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

**4TH OF JULY** Last date for submission is July 1, 2024.

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# US Congressional delegation calls on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## THE US DELEGATION APPRECIATES THE SCALE, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN INDIA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with US Congressional delegation, in New Delhi, Thursday, June 20, 2024. -Photo credit: PTI

**JUNE 20, 2024**  
**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A seven-member US Congressional delegation led by Rep. Michael McCaul, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 20. The other members of the delegation included Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Gregory Meeks, Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, Rep. Amerish Babulal "Ami Bera" and Rep. Jim McGovern.

The delegation members congratulated Prime Minister on his election for the historic third consecutive term. They expressed deep appreciation for the scale, fairness and transparency of the recently concluded world's largest democratic electoral exercise in India.

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### Delhi HC puts Kejriwal's bail on hold, commences hearing on ED's plea



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal PTI file

**JUNE 21, 2024**  
**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Delhi High Court on June 21 commenced hearing on the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) plea challenging the trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

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### Eye Foundation of America Launches in Delhi A Collaborative Effort to Combat Childhood Blindness



Dr. VK. Raju, President of the Eye Foundation of America with collaborators, is third from the left.

**JUNE 19, 2024**  
**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Tribe4Ideas & Blitz India Media, on June 8, hosted a significant event at the India Habitat Centre titled "World Without Childhood Blindness," supported by Rotary International District 3011, the Eye Foundation of America (EFA), Goutami Eye Institute (GEI) along with Young Ophthalmologists Society Of India and Grant Thornton . The event marked a collaborative effort to combat childhood blindness and promote awareness and action towards this critical issue.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Richa Jain Kalra, EFA Ambassador, setting the tone for a

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### President Biden offers legal status to 500K immigrants



President Joe Biden has offered to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants married to US citizens and living in the United States for at least 10 years. File photo

**JUNE 19, 2024**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** President Joe Biden has offered to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants married to US citizens and living in the United States for at least 10 years, a move the White House estimates is likely to benefit more than 5,00,000 people.

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### French journalist forced to leave India as MHA refuses to renew his work permit

**JUNE 20, 2024**  
**NEW DELHI (TIP):** French journalist Sebastien Farcis, working in India since 2011, said he has been forced to leave the country after being denied the renewal of his work permit without providing any reason.

'No reason has been provided to justify this work ban, despite formal and repeated requests made to the MHA,' Sebastien Farcis, who has lived and worked as a journalist in India for 13 years, said in a post on X.  
 Photo Credit: X/@sebfarcis

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## COMMENT

## Devesh Chandra Thakur, MP-elect needs to be disciplined for his discriminatory statement

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The oath of office taken by a new Member of Parliament (MP) in India is not merely a procedural formality but a solemn commitment to uphold the highest standards of democratic principles, equality, and justice. When an individual assumes office as an MP, they pledge to serve their constituents without any discrimination and to uphold the Constitution of India, which is the bedrock of our nation's democratic framework.

The oath, mandated by the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India, emphasizes the MP's duty to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, to faithfully discharge their duties, and to do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law. It is a clear directive that MPs are duty-bound to represent and serve all constituents irrespective of caste, creed, religion, or socio-economic status.

However, recent remarks made by Devesh Chandra Thakur, MP-elect from

the Sitamarhi Lok Sabha seat, have brought into question his commitment to this oath. His statement openly declaring that Muslims and Yadavs did not vote for him and that he will not attend to their "personal work" is not just a political faux pas but a violation of the core principles enshrined in the Constitution. Such statements undermine the very essence of democratic representation and equality before the law.

The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to vote freely and without fear of discrimination or reprisal. By suggesting that certain groups of voters are not deserving of his attention or support based on their demographic characteristics, Thakur has not only betrayed the trust of those who voted for him but also violated the principles of equality and non-discrimination that MPs are sworn to uphold.

In response to such egregious violations of the oath of office, there is a legitimate call for parliamentary action. Parliament has the responsibility to uphold the integrity of its members and the sanctity of the oath they take. This includes considering measures such as suspension or censure for MPs who fail

to adhere to the principles outlined in their oath. The judiciary, too, plays a crucial role in ensuring that such violations are addressed in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

The condemnation of Thakur's statements should be unanimous and unequivocal. Leaders across party lines, civil society, and the public at large must speak out against any attempt to undermine the foundational values of our democracy. The freedom to choose representatives without coercion or discrimination is a fundamental right that must be safeguarded at all costs.

It is imperative that actions speak louder than words in upholding the sanctity of the oath of office. The repercussions of allowing such statements to go unchecked are profound. They erode public trust in democratic institutions and perpetuate divisions within society based on identity politics rather than merit and governance.

As custodians of democracy, we must ensure that such violations are not tolerated and that the rule of law prevails for the collective benefit of all citizens.

