santoor

Suddhashil Chatterjee on
Santoor, accompanied by Amit
Kavthekar on Tabla



Volunteers who gave their best to organize a truly enjoyable evening of dance and music

Run selflessly by Mrs Desai, a Reiki Grandmaster and promoter of Indian culture and arts, the Sriniketan Foundation has been serving the community for many years. It educates the younger generation by holding cultural events such as the annual "Shyama Shyam Shashtriya Sugam Sangeet Sammelan", as well as training them in Indian classical music and dance forms. The organization also offers natural healing therapies, yoga, music therapy, meditation, reiki, and more.

For information visit, www.sriniketanfoundation2015.org

40 Indians among 49 killed as massive blaze engulfs building in southern Kuwait's Mangaf

PM MODI SENDS MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH TO KUWAIT

JUNE 13, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Over 40 Indians were killed and more than 50 others injured after a devastating fire broke out at dawn in a building housing around 195 migrant workers in southern Kuwait's Mangaf area, officials said on Wednesday, June 12.

The total number of people killed in the Al-Mangaf building was 49 and 42 of them are learnt to be Indians; the remaining ones are Pakistani, Filipino, Egyptian and Nepali nationals, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who described the fire incident as "saddening", reviewed the situation arising out of it at a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra and Principal Secretary to the PM PK Mishra, among others.

An official statement said Modi expressed deep sorrow at the "unfortunate incident" and extended condolences to the families of the deceased. He also announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh to each of the families of the deceased Indian nationals from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The official statement said Modi wished speedy recovery of those injured and directed that the government of India should extend all possible assistance.

"The fire mishap in Kuwait City is



Smoke billows after a fire broke out in a building, in Mangaf, Kuwait, Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

Credit : PTI

saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. The Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation and working with the authorities there to assist the affected," Modi said on X earlier.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh is urgently travelling to Kuwait following a direction from the prime minister primarily to oversee assistance to Indians injured in the fire and to ensure early repatriation of mortal remains of those killed.

Jaishankar also expressed deep shock over the incident and said the Indian embassy in the Gulf nation will render the "fullest assistance" to all concerned.

Officials said most of the Indian victims are from Kerala.

The fire in Al-Mangaf building was reported to authorities in Al-Ahmadi governorate at 4.30 am and most of the deaths were due to smoke inhalation, Kuwaiti media reported, adding the fire started in a kitchen.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry in a statement confirmed that the death toll reached 49.

"Deeply shocked by the news of the fire incident in Kuwait city. There are reportedly over 40 deaths and over 50 have been hospitalized. Our Ambassador has gone to the camp. We are awaiting further information," Jaishankar said on X.

"Deepest condolences to the families of those who tragically lost their lives. Wish early and full recovery to those who have been injured," he said.

Later, Jaishankar spoke to Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya.

The Minister posted on X: "Apprised of the efforts made by Kuwaiti authorities in that regard. Was assured that the incident would be fully investigated and that responsibility will be fixed."

Jaishankar urged his counterpart for early repatriation of the mortal remains of those who lost their lives. He emphasized that those injured were getting the requisite medical attention.

"We will review the situation after MoS KV Singh reaches Kuwait."

Indian ambassador to Kuwait Adarsh Swaika visited several hospitals, including where the injured have been admitted.

Construction firm NBTC group rented the building for stay of more than 195 workers, most of them Indians from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and northern states, the Kuwaiti media said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

4 Indian-origin students drown in Volkhov river near St Petersburg in Russia



The four students who drowned in Volkhov river belonged to Jalgaon district of Maharashtra and were between 18 and 20 years old

Photo for representation only

JUNE 7, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): Four Indian students who were studying at a university 200 km from St Petersburg in Russia drowned in Volkhov river after getting caught in strong currents even though they were in waist deep water and sober, reported locals at the site of the accident. A girl student was saved with the help of a life buoy from a passing ship while another boy swam back on his own.

All the five students involved in the accident belonged to Jalgaon district of Maharashtra and

were between 18 and 20 years old.

"Indians, young students from polytechnic university, were sober. They just ran into waist-deep water and splashed, laughed, and did not go deep. Now, it is hot, there is a lot of water, the current is strong. At some point, they were swept away by the current closer to the bridge, right under the "Swimming prohibited" sign," the chief of Novgorod prosecutor's office, where the incident took place, told the Russian media.

"We, the locals, all know that it is very dangerous to swim near the bridge. There is a strong current, pits, stones, whirlpools. Apparently, they did not know. I didn't see the moment itself, but those who saw it say that one of them began to drown, a girl. The rest rushed to save her and everyone was carried away by the current," she added.

The students were from the Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University located on Volkhov river which was described as a "crazy river" by a Russian diplomat.

The MEA said its consulate in St. Petersburg remains in contact with the university and is providing all possible assistance. Local emergency services have so far recovered two dead bodies from the Volkhov river. The search for the remaining two missing students continues. (Source: PTI)

Now, NRIs can get documents attested online

Service has been started only in Ludhiana, Mohali districts under first phase

JUNE 13, 2024

MOHALI, PUNJAB (TIP): The district administration has appealed to NRIs and their families hailing from the district to apply for attestation/countersigning of documents through online mode.

Under the e-Sanad Project, a centralized platform for contactless and paperless document verification, attestation and apostille service is provided to Indian citizens and foreigners who have obtained documents from document issuing authorities (DIAs) in India. These include all types of documents - personal, educational and commercial.

To avail of the service, the applicant will have to register on the e-Sanad portal, <https://esanad.nic.in>.

At present, the service has been started only in Ludhiana and Mohali districts under the first phase of the project. (Source: TNS)



NRIs and their families are being encouraged to apply for attestation/countersigning of documents through online mode

Photo for representation only

Punjabi tadka in Italy as Phagwara-born owner caters to Indian delegation



Rupinder Singh expressed excitement at the opportunity of serving people from India in Italy

the owner of Namaste India restaurant, expressed excitement at the opportunity of serving people from India in Italy.

"I have orders for Indian cuisine. It's a great opportunity for me and my team. Dining here would be an exceptional experience for them. Indian food has a different and vibrant flavor and I am happy and excited to serve people from my country," said Singh.

Hoshiarpur-born manager, Harsh Dhanda, said: "It is so exciting that we have a chance to make sure that they can get a taste of some authentic Indian flavors away from home."

"Our restaurant uses fresh, quality ingredients to ensure that every dish on offer is of the highest standard," he said.

The G7 Summit, being held at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in nearby Fasano, marks Prime Minister Modi's first foreign visit since winning a third term in the recently concluded general election.

Italy chose to host the G7 leaders' summit in Apulia. (Source: TNS)

JUNE 13, 2024

BARI, ITALY (TIP): As the Indian restaurant in Apulia's capital city of Bari basks in the warmth of the G7 Summit being hosted in southern Italy, owner Rupinder Singh drives in a hurry catering to meet the rush of orders to Indians.

Rupinder Singh--a native of Punjab's Phagwara--began his work a year back. Never did he imagine that he would get an opportunity to cater to an event as big as this where the Indian Prime Minister would be visiting Italy along with a delegation.

Speaking with The Tribune, Singh,

INDIAN AMERICAN SHOOTS BROTHER DEAD, INJURES MOTHER, KILLS HIMSELF



Karamjit Multani, 33, shot his brother Vippanpal, 27, on Sunday, June 9, in their home in the Richmond Hill neighborhood and went out and turned the gun on himself

JUNE 10, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian-origin man here shot his brother dead, injured his mother, and then killed himself, according to police.

Karamjit Multani, 33, shot his brother Vippanpal, 27, on Sunday in their home in the Richmond Hill neighborhood and went out and turned the gun on himself at a place about two kilometers away, police said.

Police said that when they went to their house after getting a call about a shooting, they found Vippanpal "unresponsive" with several gunshot wounds, and their 52-year-old mother with an injury to her stomach. Later, Multani was found dead near a street corner with a gunshot wound to his head and a gun nearby, according to police.

The mother, who was not identified by name, was taken to a hospital where she was said to be out of danger.

Richmond Hill has a large concentration of Asians, most of them of Indian descent from India or the Caribbean, accounting for 26 per cent of the area's population.

According to the city, "The southern portion of Richmond Hill is home to several tight-knit communities, such as the Punjabi Sikh".

Media reported that the men's father, Bhupinder Multani said that he did not know what set off his older son.

Asked if the sons had any issues, he said: "Not big problems. Sometimes little disagreements, no problems."

He said that the family had settled in for a quiet evening with pizza when Multani opened the door to his brother's room and shot him without warning. The father said that he ran to the house of a neighbor to seek help. The neighbor said when she entered the house, she found Vippanpal wounded and pleading for help.

"He told me, 'Please, don't let me die,' the neighbor said, and died later 'in my hands'."

Jaspreet Singh, the brother-in-law of the two men, said that Multani "was one of the nicest, coolest guys, always joking around".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

4 arrested for Indian-origin man's killing in Canada

Yuvraj Goyal was found dead by the police when they were responding to the call of a shooting in Surrey on Friday, June 7 morning



The murdered Yuvraj Goyal
File photo

JUNE 10, 2024

SURREY, BC (TIP): A 28-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in a suspected "targeted killing" in Canada's British Columbia province, according to the police, who have arrested and charged four people with first-degree murder in connection with the case.

Yuvraj Goyal was found dead by the police when they were responding to the call of a shooting

in Surrey on Friday, June 7, morning, the homicide unit of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Goyal worked at a car dealership in Surrey, Global News reported, quoting his sister, Charu Singla.

She said the family had no idea why he was killed and that they had no indication that he had any ties to organized crime.

Goyal's brother-in-law, Bawandeep, said the victim was on the phone with his mother, who lives in India, just before he was shot.

"He came back from his gym, (his) daily routine, stepped out of his car, and was shot," Bawandeep said.

Police arrested four suspects -- 23-year-old Manvir Basram of Surrey, 20-year-old Sahib Basra of Surrey, 23-year-old Harkirat Jhutti of Surrey, and 20-year-old Keilon Francois of Ontario -- shortly after the shooting. They have been charged with first-degree murder; CBC News quoted the police as saying.

In a statement released on Saturday, the homicide unit said authorities were alerted to a vehicle fire shortly after the shooting.

On Saturday, the four were charged with first-degree murder, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

MCA president Amol Kale passes away in New York after watching India-Pakistan match

JUNE 10, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) president Amol Kale has died following a heart attack in New York, United States where he had gone along with some other MCA officials to watch the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, sources in the organization confirmed to the media on Monday, June 10.

Kale suffered cardiac arrest after watching the India versus Pakistan match at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Sunday, June 9. He was in New York with MCA secretary Ajinkya Naik and Apex Council member Suraj Samat.

Kale, a prominent businessman in the state, took over as MCA president in October 2022 and was in the post for 19 months. He is known to be close to former Maharashtra Chief Minister and present Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. Though he hails from Nagpur, which is the headquarters of Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA), Kale was settled in Mumbai for over a decade and was invested in various businesses.

A BE in Electrical Engineering from Nagpur University, Kale was the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of J K Solutions Private Limited and Arpita Enterprises.

Though he has not yet completed two years into his tenure as MCA president, Kale was praised by everyone for MCA's decision to grant the same amount of match fee to Mumbai cricketers that is offered by the BCCI. Under his leadership, MCA has organized many international matches at the Wankhede Stadium including the India v New Zealand Test and the 2023 World Cup matches.



Amol Kale died following a heart attack on Sunday, June 9, in New York where he had gone along with some other MCA officials to watch the ICC Men's T20 World Cup

AIA-NY honors 5 extraordinary individuals at its annual gala

US SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HON. CHUCK SCHUMER WAS THE CHIEF GUEST OF HONOR



AIA-NY President Dr. Jagdish Gupta giving his address

JUNE 10, 2024

GREAT NECK, NY (TIP): The Association of Indians in America (AIA) NY chapter held on June 3, its Annual Gala under the leadership of Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta to raise funds for the 37th Deepavali Fest slated for October 6, 2024, and for the 'AIA-Educational Project,' to empower Indian-American students in need to achieve their educational potential and dreams.

The Gala was attended by 200 distinguished members of the community, including past presidents and members of the Advisory Board of Trustees of AIA. It was held on June 2, 2024, at the redesigned Crystal Ballroom of Leonard's Palazzo Exquisite Banquet Hall in Great Neck.

Honorable Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was the Chief Guest of Honor. In his remarks, he highlighted his visit to India, the importance of strong India-US ties, and praised Indian leaders, culture, traditions, and the community's contributions to education and healthcare. He emphasized the strong maritime defense ties between the two countries in the Indian Ocean. He also applauded Indian physicians and parents for their commitment to education, drawing parallels with the Jewish community. His remarks received multiple rounds of applause and ended with a standing ovation.

New York State Assemblyman David Weprin from District 24 was an honored guest. He has been a staunch supporter of the AIA-NY, helping to secure Alternate Day Parking suspension on Diwali each year and advocating for Diwali as a school holiday in New York City. He expressed his pride in supporting the Indian community and emphasized the importance of cultural recognition in fostering a diverse and inclusive society.

In keeping with the theme of Women's Empowerment, Dr. Rekha Bhandari, Chief Medical Officer for the MedElite Group/Allure Group/Vis-à-vis Health, was honored with the 'Excellence in Healthcare Award' for her innovative contributions to healthcare. In her acceptance speech, she expressed her hope to inspire women in healthcare. She stated, "I am humbled and honored to receive this award from one of the oldest ethnic organizations. I hope my journey serves as a trailblazer for other women to follow and get inspired in the healthcare field."

Mr. Naveen C. Shah, CEO of Navika Group of Companies and Blue-Sky Hospitality Solutions, received the 'Entrepreneur Par Excellence Award' for his success in building a multibillion-dollar conglomerate and his philanthropic efforts supporting numerous nonprofit organizations. In his speech, Mr. Shah paid tribute to all the AIA founders, past presidents, Board of Trustees, advisors, and current officers for their dedication and relentless efforts in



(From left) Mrs. Meena Gupta, Dr. Gupta, Senator Chuck Schumer, Honorees Mr. Naveen Shah, Dr. Raman Sharma, Prof. S.N. Sridhar, Dr. Vishal Kapur and Dr. Rekha Bhandari.



Dr. Sumita Sengupta (Gala Co-chair), Assemblyman David Weprin, Dr. Raman Sharma, President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and Chairman of Board Dr. Samin Sharma



Vote of Thanks from the Executive Committee group actively involved with Gala Celebrations.



Senator Schumer and Honorees - Dr. Vishal Kapur with his family, Dr. Raman Sharma & Mrs. Clara Sharma, Mr. Naveen Shah & Mrs. Rajshree Shah



(from left) Mrs. Meena Gupta greeting Senator Schumer, Beena Kothari - Gala Chair, AIA-NY President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and Mr. Naveen Shah-Honoree. Photos Credit : AIA-NY

supporting Indians in America. He remarked, "Our unity and support has been pivotal in promoting Indian culture and heritage in the USA."

Dr. S.N. Sridhar, Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and India Studies at Stony Brook University, was recognized for 'Excellence in Literature,

Linguistics & founding India Studies at Stony Brook University.' His significant contributions to bilingualism and multilingualism studies and editing the book 'Ananya: A Portrait of India' were highlighted. He shared insights into his research and its impact on promoting cultural understanding.

Dr. Vishal Kapur and Dr. Raman Sharma from Mount Sinai Health System were also honored. Dr. Kapur received the 'Excellence in Cardiology-Vascular & Endovascular Medicine' award, while Dr. Sharma was presented with the 'Special Young Physician Award for Excellence in Endovascular Intervention'. Dr. Kapur spoke about the advancements in endovascular treatments at Mount Sinai and the importance of innovation in patient care. Dr. Sharma highlighted the significance of his work in saving limbs from ischemia in diabetics and preventing strokes in patients with carotid artery blockages.

The evening began with a social networking hour featuring cocktails and Indian hors d'oeuvres, followed by entertainment including live performances by Ms. Tanmayee Mohapatra and Ms. Jagabattula Maheshwari. Mrs. Beena Kothari, Vice President and Gala Chair, welcomed guests and introduced Dr. Jagdish Gupta, who spoke about the significance of Deepavali Celebrations and the importance of supporting educational excellence in the Indian-American community.

Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman of the AIA Board of Trustees, highlighted the achievements of Indian Americans in healthcare and corporate America.

Citations for AIA-NY and the honorees were received from various dignitaries, including the Indian Consulate, Congressman Tom Suozzi, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, and New York State Senator Kevin Thomas.

Dr. Gupta thanked all the sponsors and partners, including Fareportal - CheapOair, Mount Sinai Hospital, Northwell Health System, Mattoo Center for India Studies, Brooklyn Hospital Center, Navika Group of Companies, Blue-Sky Hospitality Solutions, Parker Jewish Institute, CenterLight Healthcare, and media partners.

The event concluded with a sumptuous dinner, dancing, and entertainment.

AIA is one of the oldest ethnic organizations representing the Indian community in America. It aims to promote cultural understanding, assimilation, and recognition of Indian traditions and heritage in the United States.

Contact: Dr. Jagdish K Gupta,
email: Jagdishkgupta@gmail.com

"Mr. SALT" Tom Suozzi Returns as SALT Caucus Co-Chair

JUNE 11, 2024
NEW YORK / WASHINGTON, D.C.
(TIP): Congressman Tom Suozzi (D - Long Island, Queens), who was nicknamed "Mr. Salt" by Crain's New York Business for "his single-minded devotion to the issue," has again been named a Co-Chair of the House SALT Caucus. SALT stands for the state and local tax deduction. The group is dedicated to relief from the \$10,000 limit on the federal deduction for state and local taxes that was passed in 2017.

"I have four priorities in Congress: 1) bring 'order to the border,' 2) bring money back to the district, 3) try and heal some of the partisan divides, and 4) restore the SALT deduction," said Suozzi.

The Congressman warned that the biggest battle for SALT restoration is yet to come. The 2017 bill that capped the SALT deduction at \$10,000 is set to expire next year, in 2025.

Suozzi warned that President Trump and the Republican majority threaten to eliminate the SALT deduction entirely if they take control. We must start preparing now to reinstate the entire



Congressman Tom Suozzi (D - Long Island, Queens) has again been named a Co-Chair of the House SALT Caucus

SALT deduction.

The cap on SALT deduction was "a punch in the gut" and "double taxation" for Long Island and Queens residents. Suozzi reminded us that SALT has been a staple of the federal tax code for more than 100 years.

"It was one of the original federal tax deductions when the income tax was first established in 1913. Congress realized that it was inherently unfair to penalize Americans by requiring them to pay taxes on taxes they had already paid," Suozzi explained.

Since the summer of 2017, when Republicans first floated the idea that their new tax reform bill would cap the SALT deduction, Tom Suozzi has taken the lead in protecting and preserving it in the House of Representatives.

During the last several years, because of his persistence, the House passed, with bipartisan support, three separate Suozzi bills to restore the SALT deduction. Unfortunately, the bills were always blocked by Republicans in the Senate.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

GOPIO Manhattan and Happy Life Yoga Celebrate International Yoga Day 2024

JUNE 14, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2024, GOPIO, and Emmy-nominated filmmaker & Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik along with the Indian Panorama & Indian American Forum will be hosting a highly interactive and informative Yoga event featuring experts and speakers from various walks of life. The theme for this year addresses the basic question: "There are challenges and hardships in life, but how you let them go and laugh at life?"

Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York will be the chief guest. Other speakers will include Dr. Thomas Abraham, Professor Indrajit Saluja, Indu Jaiswal, Anil Narang, Lal Motwani (GOPIO International President), Neeta Bhasin, Dr. Renee Mehra, Deborah Fishman, Neha Lohia, Priti Dhariwal, Dr. Tara Shajan, and Dr. Bhuvan Lall.

The Zoom session will be held on Sunday, June 22nd from 11:00am - 12:30pm (East) (US and Canada). Interested participants can join the session using the meeting ID: 709 536 8686 and passcode: gopio.

The event promises to be energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring, and celebratory in nature. Malik will interact with all the prominent speakers on the panel to discover their own personal mantras for happiness. While



Emmy-nominated filmmaker & Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik

emphasizing the growing importance of Yoga in today's times, session host Malik explains his vision behind Happy Life Yoga and its underlying philosophy as "a way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy." Malik created the Happy Life Yoga workshop (No mats needed!) inspired by Ayurveda yoga and Indian philosophy as a practical way to live a happier and healthier life in today's time. This interactive workshop emphasizes "love yourself," and if you love yourself, it's your responsibility to take care of your happiness and health, using the tools shared by Malik in this workshop. It's the gift of ancient India, tested by science & time! The event is supported by many New York media outlets. Malik and the whole team look forward to the celebration of International Yoga Day 2024 and invite everybody to join!

The Rotary Club of North Shore celebrated the "Rotary Day of Service" on May 18, 2024 with "Blood Donation"



LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): May 18, 2024 was celebrated as "Rotary Day of Service" by several Rotary Clubs around the nation and internationally. The celebration is by doing different humanitarian projects.

"Blood Donation" is a unique project where every human being can help save a life without spending a single penny.

One person donating blood saves three human lives. The impact of "Blood Donation" is three-fold.

The Rotary Club of North Shore is only 7 months young, but they aim high and have a great team.

The President of the club Dr. Mamta Shaha expressed her vision of making May 18, as a "World Rotary day of Blood Donation" in future. She did reach out to Rotary Clubs around District 7255, 3132 and 3030.

The project chair Mona Gohil, P R

chair Gunjan Rastogi and President Mamta Shaha donated blood along with other volunteers at the NY Blood Center in New Hyde Park, NY

The total blood donations on May 18, 2024 at this center as given by the NY Blood Center in New Hyde Park, NY

Whole Blood Donations: 28
Double Red Cell Donations: 8 units from 2 donors

Platelet donations: 20 units from 9 donors

Double Red Cell and Platelet combined donations: 3 units from 1 donor

Total lives saved-177 just in one day!!

You can see the impact of this project just at one center!!

There cannot be any project as powerful and impactful in saving human lives as donating blood.

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM

Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM

For
construction
Debris,
Demolition
& Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK



Roll Off Container Service
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

Call @ 718-345-6451

The message in the RSS chief's speech

THE 'TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN' SERMON HAS VIRTUALLY LAID OUT A ROAD MAP FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PRESCRIBED A MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT



BY ASHOK LAVASA



Diverse communities have been essential components of Indian society and the age-old bonds of respect and tolerance have existed among them' -Credit: The Hindu

In a brilliant speech (not the first brilliant speech that the RSS chief has made), Mr. Bhagwat has virtually laid out a road map for the new (old) government and prescribed a model code of conduct, something that people expected the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enforce during the 2024 general election. The similarity between the two lies in what remains unsaid. The ECI put the party on notice; the RSS supremo delivered a sermon to 'whomsoever it may concern'. Mr. Bhagwat's message is loud and clear whereas the ECI's was muted and manicured. Both messages have the potential to hit the target without exposing it.

Opposition - 'pratipaksh', that is those who represent the 'other' side (pehlu), which is the essence of any democratic governance. An elected government is expected to treat the Opposition with the respect and the consideration that it deserves as it represents almost two-thirds of those who voted but did not choose the ruling party as it felt that it did not have the right to govern the country. No principle of democratic governance allows those in authority to ignore the will of those who favored someone else, those who did not or could not vote, and those who do not yet have the right to vote. It is not 272 (the threshold of majority) or 294 (the tally of the BJP and allies, in early June) representatives versus 116 crore Indians. Mr. Bhagwat's plea is for inclusivity and a call for building consensus (sahmati), the onus of which lies on those who have the responsibility to govern the country.

INDIA'S DIVERSITY CANNOT BE WISHED AWAY

Inclusivity, however, is not about an absence of differences. India has been, is and will continue to be a land of diversity. Caste, community, creed, religion, and regions are a part of this diversity. Just as the burden of building consensus is on the ruling party, the onus of diminishing the divisions in society is on those who are in power. It will always be the responsibility of those in the majority to alleviate the apprehensions of those in the minority. Fear is a two-way transaction - those who are scared and those who cause a scare. A democratically-elected government should never support the latter and sharpen existing divisions or exploit them for narrow political gains.

Communities have survived in our society due to mutual dependence despite differences. The strength of that relationship is the recognition that not only are their customs, rituals and traditions different but that they also understand each other's culture intimately. Diverse communities have been essential components of our society and the age-old bonds of respect and tolerance have existed among them. Harmony and tension are a part of society's composite psyche. The occasional tension, which boils over like overheated milk, has subsided with the sprinkling of a few drops of water by sagacious leaders. We can do without those who try to ignite existing tinderboxes by twisting the truth and snapping the dhaga prem ka (the thread of love) by tampering with technology.

The final exhortation in Mr. Bhagwat's homily is that no superstructure (shikhar) can be built on a weak base (buniyad), which essentially meant that it is the strength of the foundation on which the stability of the edifice depends, and losing 20% of seats is a sign of the weakening of the base.

(The author is a former Election Commissioner and a former Finance Secretary of India)

THE KEY WORDS, THEIR IMPORT

The words that stood out in Mr. Bhagwat's speech were 'maryada' and 'ahankar'. He said "Jo vaastavik sevak hai, ... woh maryada se chalta hai. Us maryada ka paalan karke jo chalta hai, woh karm karta hai lekin karmon mein lipt nahi hota. Usme ahankar nahin aata ki maine kiya (A true worker maintains dignity and does not violate the limits set by tradition while working. He does not have the arrogance to claim credit for himself for the work done)". 'Maryada' is an adjective associated with Lord Ram. To the best of my knowledge, Ram is the only Hindu god with whom this attribute is linked as 'maryada' relates to the conduct of a person, and not to his thought. Lord Ram represents the right conduct according to the general perception of duty. Being god, he does what he thinks and vice-versa, and is, therefore, a true amalgam of ideal thought and action. In a mundane sense, that is what the model code of conduct is all about.

'Ahankar' is borne out of self-belief and is reflected in both deed and thought. It may be impossible for a person to be arrogant in action unless he is arrogant in thought. 'Style is the man' and arrogance will seep out in utterance if it exists in the mind. It is a leak that springs in a wall, creating damp spots even if the wall is strong.

The RSS's website, on a page, "Vision and Mission", uses an effective metaphor: "Great oaks from little acorns grow". Although this refers to the growth of the organization that boasts of the number of the shakhas (branches) of the Sangh crossing 57,000, it equally applies to the swayamsevaks (volunteers) who are exhorted to be humble. No acorn should think it is the oak even if an oak is inherent in every acorn.

THE DYNAMICS OF POLITICAL CONTEST

The other object lesson in Mr. Bhagwat's message is how to treat one's opponents in a contest. They are opponents only as long as they are in competition (spardha). Once the contest is over, they should be treated as people occupying the benches earmarked for those who did not qualify to sit on the Treasury benches. Where you sit depends on where you belong, and belonging is only circumscribed by the law of defection; not defined by commitment to an ideology. Be that as it may, together they constitute Parliament. Therefore, all opposition is subsumed in the House, where all members are honorable constituents.

Mr. Bhagwat has coined an endearing term for the

Is the much talked about strategic and statesman-like address made by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat akin to the recent example of a juvenile justice board in Pune asking a minor offender to write a 300-word essay on road accidents as a part of his bail conditions? But in this case, who is meant to write the essay?

In a brilliant speech (not the first brilliant speech that the RSS chief has made), Mr. Bhagwat has virtually laid out a road map for the new (old) government and prescribed a model code of conduct, something that people expected the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enforce during the 2024 general election. The similarity between the two lies in what remains unsaid. The ECI put the party on notice; the RSS supremo delivered a sermon to 'whomsoever it may concern'. Mr. Bhagwat's message is loud and clear whereas the ECI's was muted and manicured. Both messages have the potential to hit the target without exposing it.

The ECI examined complaints made to it, asked the political parties concerned for an explanation and then issued a mild reprimand - either convinced by the merit in the complaint or because it was convulsed by adverse public opinion and wanted to salvage its position. The bitterness in its pill was hidden in a multi-layered coat of saccharine. It could have rejected the complaints, as done in 2019, but it attempted to deliver even-handed justice that might have displeased all. In the process it risked denting its image of impartiality which it perhaps believes has been partially repaired by the efficient conduct of the 2024 general election. Possibly, it is the verdict that may have bailed it out and not just the smooth completion of the process.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN 2024, AS IT WAS IN 1977

Mr. Bhagwat's message, just after the verdict in the general election, is in the nature of a postmortem, needed only when an 'unnatural' cause leads to a mishap. Hence, the admission of a 'mishap' due to something 'unnatural' is implicit in his telling address. The 'mishap' could mean losing majority and the 'unnatural cause' identified by him could be the violation of decorum in the frenzy of election campaigning. For good measure he said this was done by "both sides" - by the party in power and the Opposition - thereby enlarging the scope of his reach and the onus of the breach, à la the ECI.

Reimagining Indian federalism

THE RETURN OF COALITION GOVERNANCE TO NEW DELHI OFFERS HOPE



BY SHASHI THAROOR

Seeking a larger slice of the pie for their own States is self-interest, not federalism.