## GUEST COMMENT

## New dynamics: On the G-7, its identity, its purpose

## G-7 MUST REVIEW ITS OWN PURPOSE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

Welcoming leaders of 10 countries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the "G-7 Outreach" Summit, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said it was important to step away from the old trope of the "West vs the Rest". That sentiment explained Italy's decision to invite mainly the Global South countries including BRICS notables such as Brazil, India, and the UAE, to hold an outreach with seven African countries on energy issues, and to host the summit in the Mediterranean Apulia region. The G-7 was once hailed as a dynamic group of the world's most developed democracies where heads of state would roll up their sleeves once a year to effect real solutions to global financial and development issues. However, with manufacturing slowdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and western sanctions, the grouping has appeared more tired, and its meetings less effective. The shaky

electoral fortunes of most of the G-7 leadership did not enhance that image at the summit. The joint communiqué read more like a laundry list of the world's problems than it did as a strong call to action on resolving them. Most salient was the G-7's continued "military, budget, humanitarian, and reconstruction support" for Ukraine, but with no constructive plan on how to end the war. A Gaza ceasefire appeal has also not been accepted by Israel. The G-7's focus on China in the Indo-Pacific and on "industrial targeting" and unfair practices was particularly sharp, but it remains to be seen whether any member-country will reduce its own considerable trade ties with Beijing. A line in the communiqué that recommitted to about eight infrastructure corridors, including the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, reinforced the lack of focus on executing (as distinct from discussing) projects.

India, in attendance for the eleventh time, could well take stock of the engagement's utility. While the event was an opportune moment for Mr. Modi, now in his third term, to meet with some of the world's top leadership, the meetings themselves did not yield many outcomes. Formal bilaterals with the leaders of important partner the U.S., and fractious relationship-ridden Canada, did not materialize. Mr. Modi focused on India's elections as a "victory for the democratic world", on the importance of harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to bridge global inequalities, and on the value of the Global South, especially Africa. It would seem most of those issues would be better addressed in a larger and more representational format such as the G-20, while the G-7 may wish to review its own identity and purpose amidst a rapidly changing global power dynamic.

(The Hindu)

Given the G-7's current situation,

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# Surati Holi Hai draws massive crowd to Jersey City

OVER 3000 PEOPLE ATTEND THE 14TH ANNUAL HOLI HAI CELEBRATIONS AT EXCHANGE PLACE IN JERSEY CITY



A captivating Indian Classical and Jazz fusion



Scintillating Bengali folk dance



A graceful Tagore folk dance

**JUNE 17, 2024**

**JERSEY CITY (TIP):** On Saturday, June 15, Surati for Performing Arts hosted its 14th Annual Holi Hai Festival of Colors in Exchange Place, in Jersey City. The festival attracted over 3000 people from far and wide.

Park, the large group gathered at Montgomery Street in Exchange Place to participate in the festivities, which included multicultural performances by over 50 artists, a variety of food and beverages, retail vendors,

Lujan. Children's dance performances followed, and then the adults took over for an all-day celebration through a series of performances that included traditional Indian classical dance and music,



Guest dignitaries



A thrilling Bollywood dance by Team Surati



Colorful color countdown

Starting with a color walk from Hoboken's Pier A

DJ and kid-friendly recreational and educational activities.

Against the spectacular views of the Manhattan Skyline, the day began with a Yoga workshop by Luis

Bollywood, Indian classical Jazz Fusion, Bhangra, Garba, and Belly Dancing.

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## EPA Makes a Splash with Award of \$315,000 to New York to Support Water Quality Monitoring at Beaches to Protect Public Health

**JUNE 13, 2024**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on June 13, announced \$315,000 in grant funding to help New York's coastal and Great Lakes communities protect the health of beachgoers. The funding will assist New York in conducting water quality monitoring and public notification programs for their beaches.

"This funding helps keep beaches and coastal waters clean so that people can have fun, relax and enjoy all the beauty that New York coastlines have to offer," said Lisa F. Garcia, Regional Administrator. "EPA funding is vital for successful beach monitoring and notification programs."

"Protecting the health of beachgoers from bacteria in our waters is of the utmost importance for New Yorkers to enjoy this summer swimming season," said Senate Majority Leader Schumer. "This federal EPA funding will help ensure safe water at both downstate beaches and Great Lakes beaches by giving New York the resources needed to closely monitor water quality."

"As thousands of beachgoers enjoy New York's coastal and Great Lakes beaches this summer, they deserve to enjoy the waters without a threat to their health," said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. "This federal funding will help local authorities monitor beach water quality

and ensure that swimmers know when the waters are safe. I am proud to see EPA making this critical investment and will continue to fight to ensure all can safely enjoy New York's beaches."

"I have always called the Long Island Sound our 'National Park.' Safeguarding and conserving the Sound and our coastal beach areas has consistently been a priority of mine throughout my decades-long career in public service. This grant funding from the EPA will significantly contribute to guaranteeing that the water quality at our local beaches remains safe for everyone to enjoy throughout the entire summer season," said Representative Tom Suozzi (NY-03).

"Water quality monitoring and public notification programs are crucial to protecting public health and I thank the EPA for awarding this funding, especially as New Yorkers hit the beaches for the summer," said Representative Grace Meng (NY-06). "As New York's representative on the House of Representatives' Regional Leadership Council - which works to promote and implement legislation signed by President Biden - I am glad that critical federal funding continues to flow to our state."

"Ensuring the resiliency of Great Lakes communities is a key part of protecting our environment and

providing recreational opportunities for our families," said Representative Joe Morelle (NY-25). "I'm grateful to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biden Administration for their ongoing commitment to investing in New York's shoreline communities as both economic and recreational assets-including this latest \$315,000 grant to support water quality monitoring and beach public notification programs. I look forward to continuing to work alongside the EPA to safeguard our Great Lakes for generations to come."

"New York State is home to many beautiful beaches from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, and we encourage people to get out and enjoy these areas this summer," New York State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said. "These BEACH Act grants through the Environmental Protection Agency will allow communities to keep their beaches safe for all New Yorkers, while allowing the Department and our partners to monitor beach water quality and share information with the public to ensure everyone can enjoy safe and healthy beach days."

Under the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, the EPA awards grants to eligible state, tribal, and territorial applicants to help them and their local government partners monitor water quality at



This grant funding from the EPA will significantly contribute to guaranteeing that the water quality at our local beaches remains safe for everyone to enjoy throughout the entire summer season," said Representative Tom Suozzi (NY-03).

coastal and Great Lakes beaches. When bacteria levels are too high for safe swimming, these agencies notify the public by posting beach advisories or closings.

Since 2001, the EPA has awarded nearly \$230 million in BEACH Act grants to test beach waters for illness-causing bacteria, identify the sources of pollution problems, and help notify the public. Three factors influenced the EPA's allocations for the 2024 grant amounts: (1) the length of the beach season, (2) the number of miles of shoreline, and (3) the populations of coastal counties.

# Sixteen Indian Americans among Business Insider's 'The Seed 100'

JUNE 14, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** At least 16 Indian Americans are among the Business Insider's top early-stage investors - 'The Seed 100' - this year, who have helped startup founders realize their dreams.

"Behind most startup founders is an early-stage investor who saw their potential, nurtured their ambition, and backed their ideas," wrote the New York City-based multinational financial and business news website. "These are not just check-writers but shrewd risk-takers, enthusiastic collaborators, and trend forecasters."

"The end of a record bull run in tech rebooted the startup landscape, and now early-stage investors are embracing the change," it says. "Founders have gone back to basics, staying lean and mean from the start and harnessing tailwinds of the artificial intelligence boom."

The fourth edition of "the Seed 100" list celebrates "the kingmakers who provide the vital first push startups need to become industry titans."

## INDIAN AMERICAN EARLY-STAGE INVESTORS ON THE 2024 'SEED 100' LIST:

### AVICHAL GARG, MANAGING PARTNER, ELECTRIC CAPITAL, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Despite the long shadow over the broader crypto market caused by the spectacular collapse of crypto exchanges like FTX and Binance, Garg and Electric Capital, "are continuing to bet big on decentralized and blockchain-based technologies," Business Insider notes.

In addition to his work with Electric Capital, Garg has been a successful angel investor for at least a decade. He has been an early backer of Cruise, Deel, and Figma. He has also worked at both Facebook and Google and has founded multiple startups of his own before getting into investing.

### GAURAV JAIN, CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, AFORE CAPITAL, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

When Jain joined Android as a product manager, the platform had under one million users, Business Insider noted, adding that it now has over two billion. After working at Google, he worked in venture at Founder Collective, where he invested in companies like Airtable, Firebase, and Cruise.

In 2016, he launched Afore Capital and has quietly created one of the largest firms focusing on pre-seed investments. In 2022, "the firm closed a third \$150 million fund, double the size of its previous fund," the website said. "Afore's superpower is to help companies get to product-market fit and unlock a Series A," he told Business Insider.

### ARJUN SETHI, CO-FOUNDER, TRIBE CAPITAL; CO-FOUNDER, TERMINA, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

As the co-founder of Tribe Capital,



Avichal Garg, Gaurav Jain, Arjun Sethi, Salil Deshpande, Sheel Mohnot, Shruti Gandhi, Nikhil Basu Trivedi, Anshu Sharma, Robin Vasan, Hemant Taneja, Rayyan Islam, Niles Banta, Ankur Jain, Abhishek Sharma, Vivek Garipalli, and Ajay Agarwal are the 16 Indian Americans among the Business Insider's top early-stage investors - 'The Seed 100' - this year, who have helped startup founders realize their dreams.

Sethi takes a quantitative approach to seed investing, harnessing data to unearth hidden startup gems and work out their pitfalls.

This approach has led to early investments in Applied Intuition, the self-driving-car software company that landed \$250 million in funding in March, and Rippling, the workforce-management software company that's had explosive growth even as business software spending has stalled.

The past two years have seen many investors retreat from markets like fintech, healthcare, and business software. Sethi, however, has intensified his focus and led his firm to incubate several companies in these sectors. "Our approach during this downturn was to double down on our strengths," he told Business Insider.

### SALIL DESHPANDE, GENERAL PARTNER, UNCORRELATED VENTURES, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Although Deshpande invested in about "half a dozen" AI startups at the seed stage, Business Insider notes that Deshpande "won't jump at every opportunity to write a check."

He called AI a "hot mess" and said he's "waiting for the trough of disillusionment to invest more. He told the website that he "considers AI to be a subset of infrastructure software, which is the investing focus of his firm, Uncorrelated Ventures." Since starting his firm, he has raised millions, "most recently, he raised \$315 million at the beginning of 2024 for a new fund," Business Insider noted.

### SHEEL MOHNOT, COFOUNDER AND GENERAL PARTNER, BETTER TOMORROW VENTURES, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Mohnot has been featured on the Seed 100 every year since its inception three years ago. In 2020, he cofounded Better Tomorrow Ventures, a fintech venture firm.

Before that, he was an angel investor in companies like Flexport and Ironclad. He's been investing in fintech since 2015 and cofounded the food company Thistle before starting his venture capital career.

He says his firm "specializes in helping startups with sales, recruiting, business development, community building, and raising money for the next round of funding." His firm has "introduced founders to their next-round investors over 90% of the time," he added.

### SHRUTI GANDHI, FOUNDER AND GENERAL PARTNER, ARRAY VENTURES, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As a one-time startup founder, Gandhi decided to raise a fund "because she saw a need for more investors who rolled up their sleeves at the seed stage," according to Business Insider.