On June 4, 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tripped up short of the majority mark in the Lok Sabha, compelling it to hobble towards power by leaning heavily on its partners in the National Democratic Alliance, all of which are regional parties. Aside from placing fetters on the BJP's overweening arrogance and decelerating our descent into majoritarian autocracy, the return to New Delhi of coalition governance offers another hope: that of revitalizing India's beleaguered federal structure, which has sustained countless death blows over the past decade.

A BRAND OF FEDERALISM

As I argued in the Lok Sabha last year - while opposing the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023 - what we have repeatedly seen since 2014 is an insidious, inexorable effort to curtail the autonomy of our States. Despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rhetoric of cooperative federalism, all we have seen is the rise of a coercive and combative brand of federalism that seeks to centralize power at the expense of the States.

This Modi-fied brand of federalism has been manifest in seeking to foist Hindi upon our southern States; deploying independent regulatory and investigative agencies (such as the Enforcement Directorate, the Central Bureau of Investigation and Income-Tax agencies) to clamp down on political opponents from regional parties; using an obscure provision of the Disaster Management Act to impose a nationwide lockdown without consulting the Chief Ministers who had to implement it; creating and misusing the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund, which limited the flow of cash to State-run Chief Minister's Distress Relief Funds; and robbing Jammu and Kashmir of Statehood and abrogating Article 370 in a manner that sets an ominous precedent for all other States. One must add to this litany the tendency to undermine the careful balance in our fiscal federalism that previous governments had maintained, distributing revenues in a way that left it to our States to pursue their own priorities. This balance has been disturbed using a number of cynical tools, such as levying cess on a large number of items. Unlike tax, cess does not go into the divisible revenue pool and does not need to be shared with States.

Another shadow hangs over the federal system with the impending lapse of the 91st Amendment in 2026. This guarantees that the share of parliamentary constituencies across States would be based on the 1971



President Droupadi Murmu administers the oath of office of Prime Minister of India to Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9, 2024
Photo : Jay Mandal / on assignment

Census, in order not to punish those States that had empowered their women, improved human development indicators and curbed their population. The ruling party has made it clear that they have no intention of renewing this provision and are looking forward with glee to a fresh Census and a new delimitation exercise. The major concern of many federalists is that this could lead - given both demographic realities and the BJP's own inclinations - to the Hindi-speaking States of the "cow belt" acquiring a two-thirds majority by themselves, in effect disenfranchising the southern States. This would give the BJP a permanent stranglehold on our Parliament and would lead to a severe crisis of our democracy as well as our federalism.

The BJP's hyper-nationalist desire for uniformity was already evident in its decision in 2017 to change the terms of reference of the Fifteenth Finance Commission to base allocations on the 2011 Census, instead of 1971's (following the same rationale) This proved pernicious, sending even more tax money from the south to the north than previously. Commentators spoke of the government rewarding "brute demographic advantage ... over a state's performance," adding that the Fifteenth Finance Commission decisions were "a stunning rebuke of success".

THE CONCERNS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES

Most people in the south are staunch Indian nationalists who recognize full well the need to correct regional imbalances, and for richer States to subsidize poorer ones. But we must ensure that this balancing act does not become financial persecution of our southern States. For, unlike most federal systems, India's revenues are going disproportionately to its worst-performing States, those with rampant illiteracy, high rates of fertility and

population growth, while the high-performing southern States get short shrift. On June 10, 2024, Uttar Pradesh received a whopping ₹25,069 crore of tax devolution, a figure greater than all our five southern States collectively received. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh got the next largest allocations.

The concerns of our southern States about delimitation are not unfounded: Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are likely to together outweigh them all combined. May we dare hope that one of the BJP's two crutches, with 16 seats in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, will refuse to make the mistake of allowing such a fate to befall South India? Whether he does or does not, the other southern Chief Ministers are bound to be speaking to each other, to ward off the threat of political disenfranchisement. The interests of millions are entwined with the success of this exercise, in which the principles of equitable redistribution and representation should weigh heavily. All States, ultimately, must work together to devise a solution.

There are no early signs that the large number of regional parties in the NDA might bolster India's federal structure. Most regional members - chief among them the Telugu Desam Party, Janata Dal (United) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) - have for now contented themselves with securing cabinet births (not even major or pivotal ministries) and greater perquisites for their own States (such as demanding special status for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar). While they may keep the BJP on a relatively short leash, stanching the tide of the Hindutva project and demanding that contentious schemes (such as Agniveer) be reconsidered, they are not necessarily likely to rally around the cause of strengthening cooperative federalism. Seeking a larger slice of the pie for their own States is self-interest, not

federalism.

When he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi was an unwavering federalist who championed decentralized policy-making. In his view, in a country as diverse as India, there could never be a universal, Union Government-devised panacea for the ills of all States, so, each should be able to innovate and tailor solutions to their peculiar problems. Each State in India, argued then Chief Minister Modi, ought to forge its own development path, engaging with other States in a spirit of "competitive" federalism, which meant attracting investment and improving governance, and stoutly resisting the encroachment of the central government on States' rights. And, in many ways, Mr. Modi exemplified these tenets - until he became Prime Minister, that is.

REVIVE THE INTER-STATE COUNCIL

Can Opposition-ruled States, especially in the south, leverage the BJP's reduced majority to the benefit of cooperative federalism? The abolition of the Planning Commission has deprived them of a vital forum. If that cannot be undone, a good starting point would be extracting the Inter-State Council from the throes of desuetude. Though its rationale had long been outlined in Article 263 of the Constitution, it was convened only in the 1990s on the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission. But, despite having the potential to become a formidable forum of deliberation, the Council has degenerated into a mere appendage of the Ministry of Home Affairs, in whose shadow it scarcely has any authority. So, the Inter-State Council must be overhauled and revived to serve as an independent arena for consultation, decision-making, dispute resolution, and coordination between States and various governmental departments and levels of government on issues that affect the States.

In a country such as India, whose diversity is held together by a sense of common belonging but whose civic nationalism must accommodate a range of States with divergent levels of development, it is essential that all feel that their common nationhood is a winning proposition for them. In a country where regional, religious, and linguistic tensions are never far from the surface, an answer such as, "We have more people, so we will have more money and power", risks rupturing the fragile bonds that hold us all together.

(Shashi Tharoor is the fourth-term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram, and the Sahitya Akademi award winning author of 25 books, including Ambedkar: A Life)

The PM has his work cut out

THE GOVT MAY HAVE TO REVISIT POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF VICTORY OF SOME SEPARATISTS IN LOK SABHA POLLS



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

"SO, IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, THE MODI-SHAH POLICY OF STERN ACTION AGAINST ANTI-NATIONALS MAY BECOME THE TRIGGER FOR A RECURRENCE OF THE TROUBLES PUNJAB FACED IN THE 1980S. POLICYMAKERS SHOULD KEEP SUCH FACTORS IN MIND BEFORE TAKING HARD DECISIONS. THE DEFEAT OF MODERATE LEADERS LIKE OMAR ABDULLAH AND MEHBOOBA MUFTI IN KASHMIR AND THE VICTORY OF A HARDLINER LIKE ENGINEER RASHID ARE SIGNS THAT THE MODI-SHAH DUO NEEDS TO PONDER OVER. THE SWIFT AND DECISIVE ACTION THEY TOOK IN THE TROUBLED STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO ABROGATE ARTICLE 370 HAD THE APPROBATION OF THE BJP'S CORE SUPPORTERS IN THE HINDI HEARTLAND AND EVEN BEYOND, BUT THE FALLOUT IS BECOMING ALARMINGLY CLEAR IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS. MUSLIM VOTERS OF KASHMIR ARE TURNING AWAY FROM THEIR OWN MAINSTREAM POLITICAL PARTIES AND OPTING FOR THE MORE DEFIANT OPPONENTS OF THE MODI REGIME. THIS IS ANOTHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN."



Moot point: The key question is whether Modi can be convinced to adopt softer policies

File photo : PTI

The Modi 2.0 government adopted a no-holds-barred stand against individuals who were perceived to be a security threat. The new government led by Narendra Modi may have to revisit this policy in the light of the victory of some separatists in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

The election of imprisoned Khalistani activist Amritpal Singh from Khadoor Sahib and Indira Gandhi assassin Beant Singh's son Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa from Faridkot should make the government sit up and take notice. The Surjit Singh Barnala-led Akali government, which worked in close association with the ruling Congress at the Centre in the 1980s, had got the Sikh masses to reject Khalistan. In the early 1990s, Jat Sikh farmers assisted the government in curbing terrorism. Without their active help, terrorism could not have been wiped out.

The allegations made by Canada regarding the murder of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the US claim about an India-sponsored plot to eliminate Gurbachan Singh Pannun, a US national spearheading the Khalistan demand in the West, must have influenced the people who voted in favor of Amritpal and Sarabjeet.

So, in a manner of speaking, the Modi-Shah policy of stern action against anti-nationals may become the trigger for a recurrence of the troubles Punjab faced in the 1980s. Policymakers should keep such factors in mind before taking hard decisions.

The defeat of moderate leaders like Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in Kashmir and the victory of a hardliner like Engineer Rashid are signs that the Modi-Shah duo needs to ponder over. The swift and decisive action they took in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir to abrogate Article 370 had the approbation of the BJP's core supporters in the Hindi heartland and even beyond, but the fallout is becoming alarmingly clear in the aftermath of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Muslim voters of Kashmir are turning away from their own

mainstream political parties and opting for the more defiant opponents of the Modi regime. This is another cause for concern.

The election of two Khalistani Sikhs and a radical Kashmiri Muslim to the Lok Sabha underlines the need to consult sage and moderate voices like Gurbachan Jagat and Amarjit Singh Dulat, the latter for dealing with Kashmiri malcontents. Should the elected MPs be allowed to enter and speak in Parliament and vent their feelings instead of silently inciting their co-religionists against the Indian state? Whatever steps the government had taken or planned against these rabble-rousers have not worked. Their respective communities have to be won over to our side.

Parakala Prabhakar is a thinker who describes matters in befitting words. He doubts if Modi can be convinced to adopt softer policies. Prabhakar reminds us that a wolf that wears sheep's clothing will continue to be a wolf. In the constitution of his Cabinet and distribution of portfolios, Modi has already shown that he is the sole decision-maker. He continues to rule in the same manner as before.

Modi should be told that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is only creating more terrorists by killing Hamas fighters and bombing hospitals and civilian localities in Gaza. We had that experience in Punjab during our struggle with Khalistani terrorists. Listing and then eliminating culprits only resulted in their replacement, sometimes by two men for the one lost.

The only way to end terrorism is to deprive the terrorists of the oxygen that is provided by their own co-religionists in the shape of logistical support or even tacit approval of their madness. It is only when the community is won over that you can hope for closure. The experience of the police in Northern Ireland was exactly the same as ours in Punjab. Of course, the figures of civilians and security personnel killed in the war

against terrorists were five times larger in Punjab. When I pointed this out to the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, he, in turn, was kind enough to point out to me that Punjab's population was five times that of Northern Ireland.

If the entry of three anti-government MPs into the Lok Sabha is a matter of concern, the re-election of Mahua Moitra from West Bengal will ensure that the proceedings in Parliament will be lively. Smriti Irani will not be around, but Kangana Ranaut could be her replacement. If Mahua and Kangana get into a verbal duel in Parliament, I would hate to miss it.

The re-election of Shashi Tharoor was most welcome. He has established himself as a seasoned debater in Parliament. And now that Rahul Gandhi has come out of the 'reluctant politician' mode, Rahul and Shashi should make a good pair for the Congress in the INDIA bloc. Supriya Sule is a young woman whom I admire for her poise and equanimity. It was gracious of her to call on her vanquished opponent's mother to soothe ruffled feathers in her own family, now that her cousin, Ajit Pawar, has been cut down to size.

The inauguration of the new Parliament building was presided over by the Prime Minister and the Speaker last year. Its inauguration for its actual intended use as a place where governance decisions are debated and approved - and sometimes (rarely) discarded - should take precedence over gimmicks. The people of India will be extremely unhappy and disappointed if they do not get to hear and see democracy at play in the new Lok Sabha.

The way Parliament was run in the 17th Lok Sabha was an insult to democracy. Walkouts, suspensions and adjournments were the norm. Even laws meant to curb crime were passed without a debate. We did not get to learn why the government took radical decisions like demonetization, the nationwide Covid lockdown and even the farm laws - which Modi was forced to repeal - without discussions in Parliament.

The normal parliamentary procedures of scrutiny of Bills by committees should be restarted now that one party and its supreme leader have been forced to share power with its allies. As Modi himself has admitted, there has to be consensus on critical decisions. Just one man or a cabal does not constitute a democratic decision-making body. If Modi wants the NDA to rule for the next 10 years, he will have to prove Prabhakar wrong. If the NDA constituents were not able to influence Modi in the formation of the coalition Cabinet, they should stand firm on contentious issues like the National Register of Citizens and the treatment of minorities.

(The author is a former governor and a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer)



GOPIO and Consulate General of India
The Indian Panorama & Indian American Forum



HAPPY LIFE YOGA

International Yoga Day 2024

with TIRLOK MALIK

Happy Life Yoga can show you how to live
a happier and healthier life

A way of living inspired by the wisdom of

Ayurveda, Yoga & Indian philosophy (No mats needed!)

Organized by

GOPIO- Manhattan and the Indian Consulate (New York)

New Zoom link for Happy Yoga

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7095368686?pwd=c3J5UUdncDJYOExpR3ByTU14OXprZz09>

Saturday June 22,
11 AM - 12.30 pm (east)
(US and Canada)

zoom ID AND PASSCODE:
Meeting ID : 709 536 8686
Passcode : gopio



CHIEF GUEST
Consul General of India
New York
Mr. Binaya Srikanta
Pradhan



Host
TIRLOK MALIK
HAPPY LIFE YOGA SPEAKER &
EMMY NOMINATED FILMMAKER



Dr THOMAS ABRAHAM
Chairman GOPIO International

Guest Speakers



PROF. INDRAJIT SALUJA



INDU JAISWAL



ANIL NARANG



LAL MOTWANI'S
GOPIO Int. President



NEETA BHASIN



Dr. RENEE MEHRA



DEBORAH FISHMAN



NEHA LOHIA



PRITI DHARIWAL



Dr. TARA SHAJAN
MSN MBA PMHN -BC PhD



Dr Bhuvan Lall

FACEBOOK LIVE

<https://www.facebook.com/IndusTVglobal>

MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPORTED BY



The US Supreme Court upholds access to a widely available abortion pill

JUNE 13, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, June 13, maintained access to a widely available abortion pill, rejecting a bid from a group of anti-abortion organizations and doctors to undo the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the drug.

In a unanimous decision, written by Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh, the court held that the anti-abortion groups lacked a direct stake in the dispute, a requirement to challenge the F.D.A.'s approval of the pill, mifepristone.

"The plaintiffs do not prescribe or use mifepristone," Justice Kavanaugh wrote. "And F.D.A. is not requiring them to do or refrain from doing anything."

He added, "A plaintiff's desire to make a drug less available for others does not establish standing to sue."

The case originally sought to erase the F.D.A.'s approval of mifepristone. But by the time it reached the Supreme Court, the question had been narrowed to whether the agency had acted legally in 2016 and 2021, when it broadened distribution of the pill, eventually including telemedicine and mail options.

The ruling handed a muted victory to abortion rights groups. Even as they praised the decision for averting severe restrictions on the availability of the pill, they warned that the outcome could be short-lived.

Anti-abortion groups vowed to press ahead, promising that the fight was far from over and raising the possibility that other plaintiffs, states in particular, would mount challenges to the drug.

The ruling did not affect separate restrictions on the



pill in more than a dozen states that have passed near-total bans on abortion since the court eliminated a constitutional right to the procedure in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. (The bans do not distinguish between medication and surgical abortion.)

Access to abortion remains broadly popular, and ever since the court overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago, prompting some states to swiftly enact bans, the issue has been a major focus of political campaigns. Democrats have succeeded in galvanizing voters to defeat anti-abortion measures and plan to highlight abortion rights in the November elections.

By dodging a ruling on the substance of the case, the justices avoided delivering a clear, substantive win to either political party or a decision they could use to motivate their base.

President Biden said in a statement that the "decision does not change the fact that the fight for reproductive freedom continues."

He added, "It does not change the fact that the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago, and women lost a fundamental freedom."

The Biden campaign also raised concerns that the ruling would not be enough to protect access to abortion medication if former President Donald J. Trump wins a second term, saying his administration would move to enforce new restrictions through executive action.

Mr. Trump had wrestled with what position to take on abortion access after the Supreme Court, whose conservative supermajority he appointed, overturned the *Roe v. Wade* landmark abortion-rights case. Several weeks ago, he said it was up to states to set their own policies.

His campaign suggested he staked out a similar position on the abortion pill ruling, without addressing how his administration would handle regulation of the drug. "The Supreme Court has unanimously decided 9-0; the matter is settled," Danielle Alvarez, a Trump spokeswoman, said.

Abortion rights groups cautioned that the ruling only maintained the status quo.

"The anti-abortion movement sees how critical abortion pills are in this post-*Roe* world, and they are hell bent on cutting off access," Nancy Northup, the president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said in a statement.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

"Transforming Lives" Tour of Salt and Light of the World Reaches Chicago, IL after Successful New York Performance

JUNE 12, 2024

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Transforming Lives Tour, organized by Salt and Light of the World, made its impactful journey to Chicago following a highly successful program in New York. This inspiring event, held in association with Wheatland Salem Gujarati Service and Emmanuel United Methodist Church Evanston (EUMC), brought together diverse communities for an evening of spiritual rejuvenation and praise.

Dr. Sam George, the Director of the Global Diaspora Institute at Wheaton College, served as the key speaker for the event. His sermon was both encouraging and uplifting, leaving attendees spiritually enriched and motivated.

Rev. Zaki L. Zaki, pastor of the host churches Wheatland Salem Church and Wheatland Salem Gujarati Church, along with Rev. Scott Christy from EUMC, collaborated closely with the Salt and Light of the World organization to ensure the event's success. Their leadership and dedication were instrumental in bringing this transformative experience to Chicago.

The program was expertly hosted by Irene Christian, who served as the master of ceremonies, guiding the audience through a memorable evening of faith and fellowship.

The evening featured soul-stirring



Renowned gospel singer Thomas Puthoor with his Orchestra group

musical performances by choirs from various churches, including the Gujarati Christian Church of Chicago, Calvary Indian Church Youth Choir of Chicago, Jai Masihi Ki Pakistani Church of Algonquin, EUMC, and Community Presbyterian Church of Mount Prospect. Each choir's harmonious renditions added a profound dimension to the worship experience.

Salt and Light of the World, an organization committed to spreading the teachings of Christ and uplifting communities, clearly articulates its vision and mission on its website: "We aim to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, enriching lives with the message of Christ and illuminating paths with hope and love."

Mr. Willy Robinson, Founder and Director of Salt and Light of the World,

shared a powerful vision and emphasized the organization's mission. He encouraged everyone to be the salt that adds flavor to the world and the light that dispels darkness, fostering a community rooted in faith and compassion.

In a particularly moving moment, Mr. Robinson highlighted the inspiring story of Brother Arpan Emmanuel, a keyboard player from India, whose life was profoundly influenced by listening to the songs of renowned gospel singer Thomas Puthoor. Mr. Puthoor, known for his ministry through music for over 33 years, has performed globally in multiple languages, bringing God's message to diverse audiences.

As the evening drew to a close, attendees left with a renewed sense of purpose and spiritual vitality. The



Willy Robinson, Founder and Director of Salt and Light of the World

success of this event in Chicago is a testament to the power of faith, community, and the unwavering commitment of Salt and Light of the World to transform lives.

Salt and Light of the World extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked, prayed, and participated in this event. The organization looks forward to continuing its mission and sharing the light of Christ through future programs.

The Transforming Lives Tour has been a testament to the power of community and faith, with each stop bringing people closer to their spiritual goals. The tour will continue its journey, with the next stops scheduled in Brampton, Canada; Kathmandu, Nepal; and Ahmedabad, India.

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Four Superstar Seniors in Washington, D.C., Earn \$10,000 Milken Scholars Award

2024 CLASS REPRESENTS PROGRAM'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY DEVELOPING "LIFELONG LEADERS FOR A BETTER WORLD"

JUNE 11, 2024

SANTA MONICA, CA (TIP): Four outstanding college-bound Washington, D.C., students received an extra dose of good news to close out their high school careers. They are 2024 Milken Scholars! The scholarship Program, a joint initiative of the Milken Institute and the Milken Family Foundation, honors high school seniors in Washington, D.C., New York City and Los Angeles County each year with a \$10,000 cash prize and lifelong access to college advising, career counseling, internship assistance, community service opportunities, and a fund to help with graduate school applications, unpaid internships, study abroad programs, and other costs associated with their pursuit of a career.

The 2024 Washington, D.C., Milken Scholars are Jonali Gaylor, McKinley Technology High School, Hampton University, Mekdelawit (Mekdi) Gebreslassie, Parkmont School, Princeton University, Akesh Mallia, School Without Walls Senior High School, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Selena Reyes-Flores, Georgetown Visitation School, Yale.

Established in 1989 by Mike and Lori Milken, the Milken Scholars Program celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. After completing a rigorous nomination, application and interview process, Milken Scholars are selected based on academic performance, community service, leadership, and their ability to persevere in the face of personal



The 2024 Washington, D.C., Milken Scholars: Jonali Gaylor, Mekdelawit (Mekdi) Gebreslassie, Akesh Mallia, Selena Reyes-Flores
Photos / courtesy of the Milken Family Foundation

challenges. Past recipients include inaugural poet Amanda Gorman; Ruben Harutunian, treasurer of the board of the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt and minister-counselor for public diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo; Dr. Joelle Simpson, chief of emergency medicine at Children's National Hospital; and award-winning entrepreneur Emanuel Yekutiel.

"In its 35th year, as the Milken Scholars Program approaches a total of nearly 600 remarkable young men and women representing more than 80 nations, Lori and I never fail to be amazed and gratified by their achievements," said Mike Milken.

This month, the Washington, D.C., Milken Scholars will be celebrated by the Washington, D.C., Milken Scholars community at an annual Recognition Ceremony. In July, they will attend a

three-day summit in Los Angeles with over 100 Scholars including new Milken Scholars from New York City and Los Angeles County, as well as undergraduates and alumni facilitators in fields across all industries. Students gain insight and guidance from speakers, panels and activities while discussing the Summit theme Shaping a Shared Future and learning more about the support structure they will receive throughout their college careers and beyond. Access to such resources creates a setting that propels these exceptional youth into a position where they can achieve their personal, academic and professional goals and, in the process, become "Lifelong Leaders for a Better World."

Mike and Lori Milken founded the Milken Scholars Program to promote and assist exceptional youth as they navigate the transitions from high school to college and from college to

graduate school or the world of work. As of 2024, the program reaches over 575 students representing more than 80 countries of origin since its first 1989 class.

Milken Scholars embody a variety of ages, backgrounds, and academic and professional interests, and attend some of the top colleges and universities in the country. Twenty-five percent were born outside the U.S. and 78% have parents originating from over 80 countries. More than half are first generation in their family to attend college, while 46% are the first person in their family to attend college in the U.S. The class of 2024 is one of the most diverse yet, representing 16 countries spanning North America, Central America, West Africa, Northeast Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, East Asia, and South Asia.

Read the full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

IRS warns against scams targeting seniors; joins other federal agencies to recognize special awareness day

JUNE 12, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): As part of continuing efforts to protect the senior community, the Internal Revenue Service, on June 12, issued a warning about the rising threat of impersonation scams.

These scams are targeting older adults by pretending to be government officials, aiming to steal sensitive personal information and money. By posing as representatives from agencies such as the IRS, or other government agencies, these fraudsters use fear and deceit to exploit their victims.

"Scammers often target seniors, attempting to steal personal information through phone calls, emails or text messages by pretending to be from the IRS or other agencies or businesses," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel. "Preventing these types of scams requires assistance from many different places. By partnering with other federal agencies and others in the tax community, we can reach more

seniors and other taxpayers to help protect them against these terrible scams."

This is part of a wider effort taking place this week leading up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on Saturday, June 15. WEAAD, observed since June 15, 2006, aims to foster a better understanding of the neglect and abuse faced by millions of older adults, focusing attention on the contributing cultural, social, economic and demographic factors.

The IRS also has been engaged in long-term efforts to protect against scams and other related schemes, including identity theft. This has been an ongoing focus of the Security Summit partnership between the IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax professional community since 2015.

UNDERSTANDING THE THREATS

The IRS has identified a concerning trend where fraudulent actors are

increasingly targeting unsuspecting individuals, particularly senior citizens, by masquerading as IRS agents. Victims are pressured into making immediate payments through unorthodox methods such as gift cards or wire transfers under the pretense of resolving fictitious tax liabilities or securing false refunds.

These scammers deploy advanced techniques to fabricate a veneer of credibility, including the manipulation of caller IDs to appear legitimate. Here are just a few examples of their schemes:

Impersonation of known entities: Fraudsters often pose as representatives from government agencies - including the IRS, Social Security Administration and Medicare - others in the tax community or familiar businesses and charities. By spoofing caller IDs, scammers can deceive victims into believing they are receiving legitimate communications.

Claims of problems or prizes: Scammers frequently fabricate urgent



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

scenarios, such as outstanding debts or promises of significant prize winnings. Victims may be falsely informed that they owe the IRS money, are owed a tax refund, need to verify accounts or must pay fees to claim non-existent lottery winnings.

Pressure for immediate action: These deceitful actors create a sense of urgency, demanding that victims take immediate action without allowing time for reflection. Common tactics include threats of arrest, deportation, license suspension or computer viruses to coerce quick compliance.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Home minister Amit Shah reviews security in J&K after terror attacks

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday, June 14, reviewed the security in Jammu and Kashmir with the senior officers of his ministry and Intelligence Bureau (IB) in the wake of four terror attacks in the Jammu region since Sunday, in which 10 people, including nine civilians and a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan, were killed.

People familiar with the development said Shah was apprised of the current deployment scenario in the Jammu region, at the Line of Control (LOC) and international border, the status of combing operations by the security forces to locate the terrorists and steps being taken to identify their local supporters.

The home minister has directed that he will chair a detailed meeting on June 16 in North Block, which will be attended by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, senior officers from the army, J&K police, central paramilitary forces and local administration, to discuss further steps to be taken to ensure foolproof security and preparations for Amarnath Yatra.

“Specific instructions on how to deal with the situation are expected from the home minister on Sunday, particularly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already given clear directions to deploy the full spectrum of counterterror capabilities to deal with the spate of attacks,” said an officer, who did not want to be named.

A decision on whether to send additional companies of paramilitary forces to the affected districts of Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Poonch will also be taken in the June 16 review meeting, said this officer.

Currently, there are 70 battalions (about 70,000) of central paramilitary forces deployed in Jammu and Kashmir to deal with insurgency and law and order issues. Besides, the Border Security Force (BSF) and army are responsible for maintaining vigil at the border.

At the entire 3,323-km-long land border



with Pakistan, there are currently 675 border outposts (BOPs), while work on 31 more BOPs is expected to be completed by June 2025 and alternative sites are being explored for 30 more such posts. Overall, the forces will have 736 BOPs at the western border. The government has also sanctioned a 2097.646 km fence, out of which 2064.666 km has been completed and the work at the remaining 32.98 km is in progress.

The intelligence agencies are learnt to have conveyed to the ground forces that infiltration attempts from the LoC and the international border have increased in the past few weeks, with Pakistan trying to foment trouble in the region with the help of proxy outfits of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) among others. Data suggests that overall infiltration has significantly dropped in J&K since 2017, from 419 attempts (136 net infiltrations) to 53 attempts (14 net infiltrations) in 2022 and almost negligible last year. Till June 2023, there were zero infiltration incidents reported in the entire region.

To contain cross-border infiltration, said a second counter-terrorism official, “we are strengthening border infrastructure, there is multi-tiered deployment along the International Border and LOC, and near the ever-changing infiltration routes”.

“There is also round-the-clock surveillance and patrolling on the border and establishment of observation posts, increase in number of BSF personnel in sensitive areas, construction of border fencing and floodlighting, and use of advance technological equipment like handheld thermal imager (HHTI), night vision device (NVD), twin telescope, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). Subsequently, intelligence setup is regularly upgraded,” the second officer added.

In four back-to-back terror attacks in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts since Sunday, highly trained foreign terrorists from Pakistan have targeted civilians and security forces.

In one attack, a group of three to four militants opened fire on a joint check post of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles and the Jammu & Kashmir Police in Doda's Chattargala area on the Baderwah-Pathankot road at 1.45am on Wednesday. The ensuing gunbattle lasted several hours, leaving five army personnel and a special police officer injured.

On June 12, evening, officers said the second attack was on in the Kota Top area, 150 km away from Chhattargala, when a second group of terrorists attacked a police team and injured head constable Fareed Ahmed.

50,000 CAPF men head to J&K

The Centre has ordered deployment of over 500 companies (approximately 50,000 personnel) of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in Kashmir in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UT on June 21 on International Yoga Day and also keeping in mind the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. The PM plans to perform yoga near the Dal Lake in Srinagar on the occasion.