Her fund, Array Ventures, helps technical founders with early sales and develop their go-to-market strategy. It "brings a unique twist to venture capital and supports a community of more than 200 C-level experts from top public and private companies to help founders from day one, providing them with wisdom from experience and access to their ideal customers."

### NIKHIL BASU TRIVEDI, CO-FOUNDER AND GENERAL PARTNER, FOOTWORK, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Trivedi began his career as an early hire at Artsy, an online art marketplace. He later spent two years at Insight Partners and nearly eight years at Shasta Ventures.

He "quickly developed an eye for tech-startup successes," Business Insider said, noting his investment in the graphic-design app Canva, "which was reportedly valued at \$26 billion earlier this year."

He co-founded the venture firm Footwork in 2021, "which makes seed and Series A investments out of a \$175 million fund," Business Insider said.

Trivedi told the website he's "focused on finding startups with early signs of product-market fit."

### ANSHU SHARMA, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, SKYFLOW, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

Sharma has been writing checks to early-stage startups for over a decade following his investing motto - "always be closest to the smartest people you know," Business Insider notes. Thanks to his Moto, he scored him an investment in Nutanix, whose "initial public offering was in 2016 and was valued at over \$2 billion."

### ROBIN VASAN, MANAGING PARTNER, MANGO CAPITAL, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

Vasan founded the early-stage, enterprise-focused Mango Capital in 2018 and was an early investor in startups like the cloud database Couchbase and web-development platform Netlify.

Before founding his firm, he spent 20 years at Mayfield, one of Silicon Valley's oldest venture-capitalist firms. He credits his "decades of experience in Silicon Valley" for giving him "a bird's-eye view into how founders at the enterprise stage can find success."

### HEMANT TANEJA, CEO AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, GENERAL CATALYST, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Taneja shook up the healthcare industry in 2023 when he announced the creation of the Health Assurance Transformation Company or HATco. The company was owned by the venture-capitalist firm General Catalyst and "sought to make healthcare more accessible with a focus on preventative care," Business Insider notes.

Taneja was "an early investor in the diabetes company Livongo, which sold to Teladoc in 2020 for \$13.9 billion," Business Insider added. In 2017, he founded the healthcare data company Commure, "which was valued at \$6 billion last year after merging with Athelas, another General Catalyst portfolio company."

### RAYYAN ISLAM, CO-FOUNDER AND GENERAL PARTNER, 8090 INDUSTRIES, DALLAS, TEXAS

Islam cofounded 8090 Industries in 2020 to back founders building in "the new industrial revolution," Business Insider notes. The firm invests in partnership with more than two dozen energy and industry-focused family offices.

Islam told Business Insider that "repurposing carbon dioxide is 'especially critical, as AI takes off. We can't have abundant AI without abundant energy. He also co-founded the clean hydrogen company Gold Hydrogen in 2022."

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# Indian American Suhas Subramanyam wins Democratic Congressional primary in Virginia

JUNE 19, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Suhas Subramanyam has won the Democratic primary for a Congressional seat in Virginia, defeating 11 other candidates including another fellow Indian-American Krystle Kaul.

The first Indian-American, South Asian and Hindu to be elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019 and to the Virginia State Senate in 2023, Subramanyam is running for the US House of Representatives from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia, which has a sizable Indian-American population.

Its current occupant, Democrat Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, had announced last year that she would not be running for the seat. Subramanyam, 37, was born in Houston to Indian-American parents who migrated to the US from Bengaluru. In 2015, he was appointed by the then President Barack Obama to serve as a White House technology policy advisor.

Wexton had endorsed Subramanyam, who now faces Mike Clancy from the



Suhas Subramanyam with family.  
Photo: Suhas Subramanyam/x

Republican Party.

In an interview to PTI early this year, Suhas said he was running for Congress to ensure a better future for America.

"The Congress is here to solve problems and to be proactive about the future. We should not be legislating not just for the next two years, but for the next 20 or 30 years. I want my kids -- I've got two girls who are two and three -- I want them to live in a better country and in a better

world than what we found," he said.

Suhas said he wanted everyone to have a chance at the American dream.

"My parents are from Bengaluru and Chennai and spent some time in Secunderabad as well. They came here because they wanted to start a new life here... They wanted to be physicians, and you can make a great life in America as a physician," he said.

He added that his parents didn't have much when they came here but they became successful through education and hard work.

"I want to make sure that everyone has a chance at that American dream. Everyone has a chance of creating a great business if that's what they want to do or being a part of a great business and that they can empower themselves economically.

"But it really started with the fact that our community education is the great equalizer, and you can lift yourself up from any situation if you do well and study hard and work hard. And I want to make sure that stays the same way," he said. (Source: PTI)

## Two Indian-origin Punjabi cousin sisters shot at by Nakodar boy in New Jersey, one dies of wounds

JUNE 15, 2024

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Two cousin sisters from Nurmahal were shot by a youth from Nakodar in New Jersey, US, in a shocking incident that claimed the life of one of the victims.

The sisters have been identified as Jaswir Kaur (29) and Gagan (20), from Gorsiyar Peeran village in Nurmahal. Jasvir, who was married, succumbed to the gunshot wounds.

The accused, Gaurav Gill (21), belonging to Hussainpur village, has



Jaswir Kaur (29) and Gagan (20), from Gorsiyar Peeran village in Nurmahal.

been arrested by the police.

Gaurav and Gagan used to study together at an IELTS center in Punjab before heading to the US. Both were from poor families, and their parents sent them abroad to alleviate their poverty.