According to sources, during a high-level meeting of Home Ministry officials on Thursday, June 14, night, soon after the PM reviewed security in the UT, it was decided that CAPFs be deployed along the route to be taken by the PM as well as on the arduous Amarnath Yatra route.

Modi's visit comes just days after the Reasi terror attack, where terrorists had targeted a bus carrying pilgrims, leading to the death of nine persons.

Significantly, after the recent terror attacks in Kathua, Doda and Reasi, all of which fall under the Jammu division, it has been decided to take action against sympathisers of terrorists and extremists under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the district.

Source: TNS

In Kathua another gunbattle began late on Tuesday night and continued into June 12 morning, leaving one CRPF jawan dead, six security personnel and one civilian injured, and two terrorists neutralised.

The three gunfights came on the heels of an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi on June 9 when armed terrorists opened fire on the vehicle, causing it to lose control and plunge into a gorge, with nine people dead and 42 others injured.

Source: HT

Prashant Kishor slams Nitish for touching PM Modi's feet

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor charged Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with having “touched the feet” of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure his own continuance in power.

Kishor, who has been running the ‘Jan Suraj’ campaign, was addressing a public meeting in Bhagalpur on Friday, June 14. “People ask me why I am now criticising Nitish Kumar, having worked with him in the past. He was a different man back then. His conscience had not been put up for sale,” said Kishor, who had managed the JD (U) president's election campaign in 2015 and formally joined the party two years later.

“The leader of a state is the pride of its people. But Nitish Kumar brought shame to Bihar when he touched the feet of Modi,” he alleged, referring to the NDA meeting in Delhi

last week.

Kumar's JD (U) won 12 seats in Lok Sabha polls to emerge as the second largest ally of the BJP, which failed to get a majority on its own.

“There is so much talk about Nitish Kumar playing a key role in Modi's return to power. But how is the Bihar CM leveraging his position? He is not using his clout to ensure benefits for the state. He is touching feet to ensure that he remains in power, with BJP support, even after 2025 assembly polls,” Kishor said.

Notably, Kishor had first shot into fame in 2014 for handling the spectacularly successful Lok Sabha poll campaign of Modi. By the time he gave up political consultancy in 2021, Kishor had worked for several high-profile politicians, including Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and Jagan Mohan Reddy.



NDA government formed by mistake, can fall anytime: Congress chief

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge on June 14 targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the coalition government at the Centre has been formed by mistake and could fall anytime.

In the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the BJP bagged a total of 240 seats, falling short of the majority mark of 272, and the party relied on its allies to form the government.

"NDA government has been formed by mistake. Modi ji doesn't have the mandate. It's a minority government. This government can fall anytime. We would like it to continue. Let it be good for the country. We should work together to strengthen the country. But our Prime Minister is habitual of not letting something go on well to continue. But we will cooperate towards strengthening the country..." Mallikarjun Kharge said.

Kharge's jibe at PM Modi and the coalition government got a prompt response from his political rivals in Bihar.

While JDU reminded Kharge of the scorecards of prime ministers of Congress-led coalitions, RJD preferred toeing his line.

Former Bihar IPRD minister and JDU MLC Neeraj Kumar questioned Kharge's intellect and asked him the scorecards of the Congress-led governments of PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh.

In the 1991 general election, the Congress won a similar number of seats as the BJP won in 2024. When no party could fetch a majority, Congress formed a minority government under the nearly-retired Narasimha Rao. The Congress party just about managed to form the government.

Source: India Today

Kuwait fire tragedy: Victims' relatives grieve as bodies brought to India

KOCHI (TIP)

Two days after they were killed in a devastating apartment fire in Kuwait's Al Ahmadi governorate, the bodies of 45 Indian workers were on June 14 brought back to India by an Indian Air Force C130J aircraft, and given a guard of honour by senior government officials, including minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh and Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The aircraft carrying the coffins first landed in Kochi on Friday morning, where 31 were unloaded and sent to respective villages in three states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — and then made its way to New Delhi, where it was received by three members of Parliament. The rest of the 14 dead are from nine different states, most of them in northern India.

The June 12 fire in the Al-Mangaf building, the worst building fire in the Gulf country's history, broke out at around 4.30am, and most deaths were due to smoke inhalation with most residents caught unawares. NBTC group, an engineering and construction firm partially owned by KG Abraham, 69, an industrialist originally from Kerala, had rented the building to house 195 workers, most of them workers from southern states.

Investigations in Kuwait have revealed that the fire was caused by an electrical short circuit, and two people have been held on charges that include "killing and injury by error due to negligence of security and safety precautions against fires". A team probing the fire have found that inflammable material was used as partitions between apartments and between rooms, causing thick black smoke which suffocated people as they tried to run down the stairwell. Of the 49 people dead, 45 were from India, authorities said on Thursday. On Friday, Kuwaiti foreign minister Abdullah Al-Yahya said that one more person succumbed to injuries, taking the death toll to 50, of which 46 were Indians. When 31 bodies — 23 from Kerala, seven



from Tamil Nadu and one from Karnataka — were brought out of the IAF aircraft on Friday morning, they were given a guard of honour by the Kerala police and Kerala CM Vijayan, and a host of others ministers — Union minister of state for petroleum and tourism Suresh Gopi and Tamil Nadu minister for minorities welfare KS Masthan. Each of them, as well as several ministers in the state government, MLAs, MPs and leaders of political party them somberly placed wreaths on each coffin.

"The people who have succumbed in this tragedy were those who had gone (to Kuwait) as part of earning their livelihood. As much as we help their families, it will never be enough. I implore the Indian government to work with Kuwait to speed up the process of granting them adequate compensation. This is indeed a massive tragedy for Kerala and its people," Vijayan said.

MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh, who flew to Kuwait on the instructions of PM Narendra Modi on Thursday to facilitate relief and rescue efforts, and travelled back with the bodies on Friday, said: "The moment our government found out that this incident had taken place, Prime Minister immediately convened a meeting and instructed us to reach Kuwait to take all possible steps so that the mortal remains can be brought back as soon as possible." Source: HT

Chhattisgarh: 8 Maoists, one security personnel killed in encounter

NEW DELHI (TIP)

At least 8 Maoists have been killed in an encounter with security forces in Abujmarh. One jawan died in the line of duty, whereas two sustained injuries.

Over the past two days, a protracted gunfight has been underway in the Narayanpur district.

Abujmarh is a hilly forest area which falls in the Narayanpur, Bijapur district and Dantewada districts. Geographically isolated and largely inaccessible, the area is considered a hotbed of Maoists' activities.

The gunfight broke out this morning in the forest of Abhujmad when a joint team of the security personnel from four districts - Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Kondagaon - was out on an anti-Naxal operation, PTI reported.

The exchange of fire is still underway. The operation involving the personnel of District Reserve Guard (DRG) from four districts, Special Task Force (STF) and the 53rd battalion of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was



launched on June 12.

This comes days after security forces

killed six Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district. Those killed

carried a total bounty of Rs 38 lakh.

This operation was the biggest attack by security forces on People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) company no. 6, which is considered a pillar of the attacking force of the Maoists.

"The operation involving separate teams of security personnel was launched late night on June 6 on the border of Narayanpur, Kondagaon, Dantewada and Bastar districts based on inputs about the presence of Maoists of PLGA military company no. 6 and east Bastar division formations," Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P told the media last week.

During a search of the site, bodies of six Naxalites clad in 'uniform' were recovered from different places along with two .303 rifles, one .315 bore rifle, 10 BGL (barrel grenade launcher) shells, one SLR magazine, a cooker bomb, five bags, a huge cache of explosives, medicines and items of daily use, Sundarraaj had added.

India in history this Week

JUNE 14 TO JUNE 20

14 JUNE

1922 India's famous filmmaker and director K.K. It is Asif's birthday.

1928 The revolutionary Che Guevara was born. He played a pivotal role in the liberation of Cuba.

1905 Birth of famous music practitioner Hirabai Barodkar.

1922 Birth of director Asif of Mughal-e-Azam.

1958 Dr. C.V. Raman was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in the Kremlin.

2012 The explosion at the Indian steel plant in Visakhapatnam on 2012 killed 11 people and injured 16.

1595 Guru Hargobind Singh, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs was born.

1880 Scientist Satish Chandra Dasgupta was born.



1920 Indian actor Bharat Bhushan was born

1967 Kumar Mangalam Birla, an Indian industrialist and president of the Aditya Birla Group, was born.

15 JUNE



1937 Social worker Anna Hazare was born.

1950 Lakshmi Mittal, known as the Steel King, was born on this day.



1908 Start of Calcutta Stock Market.

1947 The All India Congress accepted the British plan for the partition of India in New Delhi.

2006 India and China decided to open the old Silk Route.

1981 The Supreme Court rules that in 1981, all children are entitled to public education, regardless of civic education

1991 In 1991, Congress won the tenth Lok Sabha election.

1899 Renowned painter and sculptor Devi Prasad Rai Chaudhary, born with Padma Bhushan, was born.

1878 Shiva Dayal Sahab, the founder of the Dixit Hindu sect Radha Swami Satsang, died.

16 JUNE



1950 Mithun Da, who was called the disco dancer of Bollywood, was born.

1925 Nationalist leader Chittaranjan Das dies

1606 The fifth Sikh Guru Arjun Dev passed away.

1858 The battle of Morar was fought during the First Indian War of Independence.

2007 Sunita Williams became the longest-lived woman in space.

1983 Guru Ghasidas University of Chhattisgarh was established in 1983.

2008 A panel of Uttar Pradesh state finance ministries agreed in 2008 on the reduction in sales tax on petroleum fuels.

2008 In 2008, ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steel making company, acquired American company Bambhu Steel.

1928 The great freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das died.

17 JUNE



1631 The Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, was built in the memory of Mumtaz Mahal. She was married to Shah Jahan.

1674 Jijabai died. She was the wife of Shahaji Bhonsle and mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

1858 Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi received Veergati by taking iron from the British.

1973 India's famous tennis player Leander Paes was born.

2008 The Tejas, a light combat aircraft developed in the country, was successfully tested in Bangalore.

2012 Saina Nehwal became Indonesia Open champion for the third time.

18 JUNE

1576 The battle of Haldi valley started between Maharana Pratap and Akbar.

1758 French General Bussi sought permission to leave Nizam Salabat Jung, which was the end of France's presence with India.

1946 The first Satyagraha movement was launched to liberate Goa from the Portuguese.

1956 The Hindu Succession Act passed.

1987 MS Swaminathan received the first World Food Prize.

19 JUNE

1716 The famous Sikh soldier Banda Singh Bahadur, who broke the illusion of the Mughals being invincible, was tortured to death at the behest of Emperor Farukhsier.

1947 The birth of the famous British-Indian writer and novelist Salman Rushdie.



1970 Birth of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

1981 India successfully launched its geostationary satellite Apple.

1871 Madhavrao Sapre, the freedom fighter of the national language, Unnayak of Hindi, was born

20 JUNE

1858 The capture of Gwalior by the British Army and the Sepoy Mutiny came to an end with it.

1873 YMCA in India establishment.

1887 Mumbai-based Victoria Terminus (Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) opened to the public. Today it is one of the busiest railway stations in the country.



1998 Vishwanathan Anand won the fifth Frankfurt Classic chess tournament by defeating Vladimir Kaimnik.

2014 Announcement of Jnanpith Award to eminent poet Kedarnath Singh.

1756 Siraj ud-Daula Nawab of Bengal sought Calcutta from the British.

1869 Laxman Kashinath Kirloskar, the founder of the famous industrialist Kirloskar Industry Group of India, was born.

1923 Proficient journalist and writer Gaur Kishore Ghosh was born.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE



SAVE THE DATE

**42nd INDIA DAY PARADE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th, 2024
38th ST. MADISON AVENUE, NYC
12:00 PM ONWARDS**

info@fianyjnct.org | www.fianyjnct.org

HOW DOES THE US PROMOTE HINDI TEACHING THROUGH FULBRIGHT-HAYAS PROJECT

By ASHOK OJHA



At a seminar at Banaras Hindu University

When the US Department of Education awarded the collaborative projects of Yuva Hindi Sansthan and New York University Hindi language program for theme-based curriculum development with 'Fulbright-Hays' award, it made it clear that the United States was interested in promoting the teaching of heritage language of Hindi through authentic materials prepared on rich cultural topics of India. These awards were first granted to YHS-NYU for the first time in 2022 and then in 2023. Subsequently, program participants developed teaching materials on 'Climate Change' in 2022. The project required us to select a dozen teachers from the US and take them on a study tour to India so they could experience and explore firsthand the theme of 'Climate Change and Sustainability' and return to USA with authentic cultural knowledge and skills for teaching Hindi to the next generation of language learners. In 2022 we organized our participants a month-long tour to India with focus on marginalized communities and their traditional holistic interrelation with nature, on their reciprocal bond with nature and on local ecological traditional wisdom that deals with the extremes of climate change. Participants collected area studies information, met and spoke with local people and recorded their real life experiences.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN YHS AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

The collaboration between YHS and New York University Hindi language program led to 2023 YHS-NYU FULBRIGHT-HAYS award that required us to conduct a cultural study tour to India. Accordingly, we recruited



At Sarnath

participants from a diverse group of teachers and students from US school districts and colleges. The team of participants was led on the tour to India by myself, as the program director, and Prof Gabriela Nik Ilieva, NYU, as the academic director. The theme of the 2023 program was, 'Living with Contentment in a Material World: Mindful living or wellness traditions in India'. The scope of the project was to explore how members of various Indian communities think or talk about mindful living, on one hand, and on the other exercise mindful living, ideas and behaviors rooted in ancient traditions and textual sources. The concepts of mindfulness and wellness have gradually emerged as dominant lifestyle constructs which are believed to have derived from Indian philosophical traditions and practices, more specifically Buddhist, Jain and Upanishadic thought, rituals and practices. The West, especially the U.S. has embraced yoga and meditation practices which have also originated in India. Yet, although the Indian philosophical traditions about mindful living and their practical implications leading to well-being are recognized and valued globally, both in the Western and the Eastern world, they are not consistently studied and explored throughout the Hindi curricula. The purpose of the tour was to provide opportunities for participants to engage in collecting authentic, cultural



At Tibetan Institute in Sarnath

products, realia, workshops under the guidance of Academic Director Prof. Gabriela Nik Ilieva. Traveling from one location to another the group studied the traditions and cultural contexts of common folks who are living a contented life within their limited resources for generations. The participants engaged themselves in critically examining environmental and related socio-cultural issues and observed and learned the culture of various communities. The end goal of the project is to create an instructional platform that will support the teaching of traditional mindful practices and perspectives more consistently and more cohesively in the Hindi and South Asian Studies classrooms in the U.S., based on focused information and well-designed instructional materials. Our daily activities began with a Hindi session to discuss usage of Hindi by local people and a reflection session to review day's activities and take aways from previous day's field trip.

THE STUDY TOUR

When the group arrived in India, the group members took advantage of the opportunity to interact with students of the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, a Government of India, Ministry of Education institution solely designed to teach Hindi to non-Indian students whose mother tongue was not Hindi. Sansthan's students travelled from Agra to Delhi to meet with our group members. Both sides interacted on topics of mutual interests. Next day we left for Rishikesh where our host was 'Arsh Vidya Gurukulum', an Ashram that offers a structured institutional environment. It was established



In Kolkata

by late Swami Dayananda Saraswati for promoting Vedanta and Sanskrit learning. The Ashram is located on the bank of the holy river Ganga, which offered an ideal backdrop for relaxation and wellness. Swami Sakshartananda, Chairperson of the AVG, delivered an introductory lecture on 'Mindfulness' and 'Santosha' as defined in ancient Vedic scriptures. The Vedic scholars at AVG taught text-based Indian traditions, including the idea of Atman-Brahman relationship and the concept of detachment as explained in Hindu scriptures. Participants also interviewed local folks about their experiences related to the mindful traditions-mental balance, contentment, and wellness. A rich library with hundreds of books on Vedic philosophy, culture, meditation and various healing methods, was available for reference at the Ashram. We understood the traditional meaning of mindfulness and wellness during our four days stay at Arach Vidya Gurukulum in Rishikesh. We met a sadhu named Pipaleshwar Maharaj, a devotee of Lord Shiva, who lives under a Peepal tree, has built a temple there for the sake of protecting an age-old tree, while he preached locals about living a simple and contented life.

HAPPY THINKING LAB

Our second destination was Lucknow, the capital city of the largest state of India, Uttar Pradesh, where our host was Lucknow University, that has established a 'Happy Thinking Lab', whose goal is to discover indigenous Indian practices and perspectives to achieve happiness, because "many western concepts lack experiential validity in



At Shantiniketan

Indian Culture". The Vice Chancellor of Lucknow University, Alok Kumar, briefed us about the 'Happy Thinking Lab', set up in the Psychology department of the university. Participants took advantage of the archives, libraries and lectures by faculty members of Lucknow University. They interacted, interviewed them and

CONTD ON PAGE 19

CONTD FROM PAGE 18

collected new authentic curricular materials in audio, video and script-based format in Hindi. The university also organized interesting cultural activities including Kathak performances, traditional story telling session and one act play depicting the social challenges female students face in the campuses of Indian universities.

VARANASI AND SARNATH

Our third destination was Varanasi and its twin city Sarnath, the place known as the site of Buddha's first sermon after he got enlightenment in Bodh Gaya. In Varanasi, the group's first visit was the Hindi Department of Banaras Hindu University, our local host. The department organized a meaningful seminar on traditional practices observed in the Indian society, many of which are changing, thanks to the modern ways of city living. The seminar turned into an interactive session with students/faculty BHU on the topic of local varieties and styles of Hindi, narratives about contentment and wellness; lectures/demonstrations by experts and speeches on mindful living, contentment and detachment. Some of the faculty members delivered lectures on Hindi as it is spoken locally. The next morning we visited a village named 'Lamahi', where the most respected Hindi author of 20th century, Premchand, was born and lived. Premchand's literary works are narratives of social structures and their impacts on modern lives. One of his stories, 'Eidgah' was subject of analysis at a workshop organized by the Women's College of BHU where a discussion session on the merits of 'Eidgah', was held and a theatrical version of the story was staged for our group. BHU faculty members shared their research and insights on the social comments in Premchand's literature. Our local coordinators conducted walking tour of narrow lanes of Varanasi that offered new light on the traditions of India. We visited the homes of legendary people, such as, Bharatendu Harishchandra, the doyen of Hindi language, who lived here. Participants experienced the juxtaposition of ancient ways and modernity as they went on a boat trip over the Ganga River and witnessed the expression of faith as people bathed in the holy water and walked to temples for a 'Darshan' of Lord Shiva on the festival day of 'Mahashivaratri'. The visit to the ghats of Ganga river was also useful for the exploration of rituals related to perspectives on life and mortality. On way to Varanasi from Lamahi, our group visited homes of pot makers and their family members to learn their perspective of wellness and mindfulness and understand their concepts of contentment. We visited women handicraft workers at the Assi ghat where participants interacted with craftswomen about how they balanced their lies between household chores and making wooden dolls. Their observation truly reflected points of intersection of modernity and family responsibilities. We felt the fresh, unpolluted air blowing from the river to the ghats that rejuvenated the lives of people who bathed in the water of the Ganga for purity and freshness. The concept of purity and freshness is part of mental and physical wellbeing that is an important part of daily living in Indian traditional settings. The connection with nature constitutes life values that support wellbeing more than any medicine. No wonder Indians worship the river Ganga as their mother.

We visited Sarnath where thousands of years old Stupa narrate stories of ancient times when Emperor Ashoka, left his throne to become a Buddhist monk and wondered in search of happiness (sukh). In order to propagate the teachings of Buddha for helping the mankind, he built 84 thousand stupas, only a handful of those remained intact today- one of which is in Sarnath. The stupas reflect Buddha's first insights about human life, the ideas of impermanence and the Middle Path offering the right steps to avoid extremes. We witnessed the Ashoka pillar, the national emblem of India, safely preserved in the museum of Sarnath. Next morning we visited the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, established at the behest of the Dalai Lama after he made India his home, where we listened to Buddhist monks and learned the true sense of mindfulness and wellness as defined in the Tibetan traditions. Our participants had a chance to



With Rabindra Sangeet artists

practice meditation guided by experts of Tibetan Schools and discuss with them the mental and physical effects of meditation. Several outdoor learning sessions were arranged for participants to collect local artifacts and audio-visual materials around the archeological excavation sites, museums, monuments, etc. Our participants took advantage of Benares Hindu University Department of Hindi library (Hindi Bhavan).

VISITING SHANTI NIKETAN

Next stop-Kolkata. During our weeklong stay in Kolkata, we explored several so-cio-cultural factors which helped unpack mindful living. Unlike the Western so-ciety, which predominantly puts impetus on 'individualism', the Indian society is mostly 'collectivistic' in that it promotes interdependence and cooperation, with the family and the community forming the focal point of this social structure and identity formation. A closer examination of the



On way to Rishikesh

understanding and exercising of the two dynamic and multidimensional concepts - mindfulness and wellness - among various social groups in India deepened our understanding of the Indian society and its cultural traditions. We first visited Belur Math, where monks follow the path of happiness shown by Ramkrishna Paramhans and Swami Vivekananda. We understood the concept of wellness through mindfulness through programs developed by monks. Soon after that we were exploring the literary traditions of the Nobel Laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore at Thakur Bari, the birthplace of Rabindranath Tagore,. We were treated with cultural performances by the students of Tagore University that dealt with the issues of modern times. We learned Tagore's ideas of global vs. national harmony while interacting with the Hindi speaking migrant workers, the legendary hand rickshaw pullers and taxi drivers. Field trips to college street, India's largest and biggest open book market was organized for the group that reflected on the social and cultural life of the youth of Kolkata. We visited the campus of Shantiniketan, also known as 'Vishwa Bharati', that implements the vision of Tagore as there are no exams only learning through practice of art and culture. Students explored relationship between art and society and are groomed as adults with creative minds. The university organized varieties of cultural performances based on Rabindra Sangeet for us.

THE LAND OF GREAT ARTISTS

Our final destination was Madhubani, Bihar; where we experienced Art as an ex-expression of the understanding of the laws of the universe and human life. Here the artistic expressions by women were displayed through artistic paintings with vivid colors. From the walls of Madhubani Railway Station to people's homes, paintings are integral part of the lives of people. Art made a daily ritual for local

people. We were immersed in cultural activities at Madhubani and later at Rajnagar ruins that provided backdrops of local culture including 'celebration of joy' (khushi manaanaa). Madhubani art, also called Mithila art is recognized for its unique representation of local ideas of the balance between the universe and human life on a mythological and ecological level. The township of Madhubani is also homes of half a dozen women artistes who have been honored with India's greatest civilian award, the Padma awards, for their artistic expressions in paintings. These paintings adorn national organizations of Art, such as, the Indira Gandhi National Center of the Arts. We met Buwa Devi and Dulari Devi, both awardees of Padma Shri, at their homes. They conducted workshops for us. These local artists use local organic materials to create their paintings: plants to mix colors, cow dung to treat the paper and bamboo sticks to serve as brushes. The abundance of nature and visually presented creation mythological narratives is an essential feature of Madhubani paintings. Some of the most popular images are the sun, the moon, birds and animals, the sacred Tulsi plant and Banyan tree. The art is an expression of local understanding of how the universe was created and exists in balance and harmony. Mithila artists have made paintings on independence, peace, marriage, etc. Examining these paintings and discussing their topics with the local artists shed light on their understanding of wellness and mindfulness.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

On our return to USA, participants got busy transforming their experiences, gained during the Study Tour, into teaching materials. Working in teams they shared their feedback on location specific topics. They organized, reviewed and evaluated each other's work. All participant products were evaluated to ensure backward design, can-do statements and performance assessment descriptions as well as compliance with the linguistic functions, context and content, accuracy and text type. Final products reflect standards-driven, theme-based instructional materials integrating language, culture and content, transparent and systematic use of educational technological tools, curricular materials enabling differentiated instruction for heritage and non-heritage secondary and post-secondary language learners, project-based learning approaches and KWL model. Participants met online to present the material they developed, to make and receive peer review and feedback. They have documented and explored their experience of Indian traditions of wellness and mindfulness among rural, urban, immigrant, institutional or religious communities. The final materials prepared by our participants will be shared at various fora. Each participant will teach their final products to learners in their respective home institutions to test their quality and potential issues in the process of implementation. They will present final documents in their respective school district classrooms, in faculty meetings and brown-bag meetings. They will also familiarize local communities with their accomplishments and experiences during the program. These are the practical ways of teaching and learning a heritage language.

(Ashok Ojha, program director, 2023 YHS-NYU FULBRIGHT-HAYS GPA PROJECT, and president of Yuva Hindi Sansthan, a 401-C-3 non-profit institution may be reached at aojha2008@gmail.com)

Eid Al-Adha: Feast of the sacrifice

EID -UL-ADHA WILL BE CELEBRATED IN THE US THIS YEAR FROM JUNE 16 TO JUNE 17. EID AL-ADHA OR THE FEAST OF SACRIFICE IS THE SECOND OF THE TWO MAIN HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED IN ISLAM. IN ISLAMIC TRADITION, IT HONORS THE WILLINGNESS OF ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE HIS SON ISHMAEL AS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND. ISHMAEL IS REFERRED TO WITH THE HONORIFIC TITLE 'SACRIFICE OF GOD'.

Eid Al-Adha, or the “Feast of Sacrifice”, is right around the corner and Muslims around the globe are preparing for one of Islam’s most significant festivals.

It is the second major festival for Muslims after Eid Al-Fitr, which is celebrated at the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting.

It takes place between the 10th and 13th day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah, as Hajj – the sacred pilgrimage that is the fifth and final pillar of Islam – finishes in Saudi Arabia.

Dhul Hijjah, the 12th and last month of the Muslim lunar calendar, is itself considered one of the holiest in the Islamic year and Muslims often fast on its first nine days.

Eid Al-Adha celebrations begin in most countries this year on Wednesday and a day later in some places such as Pakistan and India.

Origins of Eid Al-Adha

Islamic narrative has it that Prophet Ibrahim, or Abraham, the forefather of the monotheistic religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism, received through his dreams a commandment from God to sacrifice his son Ismail, or Ishmael.

Ibrahim and Ismail submitted to the will of God and were ready for the sacrifice as an act of faith and obedience.

The devil – known as “Iblis” in Islam – tried to dissuade Ibrahim from following the order and the Prophet threw stones at him to chase him away.

This act is commemorated by Muslims as a rite of Hajj, where they cast pebbles at symbolic pillars in the city of Mina.

Seeing Ibrahim and Ismail’s obedience, God sent down a lamb from the heavens for the sacrifice, according to Islamic tradition.

A similar version of the story is also mentioned in Christianity and Judaism.

Muslims around the world celebrate Eid Al-Adha to honour the devotion of Ibrahim and Ismail.

The symbolic sacrifice of livestock is part of the rituals associated with the festival, but is not an obligation in Islam, rather an act that is encouraged.

Significance of Eid Al-Adha

Eid Al-Adha, known as “Kurban Bayrami” in Turkish, has historically been a festival of giving.

There is heavy emphasis on charity in Islam, with Zakat, the Muslim practice of almsgiving, being one of the religion’s five pillars.

Eid Al-Adha gives Muslims another opportunity for charity.

The meat from any sacrificed animal is shared with the poor, along with family



members and friends.

Individuals can sacrifice a sheep, goat or lamb on their own, while a cow or camel can be shared by seven people.

There are also strict rules when it comes to the animals, as it is forbidden to sacrifice sick, disabled or wounded animals.

Islam also requires that the slaughter be minimally painful for the animal.

Many Muslims also opt to pay the value of an animal to charities that distribute meat to people around the world, particularly in areas known to be in greater need.

Connection with Hajj

Eid Al-Adha and Hajj are also deeply intertwined.

The millions of Muslims performing the pilgrimage sacrifice an animal on the third day of Hajj.

After the sacrifice, they have their hair trimmed or head shaved and change out of the pilgrim’s “ihram”, the clothes worn specifically for Hajj to symbolise a state of purity and renunciation of materialism, and to nullify differences of wealth and status.

Over the following days, they perform the “tawaf,” when pilgrims circle the Kaaba, which Muslims consider the house of God built by Prophet Ibrahim

and Ismail.

They also redo the ritual known as “sai,” walking or running seven times between the Safa and Marwa hills, before going back to stone the three pillars that represent the devil.

Finally, they do a farewell tawaf to complete their Hajj, before leaving Makkah for their homelands.

THE RITE OF THE ISLAMIC PILGRIMAGE

Muhammad established the definitive rite of Islamic pilgrimage the same year he died, 11 AH (632 CE), setting the dates of the pilgrimage as the 8th to the 13th of the lunar month of dhu al-hijja, one of the four sacred months of Islam. Bear in mind that dates on the Islamic calendar shift ten to eleven days backwards each year in relation to the Gregorian calendar.