According to reports, on Wednesday, June 12, Gaurav went to the home of Gagan and Jasvir and shot both while they were on the sidewalk. Jasvir died on the spot while Gagan is seriously injured and receiving treatment.

The T-shirt and slacks clad boy was seen being apprehended by the New Jersey law enforcement officials at a house lawn in footage which has gone viral on social media.

The incident has happened just days after another shocking incident where a Kapurthala-based man killed his brother in the US, before committing suicide himself.

## Indian-origin former Air Canada airline manager wanted in Canada's largest gold heist to surrender himself

JUNE 15, 2024

OTTAWA (TIP): A 31-year-old Indian-origin former Air Canada manager wanted in connection with Canada's largest gold and cash heist worth CAD 22.5 million is preparing to surrender in the next few weeks, his lawyer has said, according to a report on Saturday.

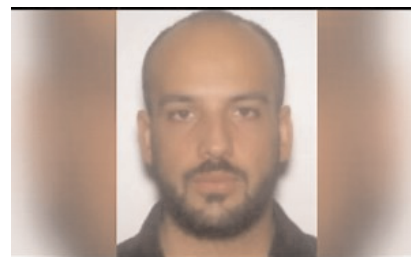
Simran Preet Panesar, wanted in the brazen multimillion-dollar gold heist at Toronto's Pearson International Airport last year, is "very confident in the Canadian justice system," his lawyer, Greg Lafontaine said in a statement to a news portal.

"When this prosecution is over, he will have been absolved of any wrongdoing," the report quoted him as saying.

On April 17, 2023, an air cargo container carrying more than 22 million Canadian dollars' worth of gold bars and foreign currency was stolen from a secure storage facility using fake paperwork, according to the police.

The gold and currency had arrived on an Air Canada flight from Zurich, Switzerland, to Pearson International Airport in Toronto. Shortly after the flight's landing, the cargo was offloaded and transported to a separate location on airport property. It was reported missing to the police a day later.

Police have arrested six people involved in the theft, including Indian-origin people. Canada-wide warrants were also issued for Panesar, from Brampton, who was also an Air Canada employee at the time of the theft.



Simran Preet Panesar, wanted in the brazen multimillion-dollar gold heist at Toronto's Pearson International Airport last year is preparing to surrender in the next few weeks

## Canadian Parliament observes 'moment of silence' in honor of Khalistani activist Nijjar on his first death anniversary



Canadian Parliament observes 'moment of silence' in honor of Khalistani activist Nijjar (inset)

JUNE 19, 2024

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada's parliament on Tuesday, June 18, marked one-year death anniversary of Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar by holding a moment of silence in the House of Commons.

Nijjar, who was designated a terrorist by India's National Investigation Agency in 2020, was shot and killed outside a gurdwara in Surrey on June 18 last year. Tuesday marked the first anniversary of Nijjar's death.

Ties between Canada and India became strained after Trudeau had in the House of Commons last year talked about "credible allegations" about a potential link between Indian agents and the killing of the Khalistani activist.

India has, however, dismissed the accusations as "absurd" and "motivated."

The video of his killing that reportedly surfaced in March this year showed Nijjar being shot by armed men.

In an interview to CBC News on Monday, on the eve of the anniversary of the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Trudeau said, "Now that he's through his election, I think there is an opportunity for us to engage, including on some very serious issues around national security and keeping Canadians safe and the rule of law." Trudeau's remarks follow his meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Italy during the G7 Summit where India was invited as an Outreach country. PM Modi had tweeted a photograph of himself with the Canadian PM as they shook hands.

After the meeting in Italy, Trudeau told the Canada-based media channel, Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) there are some "important but sensitive" issues that the two countries need to work on together. He did not share many details of what the two leaders discussed.

In his Monday interview to CBC News, Trudeau said, "I think one of the really good things about summits is you get an opportunity to engage directly with a huge range of different leaders with whom there are various issues," Trudeau said, according to CBC News.

"And certainly, with India, there are massive people-to-people ties, there are really important economic ties, there's alignment on a number of big issues that we need to work on as democracies, as a global community," he said. (With inputs from ANI)

# Town of Brookhaven Dedicates Michigan Avenue in Bellport in Memory of Tanya Indrani Bathija



Pictured inside the Dunkin Donuts are Suffolk County Legislator Dominick Thorne; Suffolk County Legislator Jim Mazzarella; Brookhaven Town Supervisor Dan Panico; Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael Loguercio; Brookhaven Town Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Neil Foley, Gobind 'Ben' Bathija (father), Sonny Bathija (brother), Pooja Shannon Bathija (sister), Sonia Bathija (mother) and Deputy Commissioner, Suffolk County Fire Rescue Services (FRES), Rudy Sunderman.

Officials, relations, friends attended the dedication ceremony

**FARMINGVILLE, NY (TIP):** A delayed report says that the Town of Brookhaven on May 23 dedicated 'Michigan Ave' in Bellport, to 'Tanya Indrani Bathija Avenue in her memory.

Tanya Bathija was an amazing young woman who, as a daughter, a sister, a friend, a powerful businesswoman and CEO, and a mentor to young ladies in our

community, left a mark everywhere she went. This beautiful Dunkin Donuts (pictured at right) was once the site of a vacant and blighted building, and her vision and partnership with Brookhaven Town Councilman Michael Loguercio, was to turn this blight into light. She transformed this parcel in the community into a thriving business and supported the local residents with whom she employs there.