There are two kinds of pilgrimage: the major, obligatory pilgrimage (hajj) and the lesser, voluntary pilgrimage (umra). The latter is an abbreviated form that only takes into account the initial rites at Mecca and can be carried out at any point in the year. Umra is not a substitute for hajj, but they can be combined, which means that there are three ways to perform the obligatory pilgrimage.

The first rite on the first day of the obligatory pilgrimage (yawm at-tarwiya)

consists of entering into the state of ihram, which involves expressing a sincere intention (niyyah) and committing to a series of restrictions.

Those who intend to complete a combined pilgrimage begin an introductory umra with the following rites: circling the Ka’ba (tawaf al-qudum) seven times, praying at Abraham’s maqam and running (sa’ee) seven times between the nearby hills of Safa and Marwa. The umra concludes with the rite of men completely shaving (halq) their heads and women trimming the tips of their hair.

The rite of running between the hills of Safa and Marwa is performed in honour of Hagar, Abraham’s wife, and their son Ishmael when they were running in search of water. It was then that, according to tradition, God caused the zamzam well to gush forth before Ishmael’s feet. The rite of running complements the rite of circumambulation. In both cases, we find three geometric elements playing the same symbolic role: central or starting point, radius of movement, and circular or arrival point.

This is when the great pilgrimage truly begins. The pilgrims declare that they are in a state of ihram and travel to Mina, an expanse with tents located

twenty kilometres from Mecca, where they collect water and spend the night.

On the second day (yawm Arafat), they visit Mount Arafat, fifteen kilometres from Mina. It was on this hill that Muhammad received the confirmation of the excellence of Islam. After the sun goes down, the pilgrims travel nine more kilometres to Muzdalifah, where they spend the night.

On the third day (yawm an-nahr), the pilgrims collect pebbles from the ground in Muzdalifah and in the early morning return to Mina, where they perform the following rites: stoning (rami) of three stone pillars surrounded by a short wall (jamra), sacrificing or offering a lamb (qurban or udhiya), another shaving of the head, and returning to Mecca to again circle the Ka'ba seven times (tawaf al-ifadah) and run seven times between Safa and Marwa.

Finally, the pilgrims come to the final three days of the pilgrimage (ayyam at-tashreeq), during which the sacrificed meat was traditionally dried. On the fourth and fifth day they return to Mina to complete two more days of stoning the pillars, and those who have not yet performed the tawaf al-ifadah have the opportunity to do so. On the sixth and final day, they finally leave Mina and travel to Mecca to perform the seven farewell rotations around the Ka'ba (tawaf al-wada).

Traditionally, the pilgrimage concludes with a visit to the Prophet's tomb in Medina, approximately 450 km north of Mecca.

Religious Importance of Eid al-Adha

The story of Eid al-Adha is rooted in the Quran. It tells of Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as an act of devotion to Allah. At the last moment, Allah provided a ram to be sacrificed instead. This story highlights the importance of obedience and faith in Islam.

Eid al-Adha also coincides with the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims who can afford to do so are required to perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime. The pilgrimage includes rituals that commemorate the trials of Prophet Ibrahim and his family.

Cultural Practices

Eid al-Adha is celebrated with various traditions and customs that vary by region. Here are some common practices:

- **Special Prayers:** The day begins with a special prayer called Salat al-Eid, performed in congregation.
- **Sacrificial Offering:** Muslims perform Qurbani, the ritual sacrifice of an animal, usually a goat, sheep, or cow.
- **Feasting:** Families gather to enjoy a festive meal, often including the meat from the sacrificed animal.
- **Charity:** A significant portion of the meat is distributed to the less fortunate, emphasizing the spirit of sharing and community.

These practices reflect the deep cultural and religious significance of Eid al-Adha, bringing families and communities together in celebration and



devotion.

Preparations for Eid al-Adha

Spiritual Preparations

Many Muslims spend time in prayer and reflection, especially on the day of Arafat, which precedes Eid al-Adha. Fasting on this day is highly recommended.

Practical Preparations

Preparing for Eid involves organizing the sacrificial animal, planning the feast, and decorating homes to welcome guests.

The Day of Eid al-Adha

Morning Prayers

The day starts with Salat al-Eid, a special prayer held in mosques and open grounds. This prayer brings the community together in a display of unity and faith.

The Sacrifice

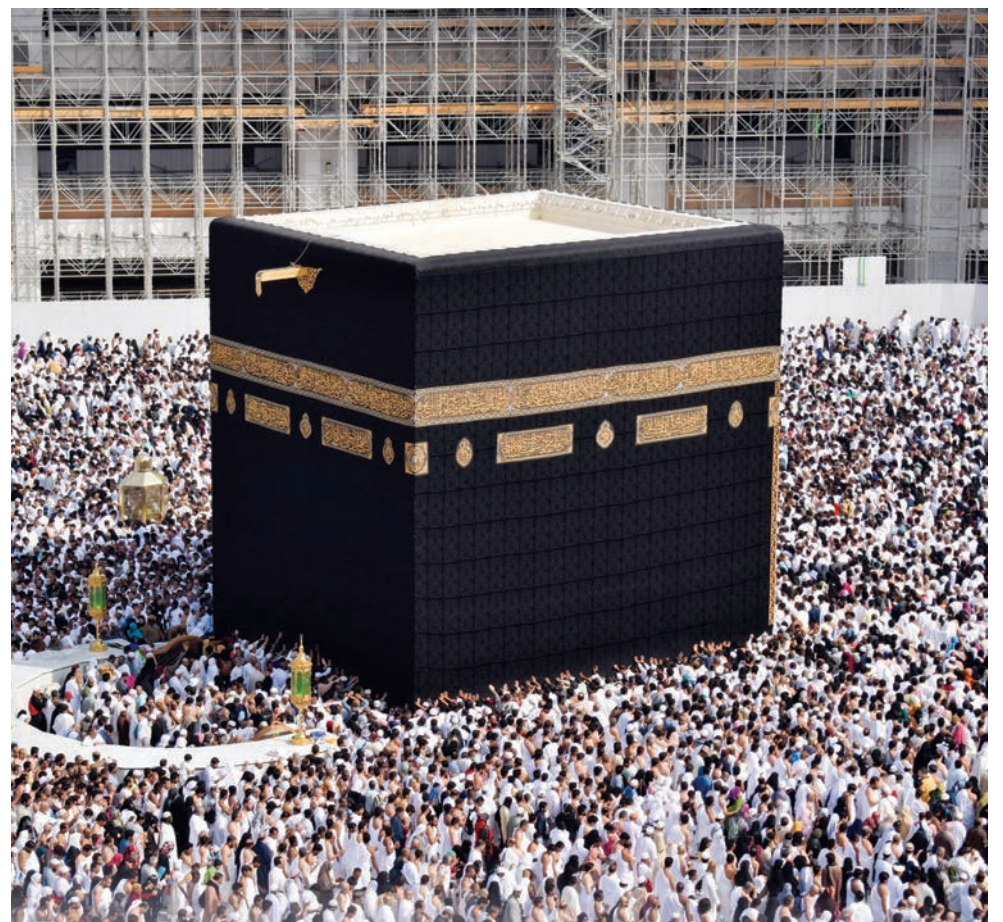
The ritual of Qurbani is central to Eid al-Adha. After the prayer, Muslims who can afford to do so perform the sacrifice. The meat is divided into three parts: one for the family, one for friends and relatives, and one for the needy.

Eid al-Adha Festivities

Eid al-Adha is a time for joyous celebrations with family and friends. Here are some common activities:

- **Feasting:** Families prepare special dishes, often including meat from the sacrificial animal.
- **Visiting Loved Ones:** It is a tradition to visit family and friends, exchanging gifts and greetings.
- **Community Events:** Many communities organize public celebrations, including fairs and cultural performances.

These activities strengthen bonds among loved ones and create lasting memories.



How is Hajj performed?

Muslim pilgrims from all over the world arrive in Mecca in a purified state of ihram and set their intention to perform Hajj.

The state of ihram is a symbol of humility and spiritual focus and serves to unify pilgrims from different backgrounds.

For men, this means being dressed in seamless white cloth only, with one piece wrapped around the waist and another draped over the left shoulder, with the right shoulder bare at all times.

Women can wear any plain clothing of their choice but should observe the rules of hijab and cannot cover their faces.

The Hajj re-enacts the Prophet

Muhammad's farewell pilgrimage in 632 AD, in which he traced the footsteps of the prophets Abraham and Ismail through the desert.

Where do the pilgrims come from?

In 2023, some 1.85 million Muslims performed the annual pilgrimage. Nearly 90 percent (1.66 million) of pilgrims came from abroad, with the remaining 184,000 living in Saudi Arabia.

Asian countries contributed 1.05 million pilgrims, making up 57 percent of the total, followed by Arab countries (346,000) and African countries (222,000).

Male pilgrims numbered 969,694 (52.6 percent), while females were 875,351 (47.4 percent).

TRIBECA CELEBRATES MILESTONE BIRTHDAY OF CO-FOUNDER DE NIRO OVER 3-DAY WEEKEND



Robert De Niro faces (in some of his films) Credit : tribecafilm.com

BY MABEL PAIS

DE NIRO CON is a celebration of 80 years of Robert De Niro. Coinciding with the 2024 Tribeca Festival, this three-day tribute takes place at Spring Studios in New York City from June 14-16. De?Niro Con is powered by Webex Events, allowing fans to download an exclusive app to make the most of their Con experience.

"I can't think of a better way to celebrate 80 years of Robert De Niro, my dear friend and co-conspirator for the past 35 years, than by throwing a big bash for his fellow New Yorkers," said Tribeca co-founder and CEO Jane Rosenthal. "From conversations with legends like Martin Scorsese, Quentin Tarantino, and David O. Russell to fan experiences, it is going to be a truly historic weekend as we pay tribute to a great talent."

DE NIRO CON SCREENINGS & TALKS

A Bronx Tale

The Original One Man Show - World Premiere

Movie introduction: Chazz Palminteri

Date: Thursday, June 13

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Jackie Brown

After the movie: A conversation with Quentin Tarantino and Robert De Niro.

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: SVA Theatre

Analyze This

After the movie: A conversation with Billy Crystal and Robert De Niro, moderated by Whoopi Goldberg.

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

The Godfather Part II

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: AMC 19th St. E 6th

Silver Linings Playbook

After the movie: A conversation with David O. Russell

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Mean Streets - 50th Anniversary

After the movie: Martin Scorsese and Robert De?Niro in conversation with Nas.

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Beacon Theatre

New York, New York

Movie introduction: Kathrine Narducci

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Raging Bull



De Niro with Jr

Credit : tribecafilm.com

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: AMC 19th St. E 6th

The Good Shepherd

Movie introduction: John Turturro

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Robert DeNiro in Conversation with JR. Robert DeNiro and JR will join in conversation on art, family, and film. These iconoclasts will discuss their previous collaborations.

Date: 11:00 AM

Time: Sunday, June 16

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Goodfellas

(Photo T 3 here)

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

The Deer Hunter

Movie introduction: Christopher Walken

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 4:30 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

Taxi Driver

After the movie: A special recorded conversation from the 2016 Tribeca Festival celebration of the film's 40th Anniversary with Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster, Cybill Shepherd, Michael Phillips, and Paul Schrader, moderated by Kent Jones.

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: AMC 19th St. E 6th

Meet the Parents

Movie introduction: Ahmed Ahmed

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 8:30 PM

Location: The Indeed Theater at Spring Studios

DE NIRO IS AN ICON: AN EXHIBIT & IMMERSIVE FILM

Date: June 6-16

Location: Tribeca Festival Hub at Spring Studios

De Niro, New York - World Premiere

Date: June 6-16

Location: Tribeca Festival Hub at Spring Studios

DE NIRO CON LOUNGE PANELS

Panelists: Jay Rinsky, Luke Neher, and Sam Gill.

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 1:00 PM



De Niro in 'Goodfellas'

Credit : tribecafilm.com

Location: Spring Studios, The Indeed Rising Voices Lounge

Drew Nieporent: Building Restaurants with De Niro

Panelist: Drew Nieporent

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, AT&T Untold Stories Lounge

Dressing De Niro

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, The Indeed Rising Voices Lounge

The Apalachin Meeting: A Gathering for Fans

Influencer host: @robertdenirodaily

Meeting #1

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, The Indeed Rising Voices Lounge

Daft Punk & Leiji Matsumoto's Interstella 5555:

The 5 story of the 5ecret 5tar 5ystem (4K Remaster), (France, Japan).

Date: Friday, June 14

Time: 8:00 PM

Location: BMCC

Meeting #2

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Spring Studios, AT&T Untold Stories Lounge

The Missing Movies of Robert De Niro

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, AT&T Untold Stories Lounge

De Niro Fan Trivia

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, AT&T Untold Stories Lounge

Book Signing With Author Jay Glennie

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, The Indeed Rising Voices Lounge

Bobby's World

Date: Sunday, June 16

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Spring Studios, AT&T Untold Stories Lounge

UPDATES & TICKETS

For the full De?Niro Con lineup, updates, and to purchase tickets and passes, visit tribecafilm.com/denirocon.

Follow @Tribeca and #DeNiroCon on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn,

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

'EVENING OF ROSES' HONORS PIONEER OF INTERFAITH BRIDGE-BUILDING

BY MABEL PAIS



Sr. Rose Thering Credit: Courtesy shu.edu

"I know the power of teachers. It is my deepest wish that teachers in our public and parochial schools, with scholarship assistance, will be able to enroll in Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University to stem the tide of ignorance in our schools and in society." - Sister Rose Thering, O.P., Ph.D.

In honor of Sr. Rose Thering, Catholic nun-pioneer of promoting understanding and tolerance of Jewish-Christian faiths, Seton Hall University celebrates the 30th anniversary of the fundraising event in memory of her. The Annual Gala 'Evening of Roses' takes place on June 18, 2024 at 6 pm at the Seton Hall University's Bethany Hall, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey 07079.

HONOREES

This year, Seton Hall University

honors

Daniel Mendelsohn, author of the international bestseller 'The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million,' with the Sister Rose Thering Fund Award in the Humanities and Holocaust Literature;

Cantor Perry Fine of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, NJ for his work in interfaith outreach with the inaugural Sister Rose Thering Fund Clergy Award, and

Twenty Sister Rose Thering Fund Founding Supporters, women and men who worked closely and personally with Sister Rose to establish Seton Hall's Fund. Get the complete list at events.shu.edu/event/33510-evening-of-roses-gala-30th-anniversary



Sr. Rose with Theodore Bikel (past honoree). Credit: Courtesy shu.edu

'The Evening of Roses' is the major fundraising vehicle for the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Jewish-Christian Studies. Its aim is to promote the Fund's work by honoring outstanding scholars in the field of Jewish-Christian relations and conferring honorary Doctor of Humane Letters as well as Humanitarian

of the Year awards upon individuals who have demonstrated outstanding compassion, altruism, and courage in various endeavors. In past years, honorary degrees have been bestowed upon Professor Elie Wiesel, Cynthia Ozick, Sister Rose Thering, Judith H. Banki and Sir Martin Gilbert, Nechama Tec, Theodore Bikel and Dr. Eugene Fisher.

Each 'Evening of Roses' event has attracted between 300-500 attendees whose participation and financial support have been rewarded by an outstanding program followed by a reception. Honored guests offer to sign copies of their most recent publications or serenade all with a song, such as Seton Hall's friend Theodore Bikel has done.

SISTER ROSE THERING

"Children, our young people, are our future. A major challenge of our times is to face resolutely the responsibility to future generations."

Sister Rose Thering (1920-2006), a nun of the Dominican Order, was a lifelong activist who fought anti-Semitism within the Catholic Church.

Sister Rose Thering, in her doctoral research (1957-1961), did the pioneer investigation/examination of the most widely used Catholic religion teaching materials to see how we taught about other faith, ethnic, and racial groups. It was a self-study that dealt primarily with our teachings about Jews and Judaism.

A basic summary was taken to Vatican II (the Second Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church) during the deliberations before the issuance of the

Vatican document *Nostra Aetate*: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions in 1965. The document caused considerable debate at Vatican II but was finally passed on the last day of deliberations. The 15 Latin lines of text have had a deep and lasting effect on how Jews are viewed by the Catholic Church and remain strongly fixed in church teachings to this day.

Sister Rose was very active in building bridges between Jews and Christians. When asked why she did this, her immediate response was: "Because an understanding and an appreciation of Jews and Judaism and the State of Israel helps me personally. I hope and pray to become a better person, a better Christian."

'Sister Rose's Passion,' a 39-minute documentary film on her life, won an award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2004 and was nominated for an Academy Award in 2005.

Sr. Rose spent more than 40 years at Seton Hall University - teaching, speaking, developing programs, shepherding groups of religious and lay people to the Holy Land where she traveled more than 54 times.

Sister Rose Thering passed away at her convent, The Siena Center of the Racine Dominicans in Wisconsin, on May 6, 2006.

The Sister Rose Endowment for Holocaust and Jewish-Christian Studies honors her for her belief in the power of teachers to impart knowledge and understanding to young people.

Learn more at shu.edu/sister-rose and shu.edu/sister-rose/evening-of-roses

NJPAC COMMEMORATES JUNETEENTH



HBCU graduates Credit: njpac.org

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC - njpac.org) hosts an in-person Standing in Solidarity event on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 6PM in honor of the Juneteenth holiday. This program marks the conclusion of the 'Standing in Solidarity' season, a series of Social Justice conversations often paired with a 'PSEG True Diversity Film Series' screening.

Juneteenth, or Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday in the United States. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the official ending of slavery in the United States.

"NJPAC is committed to bringing our community together to talk about the issues that are genuinely important to all of us," says NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber. "Both as virtual gatherings and, now, as really meaningful in-person events, the Arts Center's 'Standing in Solidarity' conversations have been a unique opportunity for so many of us to learn, listen

deeply and find common ground."

The documentary 'Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities' (Firelight Films, 2018) is the 'PSEG True Diversity Film' and will be screened in NJPAC's Chase Room at 6PM. Following the screening, a panel of prominent leaders - all graduates of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) - will discuss the cultural, economic and social impact of HBCUs.

PANELISTS

The panel will be moderated by Calvin Ledford Jr., president of the PSEG Foundation and director of PSEG Corporate Social Responsibility.

"In the heart of our nation's story lies the profound legacy of historically Black colleges and universities. HBCUs exemplify hope, progress and opportunity," says Ledford. "As a proud alum of Hampton University, I am honored to moderate a panel discussion alongside fellow HBCU graduates. I look forward to exploring the impactful legacy of these institutions on American history, culture and identity. Together, let us celebrate Juneteenth and embrace the pivotal role HBCUs play in shaping generations and our nation."

Members of the panel include Brielle Lewis, director of Sponsorship Strategy & Activation at Prudential Financial, Dr. Karma Brown Warren, medical leader

and phlebologist at Metro Vein Centers, Inc., and Mayor of the City of Newark, The Honorable Ras J. Baraka.

"It is in relationships with both people and ideas that we define ourselves, and from there hone our dreams, and shape our world. That is why the educational, social and cultural dynamics of higher education institutions, and in particular, HBCUs, are so critical to America's sound and solid foundation in peace and prosperity," says Mayor Baraka. "Just as Juneteenth broke the last chain in the bond of slavery, HBCUs release the free expression of African American students as they claim their identities and forge their path forward."

Following the panel conversation, the Juneteenth festivities will move to the Hahne Building (54 Halsey St.) for an afterparty, starting at 8:45PM, hosted by Heritage Hall. Heritage Hall is the site of the pop-up photography exhibit "HBCU Experience" produced by students from MENTOR Newark. The interactive exhibit is designed to share the culture of the schools and show off HBCU pride.

RSVP : To RSVP and for more information visit njpac.org/event/celebrating-historically-black-colleges-and-universities-pseg-true-diversity-film-series.

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

ATLANTIC CITY CARRIES THE N2S TORCH FROM ASBURY PARK



Keysha Cole



B52s

Credit for all : Courtesy NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

Dozens of much-loved Atlantic City artists will carry the torch from the 2024 Asbury Park Festival by stepping into the spotlight in Atlantic City over two days at the 'Showcase Stage and Artistic Village,' a new feature of the 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival.'

The 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival' presents events in Atlantic City June 17-June 23, including performances by headlining artists the B-52's, Barenaked Ladies, Justin Silva, Eric Roberson and Avery Sunshine and Prince Royce and Wisin. The festival's full lineup can be found at NorthtoShore.com.

THE SHOWCASE STAGE

From 11 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, June 22, and 11 AM to 5 PM on Sunday, June 23, the 'Showcase Stage' will offer a continuous series of FREE performances by some of the city's most-loved singer-songwriters, DJs, comedians, spoken word poets, a Jazz band, pop punk bands and more.

This presentation, featuring a cohort of local artists on one stage adjacent to major festival venues, is a new feature of 'Prudential presents North to Shore,' the three-week, three-city summer festival of arts and ideas produced by NJPAC, now in its second annual edition.

"The 'Showcase Stage' is our way of spotlighting the talent of Atlantic City's remarkable creatives while at the same time curating a space where audience members who come out for a headliner show will have a wonderful way to extend their visit and get a genuine sense of the city's cultural offerings all in one, easy-to-reach spot," says John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC.

THE ARTIST VILLAGE

Performances are just the start of what's on offer. The 'Showcase Stage' will be the centerpiece of the Artist Village at

the Orange Loop Festival Grounds, effectively a festival-within-a-festival within easy walking distance of the Atlantic City boardwalk that will allow visitors to 'Prudential presents North to Shore' to hear local Atlantic City and Atlantic County artists perform, and simultaneously take in live demonstrations by and shop the wares of local artisans including photographers, wood carvers and painters.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Hands-on fun activities for children, including a painting wall (that children can decorate with paint on brushes, loaded into water guns, or simply on their hands) and a decorate-your-own-cupcake station, will also be offered. In the event of inclement weather, the festival grounds will be tented to allow the event to continue.

GRANT BENEFICIARIES

The majority of the local artists and groups appearing on the 'Showcase Stage' are Prudential presents North to Shore Official Selections - performers who applied to perform on the festival and chosen to take part in the event by the festival's committee of Atlantic City arts professionals and community leaders. Each was given a grant to enable them to appear at the festival.

Overall, this season the Prudential presents North to Shore Festival granted \$355,600 to local artists and organizations in its three host cities: Asbury Park, Atlantic City and Newark.

"We really wanted to diversify the lineup, to make sure there was something there for everyone. We wanted to be sure there was rock, jazz, pop, punk, blues, hip hop. There will be kid performers, and there will be Angela Burton, who's a legend in this city. We really curated this for our community members," says Jon Henderson, founder and CEO of Good Time Tricycle Productions, an Atlantic

City event production company that is producing the Showcase Stage event.

'Official Selection' artists who will be featured at the 'Showcase Stage' include:

Atlantic City actress and comedian Michelle Tomko

Daille Kettrell and Shianne Ladale, better known as inspirational funk-soul duo Open4Business

High-energy R&B and jazz group The Cason Express Show Band

The Children's Choir of Southern New Jersey, presented by Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation

R&B FUSION SINGER LEM TURNER

Teacher and spoken word poet Paige Washington

Local '70s, '80s and '90s cover band Village Bridge

Soul and R&B singer Angela Burton

These 'Official Selection' performers will be joined by a lineup of notable South Jersey performers including dance students from nearby Stockton University, rising pop punk band Jersey Calling, up-and-coming singer-songwriter Jake Thistle, Jersey Shore alt-rockers The Break Plans and Mara Justine, the recent 'The Voice' contestant from Galloway Township (who also did well in previous years on talent shows including American Idol and America's Got Talent).

Performances will be interspersed with sets by local turntablists including DJ Aiden Scott, DJ Patrice McBride, DJ Rashaun and DJ Vito G.

On Sunday June 23 only, visitors can be wowed by New Jersey's immersive WOW Experience mobile activation inside the festival grounds and near the 'Showcase Stage'.

VENDORS & ARTISANS

Participating vendors and artisans in the 'Artist Village' include:

Jay's Crab Shack - Seafood

Il Porcelino - Italian Market
Coley Cakes - DIY cupcakes
Twisted Lemonade - Lemonade
Coffee Goddess - Coffee
East Coast Fairy Hair - Fairy hair
Heather Hires Art - Face & Body Paint
Dunes Art Gallery - Brigantine Art Studio
EXULT LIFE LLC - Handmade Jewelry + Art
DAVE MASS - Artist / Barber
Chloe Henderson - Visual Artist
Bucksco Barrels - Barrel tables & art
HG Workshops - DIY art studio
Valerie Feo - Visual Artist
Aritimi Design Studio - 3D printed Art + Plants
A. Sullivan Artistry - Visual Artist
Tuft Broad - Handmade Rugs
The Escape Plans - Atlantic City Marketing & Events

In the event of inclement weather, the festival grounds will be tented to allow the fun to continue.

TICKETS

Tickets for the 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival' are available at NorthtoShore.com. Get Festival updates most quickly on social media.

Follow North to Shore on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and TikTok.

The Prudential presents North to Shore Festival

For the latest updates and new concert listings, visit NorthtoShore.com.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at NJPAC.org.

(Stay tuned for information on the next N2S Festival location: Newark).

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



Rantik Parikh of Sur Se Entertainment
Jasbir JAY Singh & Bhavna Sharma of Rave Entertainment
Present



Ek Spaam

MUKESH

Ke naam...



The Indian Eye
NEWSWEEKLY



SAMANVITHA SHARMA

MUKHTAR SHAH



Celebrating 101st Birthday Anniversary of
Legendary MUKESH

For Tickets
Go to
Sulekha.com
or scan the QR



NEW YORK

21ST JUNE 2024

The door
opens at 6
The show
Starts at 7

Venue : Community Center, 143 09 Holly Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355

JITENDER &
REKHA CHICHARA

Ticket price : \$39, \$49, \$59, \$79, \$150, VIP, Elite

JAY SINGH

RANTIK PARIKH

BHAVNA SHARMA

JYOTI GUPTA

+1 516 857 5297

+1 732 803 1119

+1 516 776 0193

+1 516 984 5220

Sulekha.com
or scan the QR



NEW JERSEY

22ND JUNE 2024

Venue : Old Bridge High School, 4209 Route, 516 Old Bridge, NJ 08857

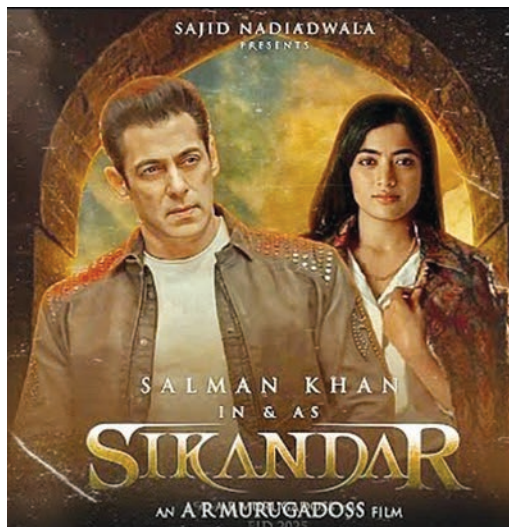
For Sponsorship and Tickets call :

Rantik Parikh : 732 803 1119



Ticket price : \$39, \$49, \$59, \$79, \$150, VIP, Elite





Salman, Rashmika to begin shooting for 'Sikandar' on June 18

Salman Khan's upcoming film 'Sikandar,' co-starring Rashmika Mandanna, will begin shooting on June 18 in Mumbai. The movie is directed by A R Murugadoss.

It's celebratory news that Salman Khan's 'Sikandar' is set to kick-start shooting in Mumbai. The first shooting schedule will commence with a spectacular action scene, 33,000 feet above sea level, aboard an aircraft featuring the 'Tiger' actor.

Ever since the film was announced, it has captivated audiences, generating immense buzz and anticipation. As 'Sikandar' gears up for its first schedule, the excitement continues to build.

The film is bankrolled by Sajid Nadiadwala. Earlier, Sajid and Salman have collaborated on various films like 'Kick', 'Har Dil Jo Pyar Karega', 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi', and 'Jaan-E-Mann' among others. The film is set to hit the screens on Eid 2025.

Karisma stuns on magazine cover ahead of 50th birthday, fans call her 'timeless beauty'

Karisma Kapoor is still one of the most fashionable actors in Bollywood, and her latest photoshoot is proof. Karisma, 49, features on the cover of Grazia magazine's June issue and rocks a rather different style of outfits than what she is known for. On the cover, she is seen wearing a pastel blue top with a beige trench coat and matching pleated pants. Her hair gives off a easy breezy vibe and her make up is mostly minimal with red lips and lot of blush with bare eyes. More pictures show her in similar easy outfits such as a blue tank top, a blue co-ord shirt and shorts sets, some shiny leather loafers and an overall relaxed aesthetic. Fans of the actor loved her new look. Fashion designer-actor Masaba Gupta wrote, "She's the chicest." A person called her "Timeless beauty!" Karisma celebrates her 50th birthday on June 25 this year. Another fan wrote, "Holy cow, this lady doesn't seem to age at all. I had a crush on her from Dil Toh Pagal Hai and I still have a crush on her to this day." Another comment read, "One of the finest actress in Bollywood." In the accompanying interview to the magazine, Karisma talked about what inspires her now. "I think today it's fun that I get to do a job where I can dress for myself – whether it's events or endorsements – I can be myself. Yes, we're working but I can portray myself the way I am and how I want to be. And maybe that can be inspirational to others as well. One compliment I really take well is that a lot of people like my fashion sense and it's not just for the movies I did. I'm just being myself. I dress for myself. I don't follow trends and brands and things," she said.



Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal to get married on June 23

Film actor Sonakshi Sinha will reportedly get married to her longtime partner, actor Zaheer Iqbal, later this month.

News of the wedding comes just a month after the premiere of Netflix series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', in which Sinha played the dual role of Rehaana and Fareedan.

While there is no official confirmation about the ceremony, sources close to the Sinha's family said "the reports are true".

According to insiders, the wedding will be an intimate affair attended by family and close friends at a fine-dining restaurant in Mumbai on June 23.

Sinha and Iqbal, who have been dating for a while, co-starred in the 2022 comedy drama 'Double XL'.

The two are yet to publicly confirm their relationship, but their Instagram feed is filled with photos of each other. They are often spotted attending events and social gatherings together.



Kartik Aaryan addresses being notorious for his dating life

Kartik Aaryan is busy with promotions for his next film Chandu Champion. In a new interview for Raj Shamani's YouTube channel, the actor addressed the attention on his dating life, and admitted that he is currently single. Kartik has been linked to several actors in the industry, including Sara Ali Khan, Ananya Panday and Janhvi Kapoor.



When Kartik was quizzed about his 'notorious' dating rumors, the actor said, "Mera personal life at one point pe kaafi talked about ho gaya tha uss moment pe. Tab se aaj tak wahi chal raha hai. Main toh privately bhi date nahi kar raha hu. Abhi toh dara dara ghum raha hoon shayad (My personal life was talked about a lot at one point of time. Till now, it has been the same thing. I am not even dating privately. Just roaming around scared, I guess)." He also added how dating is different in his position because the number of people he meets have become limited. "You meet very few people after getting famous. Because of your work, you meet a very limited number of people. Your day goes in that zone. It becomes like that. You might earn a lot, and become famous, but one thing is for sure that you can't buy love.... I'm not dating anyone. I'm even called romantic hero, but I have been unlucky in love."



Kevin Spacey breaks down over mounting financial woes

Kevin Spacey was seen breaking down in tears while talking about having to sell his Baltimore home because he “can’t pay the bills” that have stacked up. In a recent interview with British broadcaster Piers Morgan, Spacey claimed that he has been facing financial woes because of the several legal bills for the criminal charges have have piled up, stepping from sexual assault allegations against him.

“This week where I have been living in Baltimore is being foreclosed on, my house is being sold at auction,” an emotional Spacey said during the interview. “So I have to go back to Baltimore and put all my things in storage. I’m not quite sure where I’m going to live now. I’ve been in Baltimore since we started shooting ‘House of Cards’ there.” When Morgan asked him why his home was being foreclosed, Spacey said, “Because I can’t pay the bills that I owe.” On being asked if he was facing bankruptcy, Spacey said that although he had come close, he managed to “dodge” it a few times. When Morgan asked him how much money he had now, Spacey replied, “None.”

Alec Baldwin announces family reality show

Alec Baldwin and his wife Hilaria will star in a new reality series about their family life. The show, titled ‘The Baldwins,’ is set to release in 2025. Baldwin announced the TLC reality show, which will feature their life with seven children under the age of 10.

In a video shared on Instagram, Baldwin said the show will capture the ups and downs of their family life. The couple joked about more pregnancies but confirmed they are done having kids. Sharing the clip, they wrote, “We’ve got an exciting announcement to share! Coming in 2025... (sic).” Baldwin and Hilaria married in July 2012 and had their first child in August 2013. Baldwin was previously married to actor Kim Basinger, with whom he has a daughter, Ireland. This announcement comes as Baldwin prepares for trial for involuntary manslaughter related to the 2021 fatal shooting on the set of the film ‘Rust.’ The trial is set for July in Santa Fe, and Baldwin has pleaded not guilty.

‘Ant-Man and the Wasp’ star Evangeline Lilly announces retirement from acting

Marvel star Evangeline Lilly has announced her retirement from acting. In an Instagram post on Monday, June 3, the 44-year-‘Lost’ actor expressed her joy and contentment, stating she is ready to live out her vision.

She shared a 20-year-old video of herself and wrote, ‘I am so filled with joy and contentment today as I live out my vision. Praise God, I feel so grateful for my blessings. Stepping away from what seems like the obvious choice (wealth and fame) can feel scary at times, but stepping into your dharma replaces the fear with fulfillment. I might return to Hollywood one day, but, for now, this is where I belong. A new season has arrived, and I AM READY...and I AM HAPPY (sic).’

Lilly mentioned she might return to Hollywood one day but, for now, she feels this is where she belongs. The video shows a younger Lilly discussing her dreams of becoming a retired actress with a family and two children.

She also shared her wish to become a writer and engage in humanitarian work.

Lilly is best known for her role as Kate Austen in the ‘Lost’ series. She has a daughter and a son with her longtime partner Norman Kali. Lilly starred as Hope van Dyne in Marvel’s ‘Ant-Man’ and reprised her role in ‘Ant-Man and the Wasp’, and ‘Avengers: Endgame’.

Recently, she appeared in ‘Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania’. She also starred in ‘Smallville’, ‘Real Steel’, and two films in the ‘Hobbit’ franchise.



Naomi Watts, Billy Crudup marry once again

A year after their courthouse wedding, Hollywood actors Naomi Watts and Billy Crudup had a very special wedding anniversary celebration, and it was by exchanging vows once again in a grand way in Mexico.

According to People magazine, Naomi on Saturday got married to Billy in front of family and friends during a second wedding ceremony in Mexico. Earlier, they said ‘I do’ in a courthouse in New York in June 2023.

The news was confirmed by Naomi’s photographer brother, Ben Watts, who shared moments from the lavish wedding on his Instagram. He shared a video which showed the actor in an elevator wearing a white gown and holding a bouquet of white flowers, while Billy is seen standing behind her wearing a dark suit.

For the second wedding, Naomi, 55, kept it simple in a white, sleeveless gown with her hair pinned back. Meanwhile, Billy, 55, opted for a timeless vibe in a black tuxedo.

Kai, whom Naomi shares with ex Liev Schreiber, along with son Sasha, 16, and the actor’s niece Ruby appeared to serve as bridesmaids. They are wearing strapless nude gowns. The whole group is seen smiling and waving at the camera as the elevator doors close, going on to reveal that Ben is filming in the reflection of the doors.

“Off they go Naomi x Billy x family #benwatts #scrapbooking,” Ben wrote alongside the video, which was posted with Frank Sinatra’s song, Love and Marriage.

Naomi’s brother shared a few more details from the special event on his Instagram Stories. In one photo, he posed in bathing shorts beside his sister, writing, “Getting ready for



tonight,” and tagging Naomi.

The next clip showed his daughter Ruby getting ready in what appeared to be a hotel room. “Rubys getting ready to be a bridesmaid,” Ben wrote over the video.

One clip showed a room filled with chairs arranged in rows and guests, including Justin Theroux and Nicole Kidman, sitting and mingling in formal wear. “Let the ceremony begin,” Ben wrote over the clip.

SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA SEEMS SET FOR REELECTION AFTER KEY PARTY SAYS IT WILL BACK HIM



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA (TIP): The leader of South Africa's second biggest party said June 14 it will back Cyril Ramaphosa for president, almost guaranteeing he will be reelected in Parliament for a second term.

Democratic Alliance leader John Steenhuisen said his party had now formally signed a coalition agreement with Ramaphosa's African National Congress, and part of the agreement is Ramaphosa will be president.

Lawmakers are due to elect a president later on Friday and the ANC and DA together have a majority of lawmakers that would see Ramaphosa return for a second term. If Ramaphosa is the only candidate nominated, he would be elected automatically without the need for a vote. Steenhuisen said the DA was now preparing to co-govern Africa's most industrialized economy alongside the ANC and the coalition deal was in place.

Ramaphosa's African National Congress party has been weakened after losing its long-held majority in an election last month, leaving him needing the support of other parties if he is to return as president.

The DA — once the ANC's biggest political foe — will now support Ramaphosa and continue the ANC's three-decade hold on the presidency.

The ANC announced late Thursday that it had a coalition agreement in principle with the DA and other smaller parties. ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula said the final details of the agreement were still being worked out. The DA, the second largest party in Parliament behind the ANC with a potentially decisive number of lawmakers, said talks on the details had continued through the night and into early Friday, just before Parliament convened at 10 a.m.

The final deal was signed during a break in the Parliamentary sitting, South African media reported. Two other smaller parties will also be part of the governing coalition.

The 71-year-old Ramaphosa will be reelected automatically if no other candidates are nominated for president. No one else has so far been put forward, though lawmakers can nominate a candidate during Friday's Parliament session, the first since the landmark May 29 national election. (AP)

New China rules allow detention of foreigners in South China Sea

SHANGAI (TIP): New Chinese coast guard rules took effect June 15, under which it can detain foreigners for trespassing in the disputed South China Sea, where neighbours and the G7 have accused Beijing of intimidation and coercion.

Beijing claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations including the Philippines and an international ruling that its stance has no legal basis.

China deploys coast guard and other boats to patrol the waters and has turned several reefs into militarised artificial islands. Chinese and Philippine vessels have had a series of confrontations in disputed areas.

From Saturday, China's coast guard can detain foreigners "suspected of violating management of border entry and exit", according to the new regulations published online.

Detention is allowed up to 60 days in "complicated cases", they say.

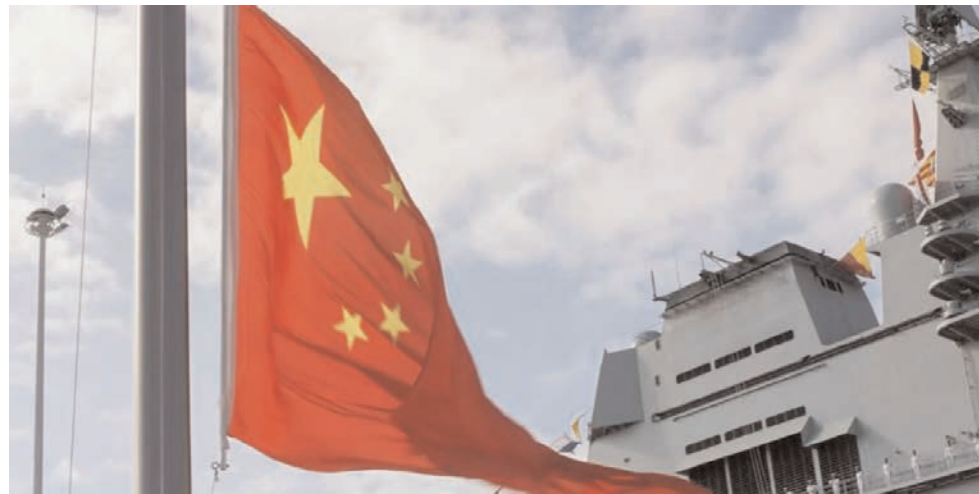
"Foreign ships that have illegally entered China's territorial waters and the adjacent waters may be detained."

Manila has accused the Chinese coast guard of "barbaric and inhumane behaviour" against Philippine vessels, and President Ferdinand Marcos said last month called the new rules a "very worrisome" escalation.

China Coast Guard vessels have used water cannon against Philippine boats multiple times in the contested waters.

There have also been collisions that injured Filipino troops.

Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner told reporters on Friday



that authorities in Manila were "discussing a number of steps to be undertaken in order for us to protect our fishermen".

Philippine fishermen were told "not to be afraid, but just to go ahead with their normal activities to fish there in our Exclusive Economic Zone", Brawner said.

The Group of Seven bloc on Friday criticised what it called "dangerous" incursions by China in the waterway.

"We oppose China's militarisation, and coercive and intimidation activities in the South China Sea," read a G7 statement at the end of a summit on Friday.

The South China Sea is a vital waterway, where Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also have overlapping claims in some parts.

Most recently, however, confrontations between China and the Philippines have raised fears of a wider conflict over the sea that could involve the United States and other allies.

Trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes through the South China Sea annually, and huge unexploited oil and gas deposits are believed to lie under its seabed, though estimates vary greatly.

The sea is also important as a source of fish for growing populations.

China has defended its new coast guard rules. A foreign ministry spokesman said last month that they were intended to "better uphold order at sea".

And the Chinese defence minister warned this month that there were "limits" to Beijing's restraint in the South China Sea.

China has also been angered in the past by US and other Western warships sailing through the South China Sea.

The US Navy and others undertake such voyages to assert the freedom of navigation in international waters, but Beijing considers them violations of its sovereignty.

Chinese and US forces have had a series of close encounters in the South China Sea. (AFP)

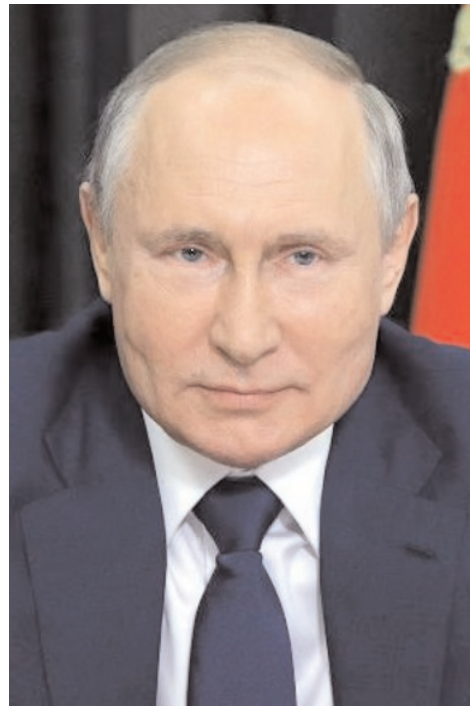
Putin pledges ceasefire if Ukraine withdraws from regions annexed by Russia and drops NATO bid

UKRAINE (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin promised on June 14 to "immediately" order a cease-fire in Ukraine and begin negotiations if Kyiv started withdrawing troops from the four regions annexed by Moscow and renounced plans to join NATO.

Such a deal appears a nonstarter for Kyiv, which wants to join the military alliance and has demanded that Russia withdraw its troops from all of its territory. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine on Putin's proposal.

"We will do it immediately," Putin said in a speech at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

His remarks came as leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations met in Italy and as Switzerland prepared to host scores of world leaders -- but not from Moscow --



this weekend to try to map out first steps toward peace in Ukraine.

Putin said his proposal is aimed at a "final resolution" of the conflict in Ukraine rather than "freezing it," and stressed that the Kremlin is "ready to start negotiations without delay."

Broader demands for peace that the Russian leader listed included Ukraine's non-nuclear status, restrictions on its military force and protecting the interests of the Russian-speaking population in the country. All of these should become part of "fundamental international agreements," and all Western sanctions against Russia should be lifted, Putin said.

"We're urging to turn this tragic page of history and to begin restoring, step-by-step, restore the unity between Russia and Ukraine and in Europe in general," he said. (AP)

2024 UK Elections: Labour pitches for power with 'wealth creation' manifesto

MANCHESTER (TIP): Britain's Labour Party launched a "manifesto for wealth creation" on June 13, pledging to get the economy firing again if it wins power in next month's election after 14 years in opposition.

Labour has consistently led Rishi Sunak's Conservatives by around 20 points for nearly two years, suggesting its leader, Keir Starmer, will become the next prime minister.

"Wealth creation is our number one priority, economic growth is our core business," said Starmer, 61, unveiling his centre-left party's blueprint for government before the July 4 vote.

The manifesto launch came two days after the Tories promised voters more tax cuts, in a campaign where the affordability of the main parties' spending plans have come under close scrutiny.

Despite Labour's hefty poll lead, Starmer is fighting to overcome persistent Tory claims that his party will recklessly spend public finances and increase personal taxes.

Starmer has ruled out increasing the VAT sales tax, income tax rates and National Insurance, which pays for state healthcare, pensions and unemployment.

He says Labour will instead focus on spurring economic growth if it wins.

He pledged to restore economic "stability" after the turbulence of recent years that saw inflation hit 11.1 percent in



October 2022—its highest in 40 years.

Starmer and likely finance minister Rachel Reeves look set to have little room for manoeuvre, however, with the economy stagnant in April after emerging from recession in the first quarter.

No 'magic wand'

Economists say the incoming government could get some momentum from expected falls in interest rates and inflation by the end of the year; however.

"We don't have a magic wand but what we do have—what this manifesto represents—is a credible long-term plan," said Starmer in Manchester, northwest England. He pledged to end Tory "chaos" and "rebuild" Britain.

Many of the policies in Labour's

manifesto have been drip-fed to journalists for months, and Thursday's launch included no surprises.

The booklet includes a new National Wealth Fund to invest in industries and a publicly owned clean energy company.

Labour also promises to employ 6,500 new teachers and provide 40,000 new hospital appointments a week.

It plans to cap corporation tax at 25 percent but intends to raise billions of pounds of additional revenues by cracking down on non-domiciled tax statuses while raising levies on private schools and oil and gas profits.

As in 1997, when Tony Blair won a landslide after 18 years of Tory rule, Starmer knows that he needs to reassure

a jittery electorate that Labour can provide stability and economic competence.

'Pro-business'

At the last election in 2019, his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn stood on a radical platform that included proposals for sweeping renationalization of key industries and tax hikes for high-income earners.

Starmer took over after Labour was routed by Boris Johnson's Tories. He has dragged the party back to the less threatening centre ground, vowing it is both "pro business and pro worker."

Britons have endured an unprecedented period of political upheaval, with five Tory prime ministers since 2010 and three in just four months in 2022. Much of that was the result of Brexit, the country's tortuous departure from the European Union. But there were also self-inflicted wounds, such as Liz Truss's short-lived tenure, when her unfunded tax cuts spooked the markets and crashed the pound.

One of Starmer's first tasks if he finds himself in Downing Street on July 5 will be to prepare for a crunch NATO summit in Washington the following week and to host a meeting of European leaders.

He says he will scrap the Tories' plan to deport failed asylum seekers to Rwanda and will recognise Palestinian sovereignty as part of the peace process. (AFP)

Chinese police say man under arrest in stabbing of four US college instructors

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese police say a suspect is in custody in a stabbing attack on four instructors from Iowa's Cornell College who were teaching at a Chinese university in the northeast city of Jilin.

Jilin city police said a 55-year old man surnamed Cui was walking in a public park when he had bumped into a foreigner. He then stabbed the foreigner and three other foreigners who were with him, and a Chinese person who approached in an attempt to intervene.

The four instructors teaching at Beihua University in northeastern China were attacked in a public park, reportedly with a knife, officials at the U.S. school and the State Department said.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said June 12 that the injured were rushed to a hospital for treatment, and that none was in critical condition. Police believe Monday's attack in Jilin city's Beishan Park was an isolated incident, based on a preliminary assessment, and the investigation is ongoing, ministry spokesperson Lin Jian



said at a daily briefing.

Cornell College President Jonathan Brand said in a statement that the instructors were attacked while at the park with a faculty member from Beihua, which is in an outlying part of Jilin, an industrial city about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) northeast of Beijing. Monday was a public holiday in China.

The State Department said in a statement it was aware of reports of a stabbing and was monitoring the situation. The attack happened as both Beijing and Washington are seeking to expand people-to-people exchanges to help bolster relations amid tensions over

trade and such international issues as Taiwan, the South China Sea and the war in Ukraine.

An Iowa state lawmaker posted a statement on Instagram saying his brother, David Zabner, had been wounded during a stabbing attack in Jilin. Rep. Adam Zabner described his brother as a doctoral student at Tufts University who was in China under the Cornell-Beihua relationship.

"I spoke to David a few minutes ago, he is recovering from his injuries and doing well," Adam Zabner wrote, adding that his brother was grateful for the care he received at a hospital.

News of the incident was suppressed in China, where the government maintains control on information about anything considered sensitive. News media outlets had not reported it. Some social media accounts posted foreign media reports about the attack, but a hashtag about it was blocked on a popular portal and photos and video of the incident were quickly taken down. (AP)

Teen held in Australia as police investigate AI-generated nude images of 50 female students circulated online

MELBOURNE (TIP): A teenager has been arrested and released as police investigate AI-generated nude images using the faces of at least 50 female students from a Victorian high school that have circulated online, 9news.com.au reported.

The fake images use the schoolgirls' faces on AI-generated bodies.

Victoria Police is investigating the circulation of the images, which have been shared on social media apps like Instagram and Snapchat, the report said. Officers are looking at whether the images were sent to a person in the Melton area via an app on June 7.

According to CNN, the images were reportedly created using photos posted to social media of 50 female students of Bacchus Marsh Grammar, a co-educational school on the outskirts of Melbourne in Victoria.

Speaking to the ABC on June 13, CNN added, the mother of a 16-year-old female Bacchus Marsh Grammar student, whose image wasn't used, said her daughter vomited when she saw the "mutilated" pictures online. (CNN)

NEPAL RETRIEVES TONNES OF RUBBISH FROM MT EVEREST

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepalese soldiers have retrieved four bodies and a skeleton from Mount Everest and the neighbouring peaks of Lhotse and Nuptse during a cleaning drive. According to the army, the recruiter also collected 11 tonnes of rubbish since April. At 8,849 metres, Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world and has also gained the sad notoriety of being the world's highest rubbish dump. IANS

BANGLADESH: NOBEL LAUREATE DR MUHAMMAD YUNUS, 13 OTHERS INDICTED IN GRAFT CASE

DHAKA (TIP): Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus and 13 others were on June 13 indicted in a graft case.

A Dhaka court framed charges against Muhammad Yunus and 13 others in a case filed over misappropriation of about Tk 25.22 crore of Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund, according to The Daily Star.

The Dhaka Tribune quoting Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Prosecutor Mosharrif Hossain Kajol said that the charges framed against Muhammad Yunus, which include Section 409 of the Penal Code, carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a minimum of 10 years.

Judge Syed Arafat Hossain of Dhaka Special Judge Court 4 rejected a plea for the dismissal of charges by the accused and ordered the indictment, before setting July 15 for the next hearing, the report added.

In addition, if the money laundering charges are proven, Dr Yunus could face a sentence ranging from a minimum of four years to a maximum of 12 years. Furthermore, other sections of the law also entail potential penalties. Meanwhile, Dr Yunus's lawyer Abdullah Al Mamun said the case against Dr Yunus is politically motivated, the Dhaka Tribune noted. (TNS)

FIRE AT THAILAND'S FAMOUS CHATUCHAK MARKET KILLS HUNDREDS OF CAGED ANIMALS

BANGKOK (TIP): Hundreds of caged animals died June 13 after a fire struck Chatuchak Weekend Market, one of the most famous markets in Thailand's capital.

The fire was reported early in the morning and quickly swept across more than 100 shops in the market's pet section, according to the Bangkok government. (AP)

Pakistani court acquits Imran Khan, Mehmood Qureshi and Sheikh Rashid in case of vandalism

ISLAMABAD (TIP): In a major relief to Imran Khan, a Pakistani court on June 14 acquitted the jailed former premier, his aide Shah Mehmood Qureshi and former minister Sheikh Rashid in a case of vandalism.

The case was registered in 2022 at Islamabad's I-9 police station and based on the alleged involvement in acts of vandalism and violation of Section 144 of the Pakistan Penal Code which had banned rallies.

Judicial Magistrate Malik Muhammad Imran issued the verdict, acquitting the three senior leaders along with two more leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf - Sadaqat Abbasi and Ali Nawaz Awan.

The ruling comes as relief to the former prime minister and his colleagues who had been involved in different cases after Khan's government was toppled through a no-confidence



vote in April 2022.

The party began protests and it took out a major rally in May 2022, which was led by Khan and joined by thousands of his workers. As the protestors entered

Islamabad, low-scale violence broke out and properties were damaged.

The Islamabad police filed separate cases against 150 people on May 27, 2022, including Khan as well as other party leaders over allegations of arson and vandalism in the federal capital a day earlier.

At least 39 people were arrested by police after identification from the footage of the Safe City cameras and private TV news channels after the protest.

The protest was declared by Khan as the 'Azadi March' to get freedom from what he had then called the "slavery" of the "US-backed" coalition government.

The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician has been in jail since August last year after being convicted in some of the nearly 200 cases slapped on him since his ouster in April 2022. (PTI)

Pakistan PM Shehbaz, Chinese President Xi agree to upgrade CPEC, discuss Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their meeting have affirmed consensus on the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and advancing high-quality development of the multi-billion-dollar project in the second phase.

The two leaders held an in-depth discussion at the historic Great Hall of the People in Beijing on June 14 during the five-day official visit of Sharif, which began on June 4. The two leaders were accompanied by ministers and senior officials. This was the first meeting of Sharif with President Xi since assuming office in 2024.

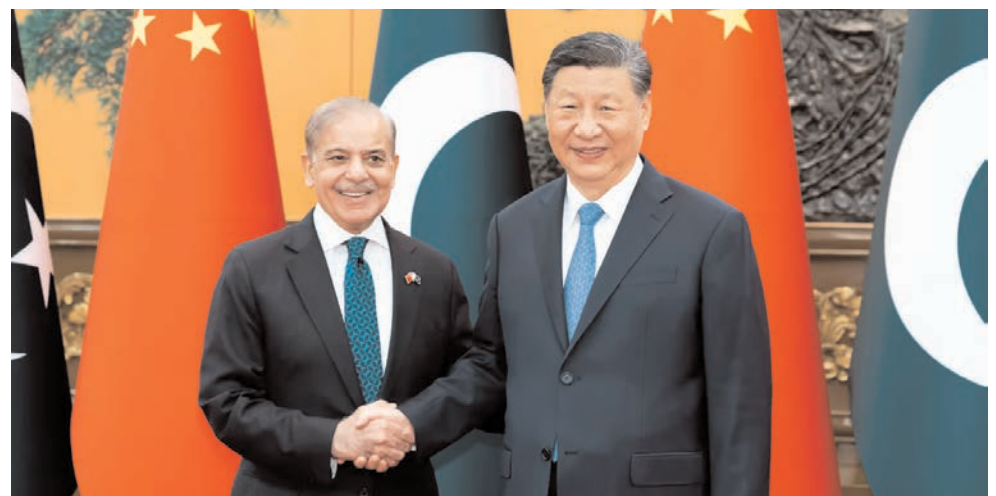
According to the state media, the two leaders showed consensus on upgrading the CPEC and advancing the development of the mega project in the second phase.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is seen as an attempt by China to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments across the world.

China has also invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the USD 65 billion CPEC plan, but the implementation of various projects has slowed in recent months.

Associated Press of Pakistan reported that Prime Minister Sharif briefed President Xi on Pakistan's policies for



economic reform and sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernisation and regional connectivity and the critical role played by the CPEC in Pakistan's development.

The prime minister recalled the historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, when the CPEC was formally operationalized, marking a new chapter in the bilateral relationship.

He asserted Pakistan's commitment to the high-quality development of the CPEC and to foster synergy between the development strategies of the two countries through close coordination.

Commending President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative (GDI), the prime minister underscored that, as the flagship project of BRI, the CPEC had significantly contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development. He underlined that the government's agenda for people-centric, socio-economic development resonates

with the concept of 'shared prosperity' embraced by China.

The two leaders reaffirmed the time-honoured 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' and expressed the resolve to further deepen cooperation across diverse domains ranging from political and security to economic, trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, including Afghanistan, Palestine and South Asia, including Kashmir.

President Xi Jinping also hosted a banquet in honour of the prime minister, where another round of discussion on different matters of mutual interest was held. Radio Pakistan reported that Sharif, in the meeting, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The two sides reiterated their longstanding support for each other's issues of core interest. (PTI)



NARTAN RANG DANCE ACADEMY

PRESENTS

NRITYA RANJANI 2024



Nritya Vandana 2024: *An Ode to a Mentor*

CHOREOGRAPHED BY: SWATI VAISHNAV
SIDDHI VAISHNAV

SUNDAY **JUNE 23** 2024

5:00 PM AT

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1 SOUTH AVENUE
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530

ADMISSIONS: \$30

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL:
(516) 395-1209

SPONSORS:

MR. AMIT & MRS. KALPANA DOSHI
DR. SANJAY & DR. SONIA KANTU



Use coconut, argan oil for smooth lips

Besides drinking water it is important to use coconut and argan oil based products like lip balms, scrubs, lipsticks with the natural oils as its base to save your lips from chapping, suggest experts.

Don't lick your lips

This common practice is quite harmful for your lips as when you put saliva on the lips, it dries out and make our lips even more dry.

Use coconut oil

Coconut oil is very good for lips as it acts as a good nourishing moisturiser and will give you cracked free lips. For a deep hydrating result we recommend butterstick lip treatment which has coconut oil and lemon butter and comes with SPF.

Use argan oil

The thin skin of your lips loses moisture rapidly, especially in the winter. So make sure lips are covered with lip balm as often as possible. Argan oil is your lips best friend. Make sure you use lipsticks with argan oil or shea butter so that your lips don't crack in the cold.

Try lip scrub

Our lips are not protected by hair or sebaceous glands (oil glands), so they start to chap, therefore weekly exfoliation is a must. Lip scrub works great to gently exfoliate dry lips. For a homemade lip scrub, mix brown sugar and honey and gently scrub lips until the sugar crystals melt. Wash and pat dry.

Keep a gloss handy

If you're a matte enthusiast, and



your lips begin to feel dry, always keep a gloss handy. Start your make-up routine by moisturising your lips for which you can use the good old Vaseline. Keep it on for a minute, blot the excess and go ahead with the lipstick application.

Use a lip balm

This will lock in the moisture and help to heal cracks and splits in the skin. Look for a healing ointment that contains petrolatum, essential oils or glycerin. Another important ingredient is sunscreen — there still is sun in the winter.

Avoid lip balms containing camphor, eucalyptus and menthol. These substances actually dry out your lips and make the problem worse. In response, you apply more of

this kind of lip balm, and the cycle continues. Avoid brushing or rubbing your lips when they are flaky or peeling. It's better not to scrub your lips or pick the peeling skin off with your teeth or your fingers. That just creates cracks and sores on your lips and can make things worse. Instead, apply a very heavy ointment-based balm that will be soothing and help to heal your lips.

Treat cracks right away

If you let them go, they can become worse and possibly get infected or lead to a cold sore.

At night, apply lip balm before you go to bed. Many people sleep with their mouths open. Eight hours of breathing in and out through your mouth can dry your lips.

FOOD CORNER

Mango Custard

Ingredients

Ripe Mangoes - 3 to 4 (approximately 200 gms), Vanilla Flavoured Custard Powder - 1 tblsp, Milk - 500 ml, Fresh Cream - 500 ml, Sugar - 1/4 cup (adjust as per taste)



Method

- Peel and finely chop the mangoes into small pieces. Reserve a few pieces for garnishing and grind the remaining to a thick pulp. No need to add water.
- Mix the custard powder with 100 ml (1/2 cup) of milk and stir until fully mixed without any lumps. Boil the remaining milk over medium flame. Add the custard mixture and stir gently.
- Ensure no lumps form and keep stirring constantly. Add sugar and switch off the flame.
- Add the mango puree, cream and mix well.
- Stir gently for a minute and keep it in the fridge for 4 to 6 hours.

Paneer samosa



Ingredients

Paneer - 250 gms, finely chopped, Maida - 2 cups

Onion - 1, finely chopped, Green chillies - 2, finely chopped, Red chilli powder - 1 tsp, Cumin seeds - 1/2 tsp, Lemon juice - 1 tsp, Butter - 50 gms, melted, Salt

as per taste, Oil as required

Method

- Combine the maida, butter and salt in a bowl, Mix well to a puri dough consistency. Fry the cumin seeds for 30 seconds.
- Add the onions, green chillies and saute for a minute or two, Add red chilli powder, lemon juice, salt and paneer, Mix well and stir-fry
- Remove from flame. Make small balls of the dough and roll them in small/ medium puris. 10.
- Shape the prepared puris into cones and add 1 or 2 tblsp of the paneer mixture.

Perk up your skin with coffee

Coffee can perk up your skin. The caffeine in coffee has a number of benefits for your skin, from treating redness and inflammation, to reducing the appearance of under-eye circles, to getting rid of cellulite. By incorporating caffeine into your skin care routine, you can reveal evenly toned, smooth skin all over your body.

Reduces Inflammation

Caffeine has potent anti-inflammatory properties that make it ideal for reducing inflammation and redness in your skin. In a 1981 study performed at the Seoul National University, researchers found that caffeine is able to reduce

inflammation almost as well as aspirin in rats; in a 1978 performed at the University of Tennessee, researchers found that adding caffeine to anti-inflammatory creams significantly increased their effectiveness. Overall, use of skin care products containing caffeine will reduce and prevent inflammation and redness, leaving you with a beautiful, even skin tone.

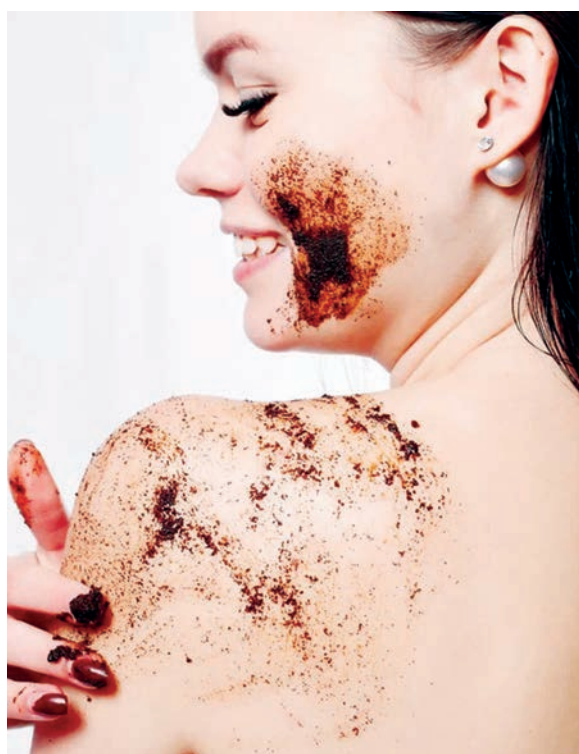
Helps get rid of under-eye circles

Dark under-eye circles can be caused by a number of factors, including dehydration, allergies, lack of sleep or genetics. Although caffeine cannot completely erase hereditary dark circles, applying caffeine under

your eyes will reduce the puffiness and inflammation associated with dark circles. Additionally, caffeine reduces the build-up of blood under your eyes which contributes to dark shadows. Several eye creams contain caffeine, or you can apply moist tea bags to your eyes for five minutes to reduce puffiness and give you a more alert appearance.

Gets rid of cellulite

Caffeine can also reduce the appearance of cellulite. In a 2008 study performed at the University of São Paulo, researchers found that an application of skin cream containing caffeine to cellulite reduced the size of cellulite fat cells by 17 percent.



Health benefits of chewing raw garlic on an empty stomach

Garlic isn't just your regular spice that lends flavour and taste to your meals. Its powerful nutritional profile can help prevent many chronic health conditions and boost your overall well-being. Even more than its cooked form, raw garlic can work wonders for your health from lowering cholesterol and blood pressure to improving digestive health. Raw garlic has an enzyme called allicin that has anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, antibacterial, and anticancer properties. Chewing raw garlic can unlock sulphur-containing compounds which in turn translates into a range of benefits.

As per a study, after chewing of garlic, participants experienced decrease in systolic and diastolic blood pressure by 5%, 8%. Similarly, cholesterol and triglyceride reduced to 4-10%. Ingestion of garlic by chewing or crushing it can reduce cholesterol, triglyceride, MDA, systolic and diastolic blood pressure even in the presence of increasing fat intake. Swallowing garlic on the other hand has no significant effect on serum lipids (TG, Chol, LDL and HDL), diastolic blood pressure, and BUN, Cr and cyclosporine serum level.

How many raw garlic cloves can you eat?

1-2 garlic cloves are ideal for reaping its many benefits. Eating more than the recommended amount can lead to acidity, heart burn or bleeding.

One clove of raw garlic is packed with manganese, Vitamin C, selenium, fibre, calcium, copper, phosphorus, iron, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B6, and potassium.

Benefits of chewing raw garlic

Chewing raw garlic on an empty stomach can have numerous health benefits.

Here are six impressive benefits, explained by Dietitian Rashi Tantia, HOD – Dietetics, Metro Hospital, Faridabad.

- Boosts immunity: Raw garlic is rich in antioxidants and sulfur-containing compounds, which help strengthen the immune system. Regular



consumption can help protect against infections and illnesses.

- Anti-inflammatory properties: Garlic contains anti-inflammatory compounds like diallyl disulfide, which can help reduce inflammation in the body, potentially alleviating symptoms of conditions like arthritis.
- Improves heart health: Garlic is known to improve cardiovascular health by reducing blood pressure, lowering cholesterol levels, and preventing the hardening of arteries. These benefits collectively reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke.
- Detoxifies the body: The sulfur compounds in garlic help detoxify heavy metals from the body. It supports liver function and helps cleanse the body of toxins, promoting overall health.
- Enhances digestive health: Consuming garlic on an empty stomach can stimulate digestion and improve gut health. It promotes the production of digestive enzymes and has antimicrobial properties that can help balance gut flora.
- Antimicrobial and antiviral effects: Garlic has potent antimicrobial and antiviral properties. Chewing raw garlic can help fight off pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi, reducing the risk of infections and promoting oral health.

Source: HT



Scientists develop new methods to detect Huntington's disease progression

A team of scientists in the UK developed non-invasive measurement techniques and novel analysis methods to decode disease progression and evaluate the effect of potential treatments or lifestyle changes in people with Huntington's disease.

Huntington's is a genetic disease where the brain's nerve cells (neurons) gradually break down and die. The condition leads to dementia, with a progressive decline in an individual's movement, memory, and cognition. There is currently no cure.

The team from Lancaster University in the UK showed that Huntington's disease not only affects nerve cells in the brain but also has widespread effects on microscopic blood vessels.

The changes were also observed before symptoms of the disease appeared, demonstrating the potential for this research to predict brain health and evaluate the beneficial effects of lifestyle changes or treatments.

Professor Aneta Stefanovska of Lancaster University said that they hope that the novel method can help "monitor the disease progression and evaluate the effect of potential treatments or lifestyle changes" in people with "Huntington's and other neurodegenerative diseases."

Professor Aneta added that the study would also lead to "new treatments of Huntington's disease targeting the vasculature and brain metabolism."

In their study, published in the journal *Brain Communications*, the team investigated changes in the coordination between neuronal activity and the brain's oxygenation in Huntington's disease.

They combined non-invasive measurement techniques and novel analysis methods—probes emitting infrared light were placed on the heads of participants in the study.

Source: IANS

Alcohol consumption can increase mood instability in bipolar disorder

A new study has found that drinking alcohol can worsen symptoms of bipolar disorder by destabilising mood and affecting work efficiency.

Contrary to the common belief that mood swings drive alcohol consumption, the research indicates that alcohol itself may be a contributing factor to these mood disturbances.

Bipolar disorder is characterised by significant shifts in emotions, energy, and activity levels, often accompanied by hallucinations and delusions.

Researchers from the University of Michigan, USA, aimed to explore the long-term effects of alcohol consumption on mood and



functioning in adults with bipolar disorder.

The findings, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open*, suggest that alcohol can significantly impact the condition.

The study involved 584 adults diagnosed with bipolar disorder, who

were part of the larger ongoing Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder (PLS-BD) for at least five years. Data was collected over a follow-up period of 5 to 16 years.

Participants' alcohol consumption was assessed using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test, a WHO-approved questionnaire designed to screen for problematic drinking. Other standardised questionnaires were used to evaluate depression, mania or hypomania, anxiety, and overall functioning.

The study revealed that exceeding one's typical alcohol consumption led to worse depressive and manic or hypomanic episodes, as well as decreased work performance.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

Elon Musk's X begins hiding all likes for users

Elon Musk on July 12 confirmed the roll out of a new feature that will hide all likes by default for X users.

X is rolling out "private likes" which will likely show up on users' timelines from July 12. This means that users' likes on the platform will be hidden by default and they "will be able to like content without worrying about who might see it". Musk said that it is "important to allow people to like posts without getting attacked for doing so".

Last month, Haofei Wang, X's director of engineering, had said the upcoming change is meant to protect users' public image.

"Yeah, we are making likes private. Public likes are incentivising the wrong behaviour," he had posted on X.

For example, many people feel discouraged from liking content that might be "edgy" in fear of retaliation from trolls, or to protect their public image.

"Soon you'll be able to like without worrying who might see it. Also a reminder that the more posts you like, the better your 'For you' algorithm will become," Wang had said.

According to the social media platform, like is visible between you and the author. "The author will be notified, but not anyone else. Bookmark is only visible to you. We could even make it customisable for users," according to Wang.

Google developing new ChromeOS

Google has announced that ChromeOS will soon go through a transformation. As per the company, the large portions of ChromeOS will be the Android stack. With this update, Google aims to bring AI features at a faster pace to ChromeOS. The tech giant stated that it will be embracing things like the Android Linux kernel and Android frameworks "as part of the foundation of ChromeOS."

In a detailed blog, Google explains that these changes won't be just AI features. They said that the addition will also help simplify engineering efforts and help different devices like phones and accessories work better together with Chromebooks.

With these recent announcements around new features powered by Google AI and Gemini, Chromebooks now offer the opportunity to put powerful tools in the hands of more people to help with everyday tasks.

The blogpost states, "To continue rolling out new Google AI features to users at a faster and even larger scale, we'll be embracing portions of the Android stack, like the Android Linux kernel and Android frameworks, as part of the foundation of ChromeOS."

Apple not paying OpenAI for ChatGPT integration into iOS

At the Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) on Monday, Apple made an exciting announcement about teaming up with OpenAI to integrate ChatGPT into Apple's upcoming iOS 18. This news has generated a lot of buzz, but the specifics of the deal were initially unclear. A recent report from Bloomberg has shed some light on the details of this intriguing partnership.

According to the Bloomberg report, Apple is not paying OpenAI for this collaboration. Mark Gurman, a well-known tech journalist at Bloomberg, explained that the partnership is not expected to bring in significant revenue for either company, at least in the beginning. Instead, neither Apple nor OpenAI will exchange any money for the integration. The true value lies in the exposure and integration of ChatGPT into Apple's vast ecosystem.

Apple believes that integrating ChatGPT into iOS 18 will give OpenAI's technology a huge visibility boost. By embedding ChatGPT into Siri and other new writing tools, Apple is providing OpenAI with a platform that reaches hundreds of millions of users. This kind of exposure is seen as potentially more valuable than direct financial compensation. Sources close to the matter, who requested anonymity, indicated to Bloomberg that Apple views this promotional opportunity as equally, if not more, valuable than cash.

Looking ahead, Bloomberg reports that Apple plans to establish revenue-sharing agreements with AI companies in the



future. This would mean that Apple would receive a share of the revenue generated by AI partners who monetise their services on Apple platforms. This strategy aligns with Apple's broader vision of integrating advanced AI capabilities into its devices while also creating new revenue streams.

For users, the integration of ChatGPT into iOS 18, iPadOS 18, and macOS Sequoia will be free but optional. Users who subscribe to ChatGPT Plus will be able to access additional features by logging into their accounts. Currently, OpenAI's standalone ChatGPT app for iOS allows users to pay for ChatGPT Plus

through Apple's In-App Purchase system, which gives Apple a 15-30 per cent share of those subscriptions.

In summary, Apple's partnership with OpenAI is about strategic value and future potential rather than immediate financial gain. By incorporating ChatGPT into its operating systems, Apple enhances its AI capabilities and gives OpenAI a significant boost in visibility. This sets the stage for potential revenue-sharing models down the line, highlighting a mutually beneficial relationship that could shape the future of AI integration in consumer technology.

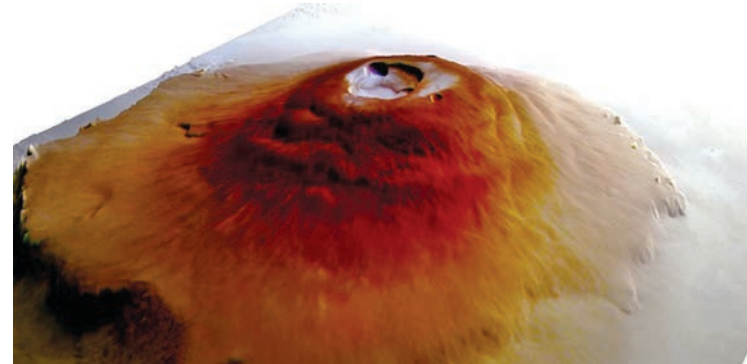
Water frost discovered on Mars' tallest volcanoes for the first time

In a surprising find that challenges previous beliefs about Mars' climate, the European Space Agency's spacecraft have detected water frost on the towering Tharsis volcanoes near the Red Planet's equator - a region thought to be too warm for such frozen formations.

The frost was first spotted by ESA's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) atop the massive Olympus Mons volcano, which at nearly three times the height of Mount Everest is the tallest in the solar system. Subsequent observations by TGO's NOMAD instrument and the Mars Express orbiter confirmed the unexpected presence of frost across multiple volcanoes in the Tharsis region.

"We thought it was impossible for frost to form around Mars's equator, as the mix of sunshine and thin atmosphere keeps temperatures relatively high at both surface and mountaintop," said lead researcher Adomas Valantinas of Brown University, who made the initial discovery during his PhD at the University of Bern.

Despite being incredibly thin - about one-hundredth of a millimeter or the width of a human hair - the frost patches cover vast areas within the volcanoes' summit calderas. The amount represents a staggering 150,000 tonnes of water swapping between the surface and atmosphere each day during Mars' cold seasons, equivalent to 60 Olympic-sized swimming pools.



This simulated perspective oblique view shows Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano not only on Mars but in the entire Solar System. (Photo: ESA)

The frost is present for just a few hours around sunrise before evaporating in the daylight. Its existence hints at "exceptional processes" creating a frost-friendly microclimate inside the deep volcanic calderas, according to the researchers.

"Winds travel up the slopes, bringing relatively moist air that condenses and settles as frost," explained Nicolas Thomas of the University of Bern, principal investigator for TGO's imaging system. "We see this on Earth and elsewhere on Mars causing clouds, but the frost appears to favor the shadowed, colder caldera regions."



India's retail inflation eases to 12-month low of 4.75%

Retail inflation eased to a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May as prices of some kitchen items declined marginally, according to government data released on Wednesday, June 12.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 4.83 per cent in April 2024 and 4.31 per cent in May 2023 (previous low).

Inflation in the food basket was 8.69 per cent in May, marginally down from 8.70 per cent in April, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Headline inflation has seen sequential moderation since February 2024, albeit in a narrow range from 5.1 per cent in February to 4.8 per cent in April 2024. The government has tasked the Reserve Bank to ensure the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Earlier this month, the RBI projected the CPI inflation for 2024-25 at 4.5 per cent, with Q1 at 4.9 per cent, Q2 at 3.8 per cent, Q3 at 4.6 per cent, and Q4 at 4.5 per cent. The central bank mainly factors in the retail inflation while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

Adani Group plans major cement acquisitions

The Adani Group is reportedly exploring acquisition of several cement companies. On Gautam Adani's radar is Hyderabad-based Penna Cement, Gujarat-headquartered Saurashtra Cement, cement business of Jaiprakash Associates and ABG Shipyard owned Vadraj Cement, as per a report in the Economic Times. For the same, the Adani Group has earmarked \$3 billion as the conglomerate aims at increasing its cement production capacity.

Adani Group is also focussing aggressively on surpassing Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech to become India's largest cement manufacturer within the next three to four years, the report added.

Fed holds rates steady, sees just one cut in 2024 despite inflation progress

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday, June 12, and pushed out the start of rate cuts to perhaps as late as December, with officials projecting only a single quarter-percentage-point reduction for the year amid rising estimates for what it will take to keep inflation in check.

The markdown in the outlook for rate cuts, from three quarter-percentage-point reductions seen in the Fed's March projections, was made despite the central bank's acknowledgement in its new policy statement of "modest further progress" towards its 2% inflation target – an upgrade from its May 1 statement.

It coincided with an increase to 2.8% in the estimated long-run, or "neutral," rate of interest, from 2.6%, which indicates policymakers have concluded the economy needs more restraint in order to finish the battle against rising prices.

Recent progress has been slow, and Fed officials now project a slightly higher end-of-year inflation rate of 2.6% versus the 2.4% anticipated as of March.

While rate cuts are now seen getting a likely later start and a slower pace this year than investors have anticipated, the Fed's policy rate is seen falling fast next year, with reductions of a full percentage point in both 2025 and 2026.

The statement and new Summary of Economic Projections show a central bank wrestling over how to respond to data that many read as pointing to slower inflation – consumer prices in fact did not rise at all in May on a month-over-month basis, according to data released on Wednesday – but also to steady growth and job creation.

Higher Neutral Rate

The new projections show the economy still expected to grow at a slightly above-trend 2.1% this year despite a sluggish first quarter, and the unemployment rate remaining at its current 4% through the year.

"Recent indicators suggest that economic activity has



The Fed voted unanimously to maintain its benchmark interest rate between 5.25 and 5.50 percent, and said in a statement that "modest" progress had been made toward its long-term inflation target of two percent.

continued to expand at a solid pace. Job gains have remained strong, and the unemployment rate has remained low," the Fed said in its statement.

Following little progress on inflation over the first months of the year, the result was a "dot plot" of projected policymaker interest rate forecasts that involved a near across-the-board shift higher in the rates considered needed to finish the battle against inflation.

Summed with a previous increase in the March projection, that neutral rate is now estimated at more than a quarter of a percentage point above where it ended 2023.

Coupled with recent debate over the possibility that the "neutral" rate of interest was higher than estimated, the new dot plot suggested Fed officials have concluded higher rates are needed over a longer period of time to keep inflation in check.

Source: Reuters

India's industrial production growth slips to three-month low in April

MUMBAI (TIP)

India's factory output based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) moderated to a three-month low of 5 per cent in April due to slower manufacturing growth, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday, June 12, showed.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, grew 3.9 per cent in April, down from 5.5 per cent in the year-ago period and 5.8 per cent a month ago.

Factory output growth was 5.4 per cent in March and 5.6 per cent in February 2024. The previous low of IIP was recorded at 4.2 per cent in January, 2024. For the financial year 2023-24, industrial growth was 5.9 per cent against 5.2 per cent in the preceding financial year.

As per the latest data, the mining output growth accelerated to 6.7 per cent in April against a 5.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago month. Electricity output



increased by 10.2 per cent in April against a contraction of 1.1 per cent in the corresponding period in the previous year. As per use-base classification, the capital goods segment growth fell to 3.1 per cent in April from 4.4 per cent in the year-ago period. In April this year, consumer durables output expanded 9.8 per cent on a low base effect. It had contracted by 2.3 per cent in April 2023.

Consumer non-durable goods output

contracted by 2.4 per cent during April 2024 as against a growth of 11.4 per cent in April 2023.

Infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 8 per cent in April 2024 against a 13.4 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

Output of primary goods logged a 7 per cent growth in April this year, up from 1.9 per cent a year earlier. The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 3.2 per cent in April, higher than 1.7 per cent recorded in the same period a year ago.

"This divergence in the two components of consumer demand is reflective of the ongoing consumer pattern, which is skewed in favour of households belonging to the upper 50% of the income bracket... this is worrisome, as such a consumption pattern would not allow the overall consumption demand to become broad-based," India Ratings' Paras Jasrai and Sunil K Sinha said in a note.

Sikh History This Week

JUNE 14 TO JUNE 20

14th June



1539 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Second, Guru Angad Dev Ji.

1698 Janam Utsav, Sahibjada Baba Fateh Singh Ji.

1964 Partap Singh Kairon resigned as Punjab Chief Minister.

1984 Historian Ganda Singh, returns his Padam Shri in protest for the Indian armed forces attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar.

15th June



1606 Foundation Stone of Sri Akal Takht is laid by Sri Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji. Foundation Stone of Sri Akal Takhat is laid by Sri Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji. This event marked the official declaration of the sovereignty of the Sikh nation. The Sikhs reject all other sovereignty and owed their allegiance to the Almighty only. After the revelation the Akal Takht, Guru Hargobind Sahib issued the first Hukamnama (the royal letter) from the throne.

1984 Akali Dal Youth Wing President, Prof. Prem Singh ChandMajra, arrested under National Security Act.

1984 Buya Singh replaces Chaudhary Subae Singh as SSP of Amritsar. Under Buya Singh, Sikhs suffered terrible atrocities. So much so that to protect his life he was transferred to Moscow.

16th June

1984: Sadhu Singh Hamdard, editor of daily newspaper Ajit, returns his Padam Shri in protest for the Indian armed forces attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar. He was deeply disturbed by this attack. As a result he died of a heart attack on July 29, 1984.

1984: Villagers are fined Rs. 1 crore for braking the river banks of main Bhakada river near Ropar, in protest of Operation Bluestar.

17th June

1662 Bhai Sahib Singh Ji, one of the first five initiated into the Khalsa order, was born.

Bhai Sahib Singh Ji was born at Bidar (Karnatak

Sate) to father Chaman and Mata Sonna Bhai. He was baptised by Guru Gobind Singh on the day of Khalsa's creation. After five years in 1704, he was killed in the battle of Chamkaur. He had participated in several battles prior to his baptism. Particularly, his active role in the battle of Bhangani in 1689 is described by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the eighth Adhiyae of Bachiter Natak.

1923 Kar Sewa of Sri Amritsar sarowar was initiated by Panj Payara. The Kar-Sewa of the scared tank at Amritsar was performed for the second time. The Panj payaras removed the first Kar with golden spades and silver buckets. Subsequently, the saewadars (including rich, poor, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikhs) carried out the kar sewa with humility and devotion.

1983 Jathedar Talwinder Singh arrested by German police on the information given by traitor Satnam Singh.

1983 Railroad stoppage morcha initiated.

1984 Sikhs observed "Prayer Day" to protest against the Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib (1984).

Sikhs observed "Ardas Diwas (prayer day)" to protest against the Indian Army's attack on Sri darbar Sahib. On this day congregations were held in Gurudwaras, Shaheeds were uligized, Sikhs men wore black turbans while Sikh women used black dupatas. All Sikh houses went without lighting any cooking.

Baba Harbans Singh Ji from Delhi given the responsibilities for reconstruction of Sri Akal Takhat. However, he request Singh Sahiban to bestow this responsibility upon Baba khadak Singh.

1984 Supreme Sikh Council decided to demolish the damaged Akal Takhat and to allocate the KarSewa for its rebuilding to Sant Harbans Singh. This meeting of the Five Head Priests was held in the damaged Darshani Deori of the Darbar Sahib complex. Buta Singh and Tarlochan Singh were also present at this meeting. To normalize the situation, about 14 essential conditions were given in writing. Baba Karak Singh gave his assent to this note.

18th June

1926 First elections to the Central Board under the Gurudwara Act.

1996 Indian Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, said a decision to send the army into the holiest of Sikh shrines in 1984 to flush out armed guerrillas was an unfortunate event. But he stopped short of offering a formal apology which Sikh leaders have been demanding for more than a decade from the government over the army action in which thousands of innocent people were killed. In the 1984 action called Operation Bluestar, the army stormed the Golden Temple under the pretence of driving out armed militants who had occupied the shrine as part of their fight for an independent state, called Khalistan. Sikh leaders have demanded an apology for the operation from successive governments in New Delhi.

19th June

1640 Guru Har Rai was married to Mata Krishen Kaur, daughter of Baba Daya Ram, of Bulsand-shair. Guru Sahib was 10 years of age at the time of his marriage. Two sons were born from this marriage, Ram Rai born in 1646 when Guru Sahib was sixteen years old and Har Krishan born in 1656, when Guru Sahib was twenty six years old.

1665 Baba Gurditta, son of Baba Buddha Ji, laid the foundation stone for a new town of Nanaki Chak, at the site of Makhawal in village Sohota. Guru Sahib spent the rainy seasons at Chak Nanaki.

1757 Diyal Singh and Lehna Singh killed Jahan Khan.

1919 Five Ghadri Babas were hanged to death.

1924 6th Shahidi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sant Prem Singh Ji Kokari, courted arrest upon reaching Jaito.

1925 Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandak Committee received Legislative sanction. It is for the first time that women were granted right to vote. This event opened the way for all women of India the right to vote.

1984 Buta Singh announced the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's acceptance of conditions for a settlement. These conditions were given in writing by the Singh Sahibans on June 17, 1984. As Indira Gandhi was to visit Darbar Sahib on June 20, Buta Singh made the announcement in a hurriedly called press conference at the residence of Bua Singh, SSP, Amritsar. The Army Generals and Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar were also present. However, immediately after the announcement and return of Buta Singh to Delhi, Indira Gandhi did a volte-face and admonished him for making the announcement.

1984 General Vadiya visits Sri Darbar Sahib, after Operation Bluestar

1994 Foundation stone laid for Nanakana Sahib Foundation was laid down by Hon. Rai Bashir Ahmad Khan Bhatti, Member National Assembly Pakistan and Chairman, Education Standing Committee, Government of Pakistan, at Nanankana Sahib. Mr. Bhatti is the oldest living descendent of Chowdhary Rai Bular Bhatti.

20th June



1670 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji arrested in Delhi.

1923 Babu Santa Singh arrested at Tapa Railway Station.

1972 20 GurSikhs killed in Gurdwara Sadabarat.

1977 Parkash Singh Badal became the Chief Minister of the Punjab.

1984 Major General R.K. Ghoad, announced 4 officer, and 4 JOC, and 92 soliers killed while 287 injured during the bluestar operation. Later Rajiv Gandhi, while addressing a Congress gathering in Nagpur, announced 700 soliers killed and 2400 Sikhs arrested. The actual count as per eye witnesses in thousands.