Tanya was a dedicated volunteer for the Boys & Girls Club of the Bellport Area and a Director at Sunrise Day Camp-Long Island, a camp which supports and provides services for children who are battling cancer. Her philanthropic efforts will never go unnoticed, and her

foundation is still carrying on with her vision to help support underprivileged children, empowering women and promoting cultural and social values.

Councilman Loguercio said, "Tanya is missed terribly, and her life is celebrated through the many businesses and ongoing foundation work that still carries on today. I am proud to have known her and will always be inspired by her light, generosity and her incredible passion for always helping a fellow human being. Her father Ben and her family are amazing and generous people, who unfortunately lost their daughter tragically. We wish them all peace and comfort and know that she is looking down on us all and her legacy will live on forever."



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# Eye Foundation of America Launches in Delhi A Collaborative Effort to Combat Childhood Blindness



CONTD FROM PAGE 1



day dedicated to impactful discussions and collaborations. Grant Thornton Bharat released the "Impact Snapshot," a comprehensive report highlighting the substantial work done by GEI and EFA over the years. Partner GT Abhishek Tripathi shared key highlights from the report, underscoring the achievements and future goals of Goutami Eye Institute

and Eye Foundation of America. A special address was delivered by Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former Secretary to the Government of India and currently leading the Anil Agarwal Foundation. Renowned as the father of CSR in India for his pivotal role in drafting the CSR Act, Dr. Chatterjee emphasized the critical role of corporate social responsibility in addressing childhood blindness.

Dr. VK Raju, Founder President of EFA and Chairman of GEI, spoke passionately about the mission to create a world without childhood blindness. In a significant moment, he announced the Robert Murphy Award on behalf of the EFA board to Padma Bhushan Dr. Varaprasad Reddy, Former Chairman of Shantha Biotechnics, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field.

District Governor 2024-25, Dr. Mahesh Trikha, took the stage to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EFA and GEI, launching the Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) Program in Delhi. Dr. Trikha emphasized the necessity of the ROP program and



reaffirmed Rotary District 3011's commitment to support this crucial initiative.

Two additional MoUs were signed on this occasion with Chiranjiv Medical Foundation led by Dr Vivek Sama to jointly set up Vision & ROP centre and LensBus "OPD Eye Care On Wheels" led by Mr Akshay Shastri to jointly run eye screen camps in Delhi NCR region.

The event also featured two insightful panel discussions. The first panel included senior ophthalmologists from AIIMS and the Young Ophthalmologists Society of India, who discussed the latest advancements and strategies in pediatric eye care. The second panel involved corporate CSR heads from large organizations, deliberating on the importance of engaging, supporting, and running awareness programs on ROP.

The program concluded with closing remarks by PDG Kishore from Rotary International District 3020, summarizing the day's discussions and reinforcing the commitment to eradicating childhood blindness. The entire event curation was led by Rtn Sandeep Saxena, Country Director of EFA, and mentored by Rtn Deepak Dwivedi, whose guidance was instrumental in its success. The event was well attended by over 40 leaders from the stakeholders community large corporates, Rotary district leadership and leading ophthalmologists.

This event not only highlighted the critical need to address childhood blindness but also showcased the power of collaboration among various stakeholders, including medical professionals, corporate entities, and dedicated organizations.



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# Why G7 needs allies like India

NEW DELHI OCCUPIES A UNIQUE PLACE AS AN OASIS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY



BY MANOJ JOSHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the G7 summit in Italy as the leader of an 'outreach country'

Credit: X / Narendra Modi

**THE G7 MEETING HAS BROUGHT OUT JUST HOW FRAGILE THE WORLD ORDER IS THESE DAYS. INDIA OCCUPIES A UNIQUE POSITION HERE AS AN OASIS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY, BUT IT CANNOT BUT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TURBULENT WATERS THAT ARE WASHING ITS SHORES.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence as an outreach guest at the G7 summit in Italy is a useful backdrop for the launch of the new government's foreign and security policy.

India is not yet the world power it wants to be. What we need to guard against are hubris and overreach.

The G7 meeting has brought out just how fragile the world order is these days. India occupies a unique position here as an oasis of political and economic stability, but it cannot but take into account the turbulent waters that are washing its shores.

The political situation in four of the G7 nations appears brittle - the US and the UK are going to the polls amid uncertainty, while Germany and France are witnessing the rise of right-wing forces. Two of the big world powers are, of course, entirely out of the G7 process, which purports to promote democracy. But those two, China and Russia, are making major efforts separately and collectively to challenge the G7's purported global hegemony.

The presence of India, Turkey, Brazil and some other countries is an acknowledgement that the G7 needs allies to manage issues relating to migration, climate change, economic competition with China and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. In turn, these countries are seeking to persuade the G7 nations, which are increasingly economically and demographically challenged, on the need for more equity and balance in global decision-making.

In all this, Modi's central challenge and opportunities are in India's neighborhoods and beyond. While continuity has been the central message that the BJP-led NDA government has

sent out, there will be inevitable changes arising from the very fact that the General Election has shifted the national political paradigm.

The presence of leaders from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles at the swearing-in of the new government speaks for itself, as does the fact that the leaders of Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan were not invited. India's relations with those invited are fairly even, even though we face challenges in Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The participation of Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu was significant because of our strained relations with the island republic.

The Indian strategy of riding out the Chinese challenge in the neighborhood was most visible last year when Sri Lanka faced a financial crisis. China played hard to get, but New Delhi immediately provided humanitarian and financial assistance of \$4 billion, surpassing even the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) 48-month bailout package of \$3 billion. By providing financial assurances, New Delhi also shored up Sri Lanka's IMF process.