1984 Sirdar Harinder Singh Khalsa resigned his position at Indian Embassy, Norway, in protest of Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib and sought asylum along with his family.



CO POWERED BY



PRRIA HAIDER & PRIYANKA JOTWANI
PRESENT



POWERED BY



*Shehnaaz
Gill*

SUMMER SOIRÉE

With

Shehnaaz Gill

Punjab Di Katrina Kaif ...

an Evening of Dinner Dance Music and Fun

Thursday JULY 18TH 2024

7:00 PM ONWARDS

VENUE



PEARL BANQUET
HICKSVILLE, LONG ISLAND

TO BOOK A SHOW IN YOUR CITY CONTACT

PRRIA HAIDER - 516-303-6597, PRIYANKA - 516-225-9772, POONAM LEKHI - 631-697-9184

DESIGN - ODEON GRAPHICS



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND
CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 17 TO JUNE 23, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

Ganesha says this week can be very good for you. You may be successful in your work and will get time to deal with problems. You need to maintain clarity about your goals and remain committed to achieving your dreams. You also have to take care of your health and taking care of it will give you more energy and strength. You may also get a chance to spend time with your family and this will make you feel happy and satisfied. This week you will get time to spend more time with your loved ones and this can give you a good and stable relationship. This week you may need to make yourself more active and enthusiastic and this may help you achieve your objectives. This week you will also have to pay attention to your financial matters.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week will be very auspicious for Taurus people. You will have a good time at work and will get financial benefits. You will get immense happiness and prosperity in family relationships also. You will have to avoid arguments with family members and control your speech. Today, employed people will have to stay away from office politics and concentrate on their work. You will also spend money on entertainment. You will also get a great time in your business and your financial condition will improve. If you are eligible for marriage then you may get a good marriage proposal. You may also get a chance to buy a new vehicle or item for your home. This week you will also have to take care of your health and pay special attention to your eating habits. You have to be patient and wise in your actions.



GEMINI

Ganesha says you may have to face many challenges in the coming week. You may face new orders or instructions in your business or workplace. Therefore, you have to be ready to complete your work on time. You also have to pay attention to your health and not ignore it. You have to control your emotions and maintain communication with your



CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be very challenging for you. You may face a lot of difficulties in your work, due to which you may become a little tired. Before going into any new venture, you should think carefully and understand whether you want it. You should pay more attention to your projects and try to complete your work on time. You should spend more time with your friends and family and share your happiness with them. This week you should pay attention to your health and include healthy and nutritious food in your diet. If you do business then you should adopt new plans to advance your work and try to increase your income. This week you may face financial problems but you do not need to worry.



LEO

Ganesha says this week will be very good for you. You will be successful in your work and your financial condition will also become stronger. You should take care of your relationships and spend time with your friends and family. Take care of your health also and you will not have to face any kind of disease. You should take care of your income and control your expenses. People preparing for government jobs may also get to hear something good this week. You should control your increasing expenses and concentrate on your work. You may need to create some new and good applications to increase your income. This week you will have to show patience and tolerance in your work. You have to make your feelings clear to maintain your relationship.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is indicating that it will be very good for Virgo people. You will have great success in your work and will gain money. You may have to have some arguments with your relatives, so you will have to control your speech. Employed people are advised to stay away from office politics today, otherwise, you may have



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week you may have to face difficulties more than impossible. You need to maintain patience and consistency in your work. You have to be careful of your opponents and talk to them thoughtfully. You should not trust anyone too much, especially your colleagues. This week, instead of reacting to everything, you should try to solve problems by remaining calm. Control your anger as it may harm your work. This week you will also have to pay attention to your expenses because due to excessive expenditure, you may feel short of money. Therefore, control your expenses and remain mentally strong. This week you should spend some time in the hobby of your choice which will give you relaxation and also reduce your stress.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week is expected to be very auspicious for Scorpio people. You will get great success in your work and get huge profits as a result of your efforts. Your investing ability will increase greatly and you will get very good returns from your investments. Your day is likely to be very pleasant from a financial point of view. You will get a chance to build a very good relationship with your family and you will get a chance to spend very happy and joyful days with your family. You need to give a lot of time and attention to your work and you have to be very dedicated to your work. You also have to take care of your health and if any problem arises, try to solve it immediately. This week you will get to spend a lot of fun and happy moments with your friends and family.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week can pass with great problems for Sagittarius people. You have to be ready to fulfil your responsibilities. You may need to maintain harmony with your family and friends. You have to take care of your health and pay attention to your eating habits. This week you may have to pay attention to your financial matters. You may have to work hard to



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is going to be very wonderful for Capricorn people. May you have many pleasant and happy moments in life. This week you may get a chance to fulfil your dreams. This week can also be very golden for your career and you may get many opportunities. You have to choose these opportunities carefully and use them at the right time. This week can also be very auspicious for students who are preparing for medicine. You may get proper results for your hard work and earn a name in your field. This week can also be very auspicious for you in the field of business and you may get a good opportunity to earn money. After the hustle and bustle of the day, you may also get a chance to spend time with your loved ones in the evening, which can be quite relaxing for you. To make the week successful, keep your hard work and determination strong and try to take advantage of opportunities on time.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week's horoscope may be full of continuous problems for Aquarius people. You may have to face more difficulties than usual. You may face a shortage of money in your job and business. There may be fights with people around you and you may need to distance yourself from them. You may have to pay special attention to your speaking. Employed people should stay away from office politics, otherwise, you may have to face problems. You should spend the evening time with your loved ones. You may have to spend money on entertainment. If you are eligible for marriage then you may get a good marriage proposal. You may get a chance to buy a new vehicle or some items for the home.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week's horoscope may be disappointing for Pisces people. You may face difficulties in your job or business.

contd on page 39

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 17 TO JUNE 23 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 17

Ganesha says that today your expenses may increase, due to which it may be difficult for you to save. Investments made during this time may eventually give good returns, even if not immediately. Academic excellence and participation in extracurricular activities may be acknowledged by students. Although slow progress at work and arguments over petty matters may annoy you and even affect your health, at the end of the year you may be happy and satisfied with your achievements. Despite your erratic behavior, your spouse will remain supportive.

JUNE 18

Ganesha says that today there may be financial gains from various sources, but uncertainty about your relationship may leave a blot on your record of success and achievements. Socializing, celebrations and pleasant outings may all be frequent and enjoyable. Wedding bells may ring for those who are qualified, and others may seek romance to keep their relationship going. Do not rely on

others excessively. Planning and managing your time may be important.

JUNE 19

Ganesha says promotions or an increase in responsibilities may be a source of happiness for you at this time. There may be some sophistication in your profile with new initiatives. At home, there may be a healthier, more loving environment that may promote prosperity and excellent health. Professionals seeking to work abroad may be welcomed. Housewives may have to deal with frequent visits from family and friends. Going on a spiritual journey to a distant place is possible.

JUNE 20

Ganesha says you should not spend your time and money too much this year. Make the most of the opportunities that come your way to increase your income and standard of living. You will have a lot of confidence and motivation, and you will probably receive many favors during this time. Attending cultural events may be entertaining and educative. New

collaborations may be profitable, and investments may pay off. Your status in the social group may improve.

JUNE 21

Ganesha says that you will get the opportunity to raise your standard of living through the new contacts you make this year. You should focus on your professional growth as it may yield the expected results. Your parents' health may be a cause for concern, but your spouse and children may be supportive. If you go out and join clubs and social activities, you will be quite successful socially. Some of you have a distant pilgrimage on the horizon.

JUNE 22

Ganesha says that people at the workplace constantly give you important responsibilities because they trust you. Unresolved issues may get resolved. You may get rewards and acceptance for entering this new phase of your life. Your parents' health may be a cause for concern, but your spouse and children may be supportive. Additionally, your financial situation



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

may improve, and you will feel more secure and satisfied in all your endeavors. Marriage relations for a select few lovers. Religious rituals and pilgrimages may provide peace.

JUNE 23

Ganesha says gains in your career are almost certain, but rising costs may make you anxious. There may be occasions when your achievements exceed your expectations, but in most cases, you may have to work hard to get the least results. Your relationship with your spouse may be friendly and balanced, but you should restrain yourself from being too stubborn as it may create an uncomfortable situation at home.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwala.com info@bejandaruwala.com ; +91 81412 34275

contd from page 38

You may also face difficulty in earning money. This week you should try to avoid disputes with your relatives. You have to control your speech so that there is no misunderstanding. Employed people may have to stay away from political disputes in the office. Do not deliberately dispute with anyone so that your job or business is not affected. In the evening you can spend time with your loved ones and enjoy entertainment with them. This week you may have to control your expenses as saving your money may be very important for you. Marriage-eligible people may get a good opportunity for marriage. You may also get a chance to buy some items for your home or vehicle. This week you may have to concentrate on your work.

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. **He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com**

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Nirjala Ekadashi

Nirjala Ekadashi falls on the eleventh day (Ekadashi) of the waxing fortnight in Jyestha month. The Ekadashi derives its name from the water-less (Nir-jala) fast observed on this day. It is considered most sacred Ekadashi. It is the most rewarding Ekadashi. Nirjala Ekadashi Vrat is one of the toughest fasts of Ekadashi that is observed by the devotees as the intake of both, food and water is strictly prohibited. Nirjala Ekadashi is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is also known as 'Jyestha Shukla Ekadashi,' Pandava Nirjala Ekadashi' or 'Pandava Bhima Ekadashi.' Nirjala Ekadashi washes all the sins and connects the devotees to the supreme creator. The fasting is observed without drinking water and eating food. Nirjala Ekadashi is the toughest and significant Ekadashi that is undertaken by staunch Vishnu devotees.

Nirjala Ekadashi will be celebrated on June 18 this year.

Observing fast on this Ekadashi give the results equivalent to observing 24 Ekadashi of an year. After observing this fast, a person should wake up early in the morning on Dwadashi (a day after Ekadasi), take bath, make donation and offer food to Brahmans. The devotee must chant "Om Namo Bhagwate Vasudevay" and donate cow, clothes, fruits etc. on this day.

LEGEND

Nirjala Ekadashi is also known as Pandava Bhima Ekadashi, or Pandava Nirjala Ekadashi. This name is derived from Bhima, the second and strongest of the five Pandava brothers, heroes of the Hindu epic Mahabharata. The Brahma Vaivarta Purana narrates the story behind the Nirjala Ekadashi vrata vow. Bhima, a lover of food, wanted to observe all ekadashi fasts, but could not control his hunger. He approached the sage Vyasa, author of the Mahabharata and grandfather of the Pandavas for a solution. The sage advised him to observe Nirjala Ekadashi, when for one day in the year, he should observe an absolute fast. Bhima attained the virtue of all 24 ekadashis, by observing Nirjala Ekadashi.

PRACTICES

While on other ekadashis abstinence of food is observed, on Nirjala Ekadashi, an absolute fast is observed, without partaking even water. The water-less fast is considered extremely difficult to follow as the day falls in the hot Indian summer and thus, it is deemed as very pious austerity. The fast is observed 24 hours from sunrise on Nirjala Ekadashi to sunrise the next day. Some observe it from sunrise to sunset. On the day before Nirjala Ekadashi, the devotee performs the evening prayer (Sandhyavandanam) and takes only one meal, without rice – as rice eating is prohibited. The devotee is however permitted to have a single tiny drop of water as part of the Achamana purification ritual. Water more than that equals breaking the vow.

Like other ekadashis, puja is offered to the god Vishnu, for whom ekadashis are sacred, to seek his grace. An image of Vishnu or a Saligrama stone (an iconic fossil stone in the form of Vishnu) is bathed (abhisheka) with Panchamrita, a mixture of five foods: milk, curd, ghee (clarified butter), honey and sugar. It is then washed with water and then dressed in royal finery. A hand-fan is also offered. Flowers, incense, water and arati (lamps) are also offered. Devotees meditate on the image of the god. In the evening, they worship Vishnu with durva grass in their hands. Devotees remain awake the whole night and sing praises of Vishnu or meditate on his image.

Another characteristic of ekadashis is charity to Brahmans (the priest class). Clothes, food grains, umbrellas, hand-fans, pitchers filled with water, gold etc. are prescribed to be donated on Nirjala Ekadashi.

MERITS

According to the Markandeya Purana and the Vishnu Purana, the day of Ekadashi is itself a form of Vishnu. The vrata observed on this day is said to wash away all



Important information

Nirjala Ekadashi 2024

Tuesday, 18 June 2024

Ekadashi Tithi starts : 17 June 2024 at 01:07 PM

Ekadashi date ends : 18 June 2024 at 01:45 PM

sin.[5]One who completes the vrata of Nirjala Ekadashi is mentioned to gain the favour of Vishnu, who grants him happiness, prosperity and forgiveness for sins. The devotee is described to receive the merit gained by the observance of all 24 ekadashis in the year. It is most popular and strictly observed by the Vaishnavas, in particular. The observer gains longevity and moksha (salvation). Usually, the messengers of the god of death Yama are described to fetch the person's soul after death. Yama then judges the person's deeds and sends him to Svarga (heaven) or Naraka (Hell). However, one who observes the Nirjala Ekadashi rituals is believed to be excused Yama's judgement and taken by messengers of Vishnu to Vaikuntha, the abode of Vishnu, after death.

HOW TO OBSERVE NIRJALA EKADASHI VRAT

Nirjala means without water. Hence, fast is observed without water and food. It is considered as the most strict and hence, most sacred of all Ekadashis. This fast is extremely difficult to follow as it falls in the hot Indian summer. The 24 hours long fast begins from sunrise on Nirjala Ekadashi to sunrise the next day. People fast and offer puja to Lord Vishnu on this day.

“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

The fast begins with Sandhyavandanam – a prayer. This prayer is performed in the evening before Nirjala Ekadashi, i.e. on 10th lunar day. After prayer devotee takes only one meal, without rice (as rice eating is prohibited). The strict fast continuous throughout Ekadashi. It gets over on next morning. Devotees offer prayer, tulsi, fruits, and sweets to Lord Vishnu and then finish their fast.

RITUALS AND CELEBRATIONS OF NIRJALA EKADASHI

- Offer Puja to Lord Vishnu and seek his grace.
- Bath the idol of Lord Vishnu with Panchamrit.
- Wash with clean water and then dressed in new clothes.
- Offer flowers, incense, water, lamps and a hand fan.
- In evening, worship Vishnu with Durva grass.
- Visit nearby Vishnu temple and observe Jagran at night.
- Chant bhajans, Vishnu Sahasranama and other slokas dedicated to Lord Vishnu
- Donate clothes, food grains, umbrellas, hand-fans, pitchers filled with water, gold etc.

PAGE SPONSORED BY



ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com

“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.”

Father's Day

FATHER'S DAY FALLS ON JUNE 16 THIS YEAR. THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION HONORS AND CELEBRATES OUR DADS AND THEIR SACRIFICES EACH YEAR ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF JUNE.

The day is celebrated every year to signify the special bond between father and his children. Although a father's love is not dependent on a single day celebration, but the this day is celebrated across the world to honour all those super dads who keep their children's happiness above everything.

The day reminds us of the indispensable roles fathers play in our lives and celebrates the love and dedication of fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other male figures. The day provides an opportunity for children and other family members, to express gratitude and love towards their fathers or father figures, acknowledging their role in nurturing, guiding, and supporting their children. It's a day to reflect on the importance of paternal influence in shaping individuals and society as a whole.

The third Sunday of June is celebrated as Father's Day in most parts of the world. Father's Day is a celebration of fathers, honouring fatherhood, paternal bonds and the role fathers play in society. This day was first proposed in 1909 to complement Mother's Day celebrations.

On this day children acknowledge and appreciate their fathers and father figures, who play an important role in their lives, be it emotionally, mentally or even financially. On this day children understand the importance of the role of a father in one's life. This day acknowledges the contribution of fathers to their own families and society at large. Children buy or make presents for their father or father-like figure, write and draw cards, spend the day engaging in activities that can be enjoyed with one's father, be it hiking, fishing or just sitting around watching some television. In India especially, most kids have a closer bond with their mothers, so this day definitely helps forge a closer relation with one's dad.

While India follows the US, and celebrates Father's Day on the third Sunday of June every year, in other countries including Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Italy, Father's Day is celebrated on March 19. And even though this is a Western tradition started in the United States of America, it has gained a lot of prominence in India in the past many years.

Traditions of Father's Day

The date for Father's Day changes from year-to-year. In most countries, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. The celebrations recognize the unique role a father or a father figure plays in our lives. Traditionally, countries such as Spain and Portugal, celebrate Father's Day on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. In Taiwan, Father's Day is on August 8. In Thailand, December 5, the birthday of former King Bhumibol Adulyadej, is marked as Father's Day.

How did Father's Day start?

According to the almanac.com, the history of Father's Day isn't a happy one. It was first marked after a horrible mining accident in the United States. On July 5, 1908, hundreds of men died in a mining mishap at Fairmont in West Virginia. Grace Golden Clayton, the daughter of a dedicated reverend, suggested a Sunday service in memory of all the men who died



in the accident. A few years later another woman, Sonora Smart Dodd, again started observing Father's Day in honour of her father, a Civil War veteran who brought up six children as a single parent.

Observing Father's Day did not gain popularity in the US until several decades later when President Richard Nixon signed a declaration in 1972, making it an annual celebration on the third Sunday of June.

Father's Day started in the United States (US), however, it has gained a lot of prominence in India in the last few years.

Father's Day was first proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd in the USA. She and her five siblings were raised by her dad, who was a civil war veteran William Jackson Smart.

Looking at her dad's dedication and support towards the family, she wanted to establish an official equivalent to Mother's

Day for male parents. Sonora wanted Father's Day celebrations to be held on 5 June, which was her dad's birthday, but due to the time constraints of the Church, the day was finally celebrated on the third Sunday of June.

The first Father's Day was celebrated on 19 June, 1910. Later, on 1 May, 1972, the then-President of the US Richard Nixon declared Father's Day as a national holiday. Therefore, the first official Father's Day celebration in the US was on 18 June, 1972.

Does every country observe Father's Day on same day?

No, not all countries observe the day on the same date. While Father's Day is celebrated in India, US and few other countries on the third Sunday of June (20 June) other countries including Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Italy observed Father's Day on 19 March.

In Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, Father's Day is celebrated in the month of September.

This special day signifies the pivotal role that fathers play in their children's lives; be it emotionally, mentally or even financially. So, to make their fathers feel special, children on this day shower them with gifts, heart-warming cards and special dinners.

Many try to spend more time than usual with their fathers. Others who are away from home call their father or visit him.

Facts about Father's Day

- The idea of Father's Day was first proposed by Sonora Smart Dodd of the United States whose father, William Jackson Smart, was an American Civil War veteran.
- He raised her and her five siblings after her mother died. Thus, Sonora Dodd became an admirer and the idea of Fathers' Day was proposed.
- The first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in America.
- Later in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation honouring fathers and declared the third Sunday of June as Father's Day.
- Six years later in 1972, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law.
- In some countries, Father's day is celebrated on June 19 but in most of the countries like the United States, Greece, India, France, Japan, Canada and China, this day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June.
- Just like mothers, fathers also play a very important part. Hence, this Father's Day, thank your father for being your dad and helping you achieve the best in life.

History This Week JUNE 14 - 20

JUNE 14



June 14, 1922 - Warren G. Harding became the first U.S. President to broadcast a message over the radio. The event was the dedication of the Francis Scott Key Memorial in Baltimore.

June 14, 1951 - Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia. It was installed at the Census Bureau and utilized a magnetic tape unit as a buffer memory.

Birthdays - American editor and compiler John Bartlett (1820-1905) was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Although he had little formal education, he created Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, one of the most-used reference works of the English language, which today contains 22,000 entries.

Birthdays - German psychiatrist and pathologist Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915) was born in Markbreit am Mainz, Germany. In 1907, he published an article first describing 'Alzheimers,' a degenerative disease, usually beginning at age 40-60, affecting nerve cells of the brain and leading to severe memory impairment and progressive loss of mental faculties.

JUNE 15

June 15, 1215 - King John set his seal to Magna Carta, the first charter of British liberties, guaranteeing basic rights that have since become the foundation of modern democracies around the world.



Birthdays - Pianist and composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) was born in Bergen, Norway. He incorporated the rhythms and melodies of Norwegian folk music into his songs and instrumentals including Piano Concerto in A Minor, Peer Gynt Suite, Norwegian Peasant Dance, and Ich liebe Dich.

JUNE 16

June 16, 1963 - Valentina Tereshkova, 26, became the first woman in space as her Soviet spacecraft, Vostok 6, took off from the Tyuratam launch site. She manually controlled the spacecraft completing 48 orbits in 71 hours before landing safely.

Birthdays - Film comedian Stan Laurel (1890-1965) was born in Ulverston,

England. He teamed up with Oliver Hardy as Laurel & Hardy delighting audiences for more than 30 years.



Birthdays - American author and photographer John Griffin (1920-1980) was born in Dallas, Texas. He darkened his white skin using chemicals and ultraviolet light, then kept a journal on his experiences while posing as an African American traveling through the deep South. The journal was published as the book, Black Like Me.

JUNE 17

June 17, 1972 - Following a seemingly routine burglary, five men were arrested at the National Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. However, subsequent investigations revealed the burglars were actually agents hired by the Committee for the Re-election of President Richard Nixon. A long chain of events then followed in which the president and top aides became involved in an extensive cover-up of this and other White House sanctioned illegal activities, eventually leading to the resignation of President Nixon on August 9, 1974.



Birthdays - Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born near St. Petersburg. Among his best known works, the ballets The Firebird (1910), Petrushka (1911) and The Rite of Spring (1913), and the choral work Symphony of Psalms (1930).

JUNE 18

June 18, 1815 - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops. Thus ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. Napoleon was then sent into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, the former vain-glorious Emperor died alone on the tiny island, abandoned by everyone.

June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space, beginning a

six-day mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.



Birthdays - British explorer George Mallory (1886-1924) was born in Mobberley, Cheshire, England. When asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, he simply answered, "Because it is there." He disappeared while climbing through the mists toward its summit on the morning of June 8, 1924. His body, perfectly preserved due to the cold conditions, was discovered by climbers in 1999, just 600 meters (2,030 feet) from the summit.

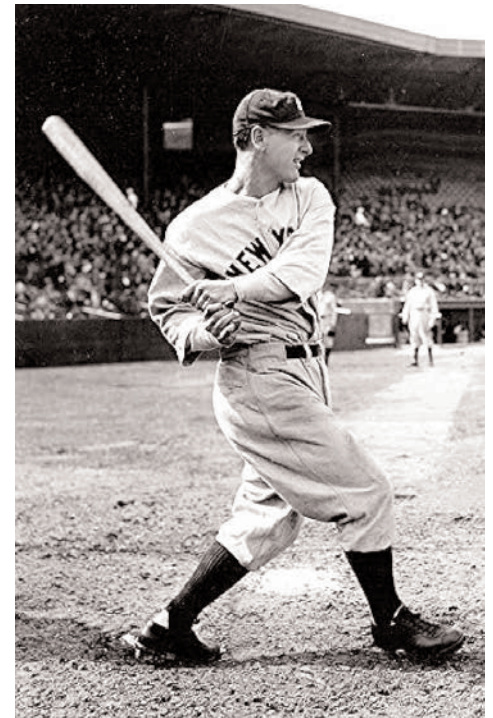
JUNE 19

June 19, 1865 - In Galveston, Texas, upon the arrival of Union troops, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States [President Lincoln], all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves..." As a result, an estimated 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally freed. The day is now celebrated as Juneteenth to commemorate Emancipation and to recognize the struggle for freedom and equality of African Americans.



June 19, 1953 - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45. They were the first U.S. civilians to be sentenced to death for espionage and were also the only married couple ever executed together in the U.S.

Birthdays - Baseball great Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was born in New York City. He played in 2,130 consecutive games and seven World Series for the New York Yankees and had a lifetime batting average of .340. He contracted the degenerative muscle disease



amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, now called 'Lou Gehrig's disease,' and died on June 2, 1941.

JUNE 20



June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.



Birthdays - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy (1924-1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including; The Red Badge of Courage (1951), Destryst (1954), and To Hell and Back (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

Hill stations in West India for an exhilarating journey

For a traveler with an insatiable thirst to discover new places, no other place offers choices as better as India, a land where different cultures, languages, and religions thrive together. It's a country with vast geographical diversity, the very trait every seasoned traveler looks for while choosing a destination. If you are in search of a region where you get to view all kinds of landscapes India is known for, then head to its Western shores. The Western part of India is studded with many distinct geographical features that pose a wonderful contrast against each other, bringing out their real worth.

So if you get a sight of a hillock while hitting a desert or view mammoth cliff tops near the beaches, it's perfectly fine to stop and ponder over the amazing spectacle. To fully absorb the geographical details of western India, taking a trip to its hill stations is the best thing you can do. The location of these green hillocks is ideal to scan the variegated landscapes situated at their base. Take a look at this Hill Stations in West India to unearth the hidden treasures that deserve every bit of your attention in West India Tours.

Mahabaleshwar

Mahabaleshwar is a vivacious town that takes everyone by surprise with its enchanting greenery and serene views. Situated in Maharashtra this beautiful hill station is enveloped by the Sahyadri mountain range offering a host of natural vistas that are a treat for the eyes. Mahabaleshwar is bestowed with multiple beautiful waterfalls and lakes and every inch of this mesmerizing hill station is drenched in purity and calmness that has a wonderful effect on your soul. The town has earned a significant position in Indian history as it was ruled by many Hindu and Muslim kings who built several ancient structures including a 500 years old temple and a scenic fort situated at the edge of a cliff.

Panchgani

This pretty hill refuge located within the five mountains in Sahyadri Mountain range proposes many delightful prospects for seekers of nature and peace. Its short distance from Mahabaleshwar makes it a must-visit destination for travelers who plan a trip to Mahabaleshwar. This place has lots of scenic spots to spend your time in tranquility. The dense patches of greenery you come across on your way to Panchgani put you in a relaxed state and prepare you to be ready for other strikingly beautiful natural treasures hidden in its different locations.

Mount Abu

This charming hill station has been



rightfully named 'An oasis in the desert' as it's the only hill station in Rajasthan. Throughout its history, this place has remained the preferred escape from the sweltering heat of Rajasthan for many Rajput rulers who built their beautiful summer palaces here. The climate of this hilly resort is quite unlike the

climate in deserts; hence it makes for an ideal refuge to escape the sweltering heat of deserts in Rajasthan Tour India. The forests of Mount Abu host fledgling wildlife worth observing.

Khandala

A revered holiday spot for a majority

of folks residing in Mumbai and Pune, Khandala holds a veritable existence as one of the best hill stations in India because of its pleasant weather. It is home to a great number of hillside forts, waterfalls and cliff tops giving a distinct feel to its hilly landscape. The trails and terrains leading up to the cliffs and valleys nearby introduce you to the massive variety of plant and wildflower species growing in the region. This is one place that lets you enjoy every season in the best way as the weather here does not get harsh.

Saputara

Being one of the few hill stations in the state of Gujarat, Saputara is a popular tourist getaway that sees a great influx of tourists from in and around Gujarat for an up-close experience with nature. Venturing into this gorgeous piece of land is a breathtaking experience for those who have spent some days touring the salt deserts of Gujarat. The cascading waterfalls, lush forests and gardens create a beautiful harmony enough to compel the visitors to prolong their stay in India Tours.

Lonavala

For decades, Lonavala has remained a favored holiday destination for city dwellers as well as for those on a lookout for a peaceful place away from the noise and traffic of cities. In spite of the modernization that took place in all these years, this place still carries a natural charm that appeals to visitors of all kinds. You can find many cafes in Lonavala surrounded by a thick green patch to sip coffee and read your favorite book.

Chorla Ghats

Chorla Ghats in Goa is no less than a paradise for travelers who wish to escape the beach atmosphere for a while to wallow in the beauty of nature's treasures that are found in a hill station Tours. The soothing sights of waterfalls, Dams, and forests located near Chorla Ghats have a positive influence on your mind. The forests here own great biodiversity which includes many species of wild animals and birds and its worth it to visit the Wildlife sanctuary to take stock of different animal species and their natural habitats.

Kamshet

This hill station in Maharashtra is mostly thronged by adventure lovers as it happens to be a popular site for paragliding. You can find many flying academies in Kamshet owing to this reason. But if you are the one who just wants a peaceful escape, then this place is a treasure in its own right as it houses many enchanting sites to make your stay a dream one. *Source: State Express*

R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.
We GUARANTEE full satisfaction



SONU INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Specializing in :

- ✓ PASSPORTS NEW AND RENEWAL
- ✓ OCI CARD
- ✓ ITIN
- ✓ TAX PREPARATION

CALL US NOW:

Phone: 718-847-1878

Fax: 718-847-1879

**135-15, 122nd Street,
S. Ozone Park, NY 11420**



Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator
Call **Master Mohinder Singh**
at **646-523-5092**



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(516) 932-3400
www.hprealty1.com

- **Residential & Commercial Real Estate**
 - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
 - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
 - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
 - New York and Indiana
- **Insurance Services**
 - Home Life and Health
- **Mortgages** (provided by affiliate lenders)
 - New Purchase Refinance
 - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?
STOP FORECLOSURE!**

CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



Pal Singh Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified
Notary Public
(516) 304-2630

Jeet Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com





SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES ORG.