The absence of Pakistan, whose then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had attended PM Modi's 2014 swearing-in, has its own story of just how sharply India-Pakistan relations have deteriorated, even though the government in power is that of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), albeit in a coalition.

India says it emphasizes its Neighborhood First policy as well as SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region) for the Indian Ocean Region

(IOR). It has China very much on its mind. Whatever may be the military challenge India confronts along the disputed border, the one it faces from China in South Asia and the IOR is equally significant and has implications for the geopolitical future of the region.

China, too, is a neighbor and, it too, was not present. In an interview to Newsweek on the eve of the General Election, Prime Minister Modi had noted that there was a need to "urgently address the prolonged situation on our borders so that the abnormality in our bilateral interactions can be put behind us." Last week, speaking in Mumbai after taking charge of the Ministry of External Affairs for a second term, S Jaishankar said India would focus on finding solutions to the border issues that had bedeviled their relationship.

American ties with New Delhi are on a high after Modi's Washington visit last June. While US elections could disrupt some of the bonhomie, they are unlikely to lead to any major change. But managing ties in a potential Trump presidency will definitely be a strain, though the GURPATWANT SINGH PANNUN issue is unlikely to create major problems. The American focus, regardless of who wins, is likely to be China, though there is a danger that another US-China tariff war could affect us in the form of collateral damage.

India's ties with Russia are definitely being tested by the Ukraine war. India may be gaining from its oil purchases, but it is alienating its Western allies. As the situation in Ukraine remains serious, pressure on the West to step up its support to Ukraine brings pressure on India indirectly. Having told Putin

that this was not the era of war in 2022, Modi is now hard put to come up with some initiative which will lend credibility to India's proposition that the issue could be settled through dialogue and diplomacy. In the meantime, New Delhi continues to walk a tightrope - it attended the Swiss peace conference, but not at the Prime Ministerial level.

Another area which may require attention is West Asia, where Modi deserves credit for building solid ties with the UAE, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt. These were not just about the nine million-strong diaspora or energy security but also aimed at tapping the region for investment and buying into their plans for a post-oil future. At present, however, new initiatives like the Israel-India-US-UAE grouping and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) have sought to link Indian ports to Europe via the Israeli port of Haifa. Significantly, the G-7 communique pledged support to the IMEC.

India is not yet the world power it wants to be. As a leading power, however, there are opportunities for taking initiatives and shaping policies both in the neighborhood and beyond. What we need to guard against are hubris and overreach.

(The author is a Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi)



# This political relationship is just one-way traffic



BY A S PANNEERSELVAN

**IN ITS POLITICAL ALIGNMENTS, THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY REAPS A POLITICAL FORTUNE WHILE ITS ALLIANCE PARTNERS STARE AT LOSSES**

**"The SAD had been a member of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance since 1996. The alliance came to power in Punjab in 2007. It created history in the State in 2012 when the combine could buck anti-incumbency, to get a consecutive term. But the SAD which prides itself as the spokesperson of farmers was not consulted by the BJP before the introduction of the controversial farm laws. The alliance broke in 2020, and in the 2022 State Assembly elections, the SAD got just three seats in a legislature of 117 seats, paving the way for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to form the government. In order to revive its fortunes, the SAD decided to fight on its own in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and has won one seat. The SAD, due to its ill-fated alliance with the BJP, was forced to concede political space to new entrant AAP, and also help the Congress in a revival of its political fortunes."**

There has been a constant erosion in the political fortunes of the parties that have aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the last three decades. There has been a discernible transfer of dividends to the

BJP and losses for those which have provided support.

A historical look documents the inherent one-way traffic in this political relationship. Let us look at the status of the two of the earliest alliance partners of the BJP, i.e., the Shiv Sena (SS) in Maharashtra and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab. The Sena with 15 Lok Sabha seats, and the SAD with eight were the only partners to back the BJP when it staked claim to form the government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1996. Despite ruling for 13 days the BJP could not attract any new political alliances, which led to the formation of the United Front government, led by H.D. Deve Gowda. The Sena and the BJP came together in the 1984 Lok Sabha election. The alliance was cemented on the Hindutva fulcrum in 1989.

#### IN MAHARASHTRA, PUNJAB AND ASSAM

The demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the ruinous Mumbai riots in 1992-93 paved the way for the first Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra in 1995, with Manohar Joshi of the Sena as Chief Minister. The accepted formula was that the Sena would call the shots in Maharashtra and that the BJP could determine the political trajectory on the national turf. But soon, the BJP grew ambitious. It jettisoned the equation and demanded more seats for itself in the 2014 Assembly elections.

#### IT WAS THE BJP THAT BROKE ALLIANCE IN 2014, SAYS SHIV SENA (UBT)

When the Sena refused to concede primacy in the State, the alliance broke. The BJP formed the government in Maharashtra, with Devendra Fadnavis as Chief Minister, which accelerated the downward slide. When the Sena managed to gain power by forming a post-poll alliance with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Indian National Congress in 2019, the BJP ensured a split in both the regional parties, namely the NCP and the Sena, and had their symbols frozen. The popular term 'Operation Lotus' used by television channels, really meant the one way shift of strengths from other parties to the BJP.