A registered tax exempt 501 (c) (3) EIN # 47-4515587

YOUR GENEROUS DONATION IS WELCOME & GREATLY APPRECIATED



PICNIC



IN THE PARK



Join us for the fun filled day with :**BREAKFAST.LUNCH**

cricket



**UNDER 7 YEARS KIDS
GET FREE GIFTS
BY ONLY RSVP**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024,
TIME: 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM**

Eisenhower Park

**YOU CAN USE ZELLE
AT (347) 513 -8526**

OR SCAN



EAST MEADOW NY 11554

PARKING LOT 4. (AREA-THE SCARLET OAK)

Suhag Mehta
Founder & President
C: 516-324-5230

Jyoti Gupta
program manager
C:516-984-5220

MEMBERS: \$10 P.P.
NON-MEMBERS \$15 P.P
UNDER AGT 7 IS FREE
WWW. SAWAO.ORG
SAWAUSA@GMAIL.COM

RSVP MUST

GOPI UDESHI
VICE PRESIDENT
516-304-9264

MINA JEDEGA
JOINT VICE PRESIDENT
631-522-7410

SHOBHANA DOSHI
2ND JOINT VICE PRESIDENT
917-330-6779

AVANI MATHURIA
SECRETARY
646-407-0614

ASHA DHARAWAT
JOINT VICE SECRETARY
516-236-2316

TEJAL RAVAL
TREASURER
917-533-8870

MINAXI I PATEL
TREASURER
347-536-8769

EC MEMBERS:

Yogini Oza :516-301-7430 , Arpita Shah :347-652-3361,Usha Vora : 516-857-8400, Meena n Patel : 718-468-1193 , Krupa Shah : 718-532-6509,
Dr. Abha Bhatnagar :347-303-9545, Kusum Gandhi :347-530-6000

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Dr jag Kalra:516-589-4583, Beena Kothari : 631-988-1280 , Renuka Shah: 516-301-6970, Rekha Trivedi : 516-457-5328 , Dr Bhavani Srinivasan :516-343-0941

SUPPORTED BY



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

G7 leaders commit to transition away...

generation in our energy systems during the first half of 2030s." With the COP29 United Nations climate conference due to start in November, the leaders of the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Britain and Italy said they would submit "more ambitious" national climate plans, according to the draft.

The document commits to a collective effort to reduce methane emissions by 75% by 2030 but, in a section likely to upset environment activists, the leaders give a green light to public investments in natural gas, a polluting fossil fuel.

"In the exceptional circumstance of accelerating the phase-out of our dependency on Russian energy, publicly supported investments in the gas sector can be appropriate as a temporary response, subject to clearly defined national circumstances," the draft said.

Meanwhile, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, June 14, held talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, French President Emmanuel Macron and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak on the sidelines of G7 Summit in Italy's Apulia region. He also met with Pope Francis who he invited to visit India.

It is learnt that Ukraine's Zelenskyy briefed Modi on various aspects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Modi had met Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the previous G7 summit in Hiroshima in May last year as well.

India has been maintaining that the conflict in Ukraine must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

Modi and French President Macron discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership, including in areas of defense, nuclear and space, and exchanged views on key global and regional issues.

The two leaders met in the southern resort town of Italy.

"Taking Strategic Partnership to new levels! PM @narendramodi met President @EmmanuelMacron of France on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

"The two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the partnership including in areas of defense, nuclear, space, education, climate action, digital public infrastructure, critical technologies, connectivity and culture. They also exchanged views on key global and regional issues," he wrote.

It is Prime Minister Modi's first foreign trip after assuming office for a third time this month. The two leaders last met in January when the French President visited India to attend the 75th Republic Day of India.

PM Modi's meeting with his British counterpart Sunak followed his talks with French President Macron. The two leaders greeted each other with a warm hug as they met on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Apulia.

Modi reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthen the India-UK strategic partnership in the third term of the NDA government and reviewed the progress made in the ongoing FTA negotiations.

"It was a delight to meet PM @RishiSunak in Italy. I reiterated my commitment to further strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the third term of the NDA Government," Modi posted on X soon after their meeting.

"There is great scope to deepen ties in sectors like semiconductors, technology and trade. We also talked about further cementing ties in the defense sector," Modi wrote.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal described the meeting between the two leaders as "fruitful."

"The two leaders took stock of bilateral relations in areas of defense and security, trade and economic collaboration, critical and high technology sectors and people to people connect. They discussed

implementation of Roadmap 2030 and progress made in ongoing FTA negotiations," Jaiswal posted on X.

Modi is attending the summit on the invitation of Italian President Georgia Meloni and will address an Outreach session on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean alongside leaders of other invited countries and Pope Francis. (With inputs from PTI)

Mohan Bhagwat says Lok Sabha poll...

democracy, there ought to be a limit to one's rhetoric during campaigning.

"There are two parties. There is competition. Since it is a contest, efforts will be made by both to push oneself forward. But there is a dignity to this process. Lies should not be used. People are being elected to go to Parliament and run our country. They do so by reaching a consensus. That has been our tradition. This [election] contest is not a war," said the RSS chief.

"The manner of campaigning was one in which social tensions and suspicion among people would increase and two groups would be divided. Care was not taken to ensure that this did not happen. Without any reason, organizations like the RSS were dragged into this," added Mr. Bhagwat.

Mr. Bhagwat said that Manipur has been waiting for peace for a year.

"The State had been peaceful for 10 years. It had appeared that gun culture had ended. However, who is thinking of dousing the flames that have erupted now? Peace has to be considered on priority basis," Mr. Bhagwat said.

The ruling BJP lost the Lok Sabha election in Manipur, with both seats being won by the Congress. The Opposition Congress had accused Mr. Modi of not visiting Manipur while Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had done so, commencing his Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra from there.

"There is a dignity to contesting elections. That dignity was not maintained. It is necessary to do so because the challenges facing our country have not ended...The same government is back to power [NDA]. While it is right that a lot of positive things have happened in last 10 years, it doesn't mean that we are free of challenges," Mr. Bhagwat said.

He also rued the fact that falsehoods were propagated through technology. "Modern technology was used to propagate falsehood. How will a country run like that?" he said. Mr. Bhagwat further said that the Opposition should not be considered an adversary. "They are Opposition, revealing one side. Their opinions should also come to light," he said. (With inputs from PTI)

Pope Francis becomes first pontiff to...

perils and promises of AI. In doing so, he became the first pope to attend the G7, offering an ethical take on an issue that is increasingly on the agenda of international summits, government policy and corporate boards alike.

Francis said politicians must take the lead in making AI human-centric, so that human decisions always remain made by humans and not machines.

"We would condemn humanity to a future without hope if we took away people's ability to make decisions about themselves and their lives, by dooming them to depend on the choices of machines," he said. "We need to ensure and safeguard a space for proper human control over the choices made by artificial intelligence programs: Human dignity itself depends on it." Francis intended to use the occasion to join the chorus of countries and global bodies pushing for stronger guardrails on AI following the boom in generative artificial intelligence kickstarted by OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot.

The Argentine pope used his annual peace message this year to call for an international treaty to ensure AI is developed and used ethically. He argues that a technology lacking human values of compassion, mercy, morality and forgiveness is too perilous to develop unchecked. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Delhi LG grants sanction to...

registered following the orders of the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi, they added.

The FIR in the matter was registered on a complaint made by Sushil Pandit, a social activist from Kashmir, on October 28, 2010.

Last October, the LG had granted sanction to prosecute them under section 196 of CrPC for commission of offences punishable under different sections of the Indian Penal Code: 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 153B (imputations, assertions prejudicial to national-integration) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

Roy and Hussain had allegedly made provocative speeches at a conference organized under the banner of 'Azadi - The Only Way' on October 21, 2010 at LTG Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, here.

"The issues discussed and spoken about at the conference propagated the separation of Kashmir from India," said the official.

Those who delivered speeches at the conference included Syed Ali Shah Geelani, SAR Geelani (anchor of the Conference and prime accused in the Parliament attack case), Arundhati Roy, Dr. Sheikh Showkat Hussain and Varavara Rao.

The complainant filed a complaint under Section 156(3) of CrPC before the Metropolitan Magistrate Court, New Delhi, who disposed the complaint on November 27, 2010 with the directions to register an FIR.

Accordingly, an FIR was registered and investigation was carried out, they said. (Source: PTI)

Supreme Court issues notices to...

Asking the Centre and NTA to respond to the petitions seeking a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and malpractices in NEET-UG, a Vacation Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath asked them to respond in two weeks and posted the matter for further hearing on July 8 when certain other petitions on the issue would also be taken up.

As the petitioners' advocates said it's a question of lakhs of students and that candidates were committing suicides, the Bench asked them not to make any emotional arguments. It said no ex-parte order could be passed on their plea for a CBI probe without hearing the counsel for the Centre and NTA.

Besides a CBI probe into alleged paper leak and other irregularities, the petitioners have also sought cancellation of NEET-UG - results of which were declared on June 4.

The Bench - which also included Justice Sandeep Mehta - also issued notices to various parties on NTA's petition seeking transfer of cases pending in various high courts on the NEET-UG row to the top court to avoid multiplicity of litigation.

Now both sets of petitions will be taken up for hearing on July 8.

The Bench allowed NTA to withdraw three other petitions seeking transfer of cases from high courts to the top court on the issue of grant of grace marks to 1,563 candidates on account of loss of time during the May 5 NEET-UG.

Amid allegations of paper leak and other malpractices in NEET-UG, the Centre on Thursday scrapped the grace marks given on account of loss of time to 1,563 NEET-UG candidates for admission to MBBS, BDS and other courses.

These candidates will be given an option to take a retest on June 23 and the results would be declared by June 30, 2024 so that counselling likely to start from July 6, 2024 onwards was not affected, the Centre had said.

The decision was taken in meetings held by the NTA grievance redressal committee on June 10, 11 and 12 to allay fears of candidates about any possible irregularities. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*



Akhil Vishwa Hindi Samiti New York

Tax Exempt Not for Profit Organization Incorporated Under NY State Charter

Presents

Kavi Sammelan

An Evening of Hindi Poetry – Geet, Gazal, Shayari
Flavors of Humor, Satire, Love, and Beauty
Dedicated to You – The Listener

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 14th, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74
61-15 Oceania St, Oakland Gardens, NY 11364

Public Transport

Q30 Bus in Front of School. Q88 to Oceania St. and 73rd Avenue.

Free
Admission

Ample Street
Parking

Free Snacks
& Tea

Free Dinner

RSVP REQUIRED
REGISTRATION OPENS 1st SEPTEMBER 2024
FOR DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT
PRADEEP TANDON
718-564-3092 prprprus@gmail.com

Executive Committee

Mrs. Nalini & Vinod Sinha, Dr. B. K. Mehta, Pradeep Tandon,
Dr. Phani Bhushan Das, Sushma Malhotra, Dr. Bindeshwari Agarwal,
Sushma Kaushik, Pushp Malhotra, Prof. Girija Shankar Dubey,
Dr. Ved V. Malhotra, Jitender Sharma, Ravindra Kumar,
Dr. Sandhya Malhotra, Dr. Usha Tandon, Dr. Hari Singh Pal,
Dr. Parveen Chopra, Dr. Ravi Goyal, Dr. K. L. Kantu, Dr. Urmilesh Arya,
Roshan Gera, Surinder Kathuria, Dr Rajani Goyal, Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kaushik,
Mrs. Ambalika Mishra, Mrs. Purnima Desai, Mrs. Indu Gajwani



Shiv Sahani

Call for All your Life Insurance Needs!
"Making Friends Through Service"

SAHANIS: Shiv, Arish & Priya
Office: (718) 271-0453
Cell: (646) 644-0174
Email: sksahani@ft.nyl.com
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company



Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
IS HIRING

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA 718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

FOR SALE

136 Cornwell Ave., Williston Park, NY

Located in the highly rated HERRICKS school district!

NEW CONSTRUCTION - TO BE BUILT
(Select your own Finishes)



(Photo is of a recently completed house)

- 5 Bedrooms with Master Bath & Walk - In Closet; 3 Full Baths
- Crown Molding and other millwork details
- Hardwood floors throughout
- Family room with a gas fireplace
- Eat-In Kitchen includes: Quartz Counter Tops, All stainless steel appliances, Double Wall Oven and Cook-Top.
- Central air Conditioning.
- Laundry Room on second floor.
- Full basement with an outside entrance
- Mid-Block location; walk to shopping, parks, and the Long Island Railroad.

Rare opportunity @ pre-construction, allowing for
customizing options of YOUR choice.

Offered @ \$1,588,888

Won't last, call today - 516-486-1247—Qualified buyers only



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

Worldwide Couriers / Freight Forwarders
Domestic Rush Delivery / Import / Export
Custom Clearance / Trading Consultant

Gurinder Singh
CEO

SALES OFFICE

224 West 30th St., #604, New York, NY 10001
Mail: P.O. Box 7304, Hicksville, NY 11802

Office: 212.447.5720 Fax: 516.932.3750
Delhi: 98.1849.0552
Mumbai: 92.2453.1807
New York: 347.538.7041

Visit US Online: www.indousexpress.com
Email: indousexpress@gmail.com

For advertising in www.theindianpanorama.news
Call 646-247-9458

For New Yorkers, the T20 World Cup is over



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

After eight of the 20 teams participating in the T20 Cricket World Cup went all out in their quest for a place in the Super 8, curtains were rung down on the makeshift Nassau County International Cricket Stadium. The closing game, between the two undefeated teams - India and the USA - was not without its anxious and exciting moments before the host team conceded defeat by seven wickets with 10 balls to spare.

Teams that played in New York included India, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ireland, Canada and the host USA. India won all of its three games here to stay on top of Group A. South Africa also won all its three games here.

Though it was the last game, it was not the end of cricket here at Long Island where sports goods dealers are hoping for a huge demand for cricket equipment in the coming times. "The game has come to stay here. And the growing interest of the youngsters is reflected by growing demand for the game gear here," remarked a shopkeeper of Floral Park.

Many youngsters felt encouraged to take their first lessons in the game from the



Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

players and officials of the participating teams.

Since there were terrorist threats, especially to the India-Pakistan game, the police did not take any chances for any of the eight games played here. It was only after the end of the India-USA game that the police started dismantling its security apparatuses. The police did not let its guard down till the end as India was playing.

Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder was quoted saying in the Media that it has been the highest level of security that has been in place during the

World Cup. Most cricket fans had to walk from Nassau Coliseum to get to the stadium in Eisenhower Park. As fans make their way in, they were immediately ushered into security checks where they were forced through a screener and were checked two or three times before ever entering the grounds.

Police said it had on an average deployed about 300 officers at the stadium alone. There were K9 units, mounted police and partners from multiple agencies working together to make sure everyone was safe.

County officials also claimed that they

put a lot of work in to making sure the event ran smoothly. The local businesses welcomed the holding of T20 World Cup here as it gave a boost to them.

"When you are charged with keeping 34,000 people safe every day - a lot of work but it is worth it. As close to perfect as you can possibly get," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, told Media on the last day of the event.

A Long Island-based company Landtek, installed the field and the main pitch where the cricket matches were played. Getting the right type of grass for the historic event was no easy feat. "This job in our backyard was special," said the owner of the company. He revealed that twenty-two tractor-trailers took the trip from Florida to New York. The trays carrying the drop in pitches were approximately 10 x 82 feet long weighing approximately anywhere from 16 to 18 tons a piece."

Nearly 200,000 pounds of sod made the long journey from Boynton Beach, Florida, to Nassau County as workers started installing it in April at the 34,000-seat temporary cricket stadium constructed for the event.

In the games played here, South Africa defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets, the Netherlands by 4 wickets and Bangladesh by 4 wickets; India beat Ireland by 8 wickets, Pakistan by 6 runs and the US by seven wickets and Canada beat Ireland by 12 runs.

India and Afghanistan keep South Asian flags flying

By Prabhjot Singh

Cricket, a game of the British vintage, has become a religion for South Asians. So overpowering is its growing popularity in the subcontinent that in the ongoing T20 World Cup in Americas - West Indies and the USA are jointly hosting the 9th edition of this marquee event - 12 of the 20 teams are represented by players of the South Asian descent.

Incidentally, a record number of six South Asian nations - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal - qualified for the T20 World Cup 2024, six other teams - Canada, Oman, Uganda, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the USA - are also represented by players of the South Asian descent.

Otherwise, South Africa has won all its three matches played so far defeating two of Asian teams - Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Besides, it has beaten the Netherlands to stay at the top of the table with maximum three wins from as many matches.

Looking at analytics of the completed 21 of 55 matches of the tournament, performance of South Asian teams and players have been hawking media headlines. Playing against teams from other parts of the World, South Asians have a 3-4 record, with Afghanistan recording convincing wins against Uganda and New Zealand and India notching up a similar flattering win over Ireland, they have suffered some shocking defeats, including Pakistan losing

super over game to the USA and Nepal going down tamely to the Netherlands. In the last game played today at Nassau Cricket Stadium, Bangladesh went down fighting to South Africa by 4 runs.

South Africa 113/6 (Heinrich Klassen 46, David Miller 29, Quinton de Kock 18, Tanzim Hasan Shakib 3/18, Taskin Ahmed 2/19) beat Bangladesh 109/7 (Tawhid Hriday 37, Mahmudullah 20, Keshav Maharaj 3/27, Anrich Nortje 2/17 and K Rabada 2/19) by four runs.

In the matches played among South Asian nations, India recorded an exciting 6-run win over Pakistan in a low scoring game while Sri Lankans were surprised by Bangladesh.

Players belonging to the South Asian Diaspora have till now performed well for the countries of their present abode. When the US shocked Pakistan, it was all because of some good batting by the team captain, Monnak Patel. Other players of the South Asian descent who have done well include batters Pargat Singh (Canada) Shreyas Movva (Canada) and Vikramjit Singh (the Netherlands).

Former Pakistani cricket star Shahid Afridi wrote in his column that in the game between India and Pakistan, it was an easily chaseable target. No team has ever defended a lower total at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, he wrote holding that

Pakistan's bowling was disciplined and it managed to restrict what is the best batting line-up in the world

to just 119."

He quoted Indian skipper Rohit Sharma admitting that his team did not bat well enough and the loss of early wickets, including his own and that of Virat Kohli to bring the game to life. Early removal of both of them gave Pakistan plenty of momentum.

"There has been a lot of talk about the drop-in pitch in New York and the surface was a little slow compared to the batting-friendly pitches we have become accustomed to in T20 cricket," wrote Afridi but went on to add that the pitch should never be used as an excuse and neither captain did so - they know that top-level professionals should know how to adjust to any conditions.

"I believed India's batters were 35 to 40 runs short of where they wanted to be. In my experience, international cricket and especially the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is all about handling pressure. On the big days, you have to have nerves of steel until you make it through.

"India stayed positive and calm until the last ball and the pressure of the run chase was not handled well by Babar Azam's side. The key difference between the two teams was India's consistency, self-belief, discipline and attitude on the field. The Pakistan batting line-up simply isn't clicking and what we saw was a weak display of power hitting," Afridi added.

India has now won seven of its eight matches against Pakistan at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

T20 WORLD CUP

U.S. Indian-origin players put up a fighting performance against India before going down

By Prabhjot Singh

India ran through a couple of rough patches against "mini India" before Surya Kumar and Shivam Dube helped it scrap through with a seven-wicket win in the T20 World Cup at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, June 12. It was India's third consecutive win and first loss for the USA.

An unbeaten 72-run fourth wicket partnership between Suryakumar (50 not out) and Shivam Dube (31 not out) clinched the game with 10 balls to spare. At one stage, India was struggling at 39/3 at the end of 7.3 overs. Studded with two sixers and as many fourers, it was Surya Kumar's first half century in the T20 World Cup that came from 49 balls that saw his team through.

It was a big heartbreak for the home team as it did try to match its much superior opponent in every department of the game.

Saurabh Netravalkar did what Arshdeep Singh did in his first over. Saurabh had a much bigger fish in his net when he trapped Indian star batsman Virat Kohli for a duck. After skipper Rohit Sharma had taken a single off the first ball, Saurabh had Virat Kohli caught behind by Andrius Gaus to make India 1/1, not a good start for the pre-tournament favorites. With the second ball of his second over, he sent back Indian skipper Rohit Sharma caught by Harmeet Singh for three to make India 10/2.

The form of Indian star openers must be worrying the team management as Kohli has not even entered double figures in three innings he played. Rohit had slightly better performance than him but least inspiring. After Saurabh dismissed both Kohli and Rohit Sharma, it brought together Rishabh and Surya Kumar together to pull India out of woods. Rishabh Pant (18), who survived a close run out call, went without any addition to his individual score of 18 to make India 39/3. He was clean bowled by Ali Khan, Rishabh and Surya had added 29 for the third wicket. On the halfway mark, India were 49 for three.

Indian batsmen struggled as they took the score to 60 for three in 13 overs with Surya Kumar on 23 and Shivam Dube on 13. It was after a considerable wait that Surya Kumar hit India's third boundary on the last ball of the 14th over to make it 67 for three. Interestingly, when India reached 76 for three at the end of 15 overs, three of its batters - Rishabh (18), Surya Kumar (29) and Shivam Dube (23) had hit a boundary and a six each.

A hit to the maximum and a boundary of successive balls by Surya Kumar in the 17th over helped India cross the 100-mark. Two wickets in the opening over,



Suryakumar Yadav scored an unbeaten 50.



Arshdeep Singh took two wickets in his first over.



Saurabh Netravalkar's double strike left India at 33/2 at the end of the Powerplay.

including a wicket on the first ball of the match, gave India a dream start against "Mini India" team. Arshdeep had opener Shayan Jahangir trapped

leg before with his first ball and on the last ball of the over sent back Andrius Gaus, caught by Hardik Pandya, for two to make it 3 for 2. It was at this stage

that Steven Taylor and Aaron Jones were brought together to put up 22 runs for the third wicket before Hardik Pandya in his second over had Jones caught by Mohammad Siraj for 11. Earlier on Jones had hit Siraj for the first six of the US innings.

Opener Steven Taylor, who tried to hold the US innings together was the fourth man to return to pavilion after scoring 24 with two hits to the maximum. Immediately after hitting his second six, he was clean bowled by Axar Patel to make the score 56 for five. He and Nitish Kumar had added 31 runs for the fourth wicket. Nitish who made 27 was the fifth man to go. His wicket was claimed by Arshdeep Singh, his third of the innings.

When Arshdeep got Harmeet Singh caught behind by Rishabh Pant, it was his fourth wicket and he ended his spell with flattering figures of four for nine, perhaps his best in T20 cricket. Hardik Pandya was other successful Indian bowler claiming two for 14 in 4 overs while Bumrah remained wicketless for 25 runs in 4 overs. Jasdeep Singh was the last US batsman who ran himself out on the last ball of the innings.

'Mini India' vs India

As many as eight players in the USA T20 World Cup squad are either born in India or have grown up there. Two of them - Saurabh Netravalkar and Harmeet Singh - have even represented India at the U19 World Cup. Batter Milind Kumar has played over 100 first-class and List-A games for Delhi and Sikkim. The others - left-arm spinner Nosthush Kenjige and captain Monank Patel, fast bowler Jasdeep Singh, and left-arm spinner Nisarg Patel - have played age-group or club-level cricket in India. Batsman Nitish Kumar, who comes from Punjab, also had his first lessons in cricket back home.

They have played a huge role in making the USA a side to reckon with. USA have already made heads turn at this T20 World Cup by beating Canada and Pakistan. They were sitting at the second spot in Group A and needed to win one of their remaining two group games to qualify for the Super 8 stage in the West Indies. Their opponent, India, was a different ballgame altogether. Not just because they are the strongest team in the group and one of the contenders to lift the trophy but also because many of the USA squad members once harbored the dream of representing India at this level.

And players like Nitish Kumar and Harmeet Singh proved their worth with the bat to help USA cross the three-figure mark in what otherwise is a low scoring T20 World Cup. US had set up a contestable 110-run target for India. And India had put in its best to achieve the target with only 10 balls to spare.

Weather halts Pakistan's progress in T20 World Cup as US-Ireland game is abandoned

By Prabhjot Singh

When luck deserts you, nothing helps. And it becomes all the more agonizing and painful when even nature turns against you and wreaks havoc with your hopes and dreams. This is exactly what is happening to Pakistan cricket team playing in the T20 World Cup.

As a result created a history becoming the first ever debutant side to make the Super 8 round with five points from four games keeping Ireland at the bottom while pushing Pakistan out of contention of the knockout round.

All Pakistani prayers went unanswered and inevitable has happened. Both Ireland and Pakistan have been knocked out of the tournament and India and USA make it to the Super 8 round from this group. The remaining games in the group would be played as scheduled as they would have no bearing on the Super 8 round.

While eight matches were played at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, four games - Nepal vs Sri Lanka (June 11), USA vs Ireland (June 14), Canada vs India (June 15) and Ireland vs Pakistan (June 16) - were allotted to Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium, Lauderhill, Florida. Since it is Monsoon season, Florida is known to be hit by thunderstorms and heavy rains during late June and early July months.

The Lauderhill venue is the most established US cricket venue, having opened in 2007 as an arena dedicated to the sport. It hosted the country's first T20 international match when New Zealand

INDIA, USA MOVE TO SUPER 8



Rain forced the match between USA and Ireland in Florida to be abandoned. | AFP

took on Sri Lanka in 2010. The USA played its first one-day international series here in 2019. The stadium, which was constructed at a cost of \$70m, has a capacity of 25,000 people.

Though Pakistan had no game scheduled for today, eyes of all Pakistani players, officials and fans were glued on the Ireland-USA match. The future of Pakistan in the tournament hinged on the outcome of this game. And things did not work the ways many Pakistanis prayed and wanted. The miracle, they thought would happen, refused to come.

Pakistan was hoping against hope as the chances of the match to begin were bleak as the state of Florida, where Lauderhill is situated, has been hit by a tropical thunderstorm, leading to incessant rain and flash flooding.

As ill luck would have it, Florida has been through a series of vagaries of weather for the past few days. Thunderstorms have put the normal life out of gear. Even some teams which were to fly out of Florida had to stay put because of delay or cancellation of flights.

There were a series of inspections of soggy outfield before the toss to this crucial USA-Ireland crucial Group A T20 World Cup match could be held. Though the match was scheduled to start at 10.30 am, it had to be abandoned as all attempts by the organisers, including vacuum sucking of moisture from outfield, proved insufficient to make the play possible.

Pakistan was keeping an eye on this match since a defeat for USA would have

kept them in hunt for a place in the Super Eight stage. And USA needed only a point to make its historic entry to the Super 8 round thus becoming the first debutant team to qualify for the knockout round.

Had USA lost then Pakistan would have targeted a huge win against the Irish side in its last group game to overtake the Americans and progress to the Super Eight stage.

USA are now placed second in the points table with five points from four games, while Ireland are placed at the bottom with an abandoned game and two losses from three games.

Pakistan are placed third with one win from three games, while India lead the group with an all-win record from three matches.

Teams that could not take the field

IRELAND: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young.

USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron Jones, Andries Gous, Corey Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, NoshtushKenjige, Saurabh Nethralvakar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir. Reserve Players: Gajanan Singh, Juanoy Drysdale, Yasir Mohammad.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Rafael Nadal confirmed on Thursday, June 13, that he will opt out of the upcoming Wimbledon Championships. The Spanish tennis legend stated that he wants to keep himself fit for the upcoming Paris Olympics, which, he also confirmed, will be his last Games. Nadal took to his official X (formerly Twitter account) to announce his withdrawal from the Wimbledon.

"During my post match press conference at Roland Garros I was asked about my summer calendar and since then I have been practicing on clay. It was announced yesterday that I will play at the summer Olympics in Paris, my last Olympics. "With this goal, we believe that the best for my body is not to change surface and keep playing on clay until then. It's for this reason that I will miss playing at the Championships this year at Wimbledon. I am saddened not to be able to live this year the great atmosphere of that amazing event that will always be in my heart, and

Rafael Nadal to miss Wimbledon

be with all the British fans that always gave me great support. I will miss you all," wrote Nadal.

Nadal further wrote that he will take part in the Nordea Open, the clay court tournament in the Bastad city of Sweden.

"In order to prepare for the Olympic Games, I will play the tournament in Bastad, Sweden. A tournament that I played earlier in my career and where I had a great time both on and off the court. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Thank you," Nadal further wrote in his statement. Nadal last played at Wimbledon in the 2022 edition, where he reached the semi-finals. He won two titles at the calendar's only grass-court slam - in 2008 and 2010. 2024 is likely to be Nadal's final year on the tour, meaning the Spaniard might have already made his last appearance at Wimbledon.





An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

Join our Vision.
Give the gift
of sight today.

Visit eyefoundationofamerica.org

695 WESTVIEW AVENUE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
TAX ID # 55-062-1735