The SAD had been a member of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance since 1996. The alliance came to power in Punjab in 2007. It created history in the State in 2012 when the combine could buck anti-incumbency, to get a consecutive term. But the SAD which prides itself as the spokesperson of farmers was not consulted by the BJP before the introduction of the controversial farm laws. The alliance broke in 2020, and in



'It is evident that the BJP takes over the strengths of the parties it allies with and transfers its own weakness onto them'

the 2022 State Assembly elections, the SAD got just three seats in a legislature of 117 seats, paving the way for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to form the government. In order to revive its fortunes, the SAD decided to fight on its own in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, and has won one seat. The SAD, due to its ill-fated alliance with the BJP, was forced to concede political space to new entrant AAP, and also help the Congress in a revival of its political fortunes.

The story of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) is illustrative as the Assam party has been in on-alliance-off-alliance mode with the BJP since 2001. The AGP was forced to witness one of its important leaders, Sarbananda Sonowal, being absorbed into the BJP and being anointed as the Chief Minister. He is now a part of the BJP-led NDA's Union Cabinet. The AGP was the dominant player when the alliance was established, but within two decades, the BJP has become the key player. In the just concluded Lok Sabha election, the BJP has won nine seats while the AGP won just one, out of the 14 seats in Assam.

#### THE CASE OF OTHER REGIONAL PARTIES

This story has regional variations when it comes to the fortune of four other regional political parties: the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagam (AIADMK). These parties extended vital numerical support to the BJP in its push to implement several laws that were widely perceived as partisan in character. Most of these Bills undermined the federal balance. It is vital to remember the BJP was able to pass many Bills in Lok Sabha on account of its own majority. However, in the Rajya Sabha, these regional parties played the key role to pass the Bills as the BJP did not have adequate numbers.

What is the status of these parties now? How did the BJP treat them? Barring the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), which has mastered the trapeze act with aplomb, all the others are now non-entities.

In Odisha, out of the 21 seats, the BJP has won 20 seats while the BJD has no representation.

In Telangana, out of the 17 seats, the BJP has eight seats and the BRS has zero. In Andhra Pradesh, out of the 25 seats, the BJP-led NDA (the Telugu Desam Party 16, BJP 3 and the Janasena Party, 2) has won 21 while the YSRCP has been reduced to four seats.

In Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK is splintered into three factions. While the Edappadi K. Palaniswami faction has the official recognition and the poll symbol, the other two factions led by O. Panneerselvam and T.T.V. Dhinakaran are posing a stiff challenge to the official faction of the AIADMK in southern Tamil Nadu. The reality is that all these three factions have drawn a blank despite their blind support to the BJP's centralization spree undertaken through hurried legislative moves in Parliament. The BJD, the BRS, the YSRCP and the AIADMK have lost their respective States in the bargain.

And, the fate of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is a poignant story. It shared power with the BJP a few months before the dramatic watering down of Article 370. Now it is without representation in Parliament.

It is evident that the BJP takes over the strengths of the parties it allies with and transfers its own weakness onto them. Its embrace is often seen as a fatal embrace. One is only left with a question. Can the JD(U) and the TDP now escape the deadly embrace?

(The author is a fellow of the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai)

# Inequality, joblessness a drag on India's economic growth



BY SUCHA SINGH GILL

**IT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE GRAVITY OF PROBLEMS SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT, INEQUALITY OF INCOME AND WEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION**

**"UNFORTUNATELY, THE COUNTRY HAS NO EMPLOYMENT POLICY IN PLACE. THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IS ALARMING AT 22.84 PER CENT AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL, BUT IN CERTAIN STATES LIKE PUNJAB AND KERALA, IT WAS NEARING 30 PER CENT IN 2022. THIS IS WHY THE YOUTH OF THIS COUNTRY ARE RACING TO IMMIGRATE, EVEN TO CONFLICT ZONES LIKE EASTERN EUROPE AND WEST ASIA. WITHOUT PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO YOUTH, THE COUNTRY CANNOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OF THE YOUNG POPULATION."**

Constraints on India's growth trajectory are not allowing its economic potential to be fully realized. Consequently, the economy has been recording growth rates much below the potential rate for a period spanning more than a decade since 2011-12, excluding the Covid years (2020-21 and 2021-22).

In the first half of the 20th century, the gross domestic product (GDP) of India grew at a rate of around 1 per cent, which was matched by the growth rate of the population, keeping the per capita income constant and very low. For three decades (1950-51 to 1980-81), the GDP grew at an average annual rate of 3.5 per cent, while the population grew at an annual rate of 2 per cent or more, marking slow growth in the per capita income. But the 1980s observed a jump in the annual GDP growth rate from 3.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent,

recording a period of accelerated growth rate. The 1990s brought a breakthrough in the form of economic reforms that unlocked the growth potential. The economy recorded a growth rate of 8 per cent or above for nearly eight years between 2003-04 and 2010-11.

The high growth trajectory prompted several economists to work out the potential growth rate of the economy. Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian (2004) projected a potential growth rate of above 7 per cent up to 2025. Tushar Poddar and Eva Yi (2007) predicted a potential growth rate of above 8 per cent until 2020. C Rangarajan and DK Srivastava (2017) estimated it to be 8 per cent to 8.1 per cent up to 2029-30. These estimates indicate that the Indian economy has the potential to grow by around 8 per cent for the medium and the long period. But this potential growth rate could be achieved for only eight years between 2003 and 2010-11.

Although the government claims that India can become a \$25-trillion economy by 2047, it seems to ignore the fact that the economy continues to perform below its potential level. This is why efforts have not been made to identify the reasons behind the trend. This needs to be understood so that India is able to march towards becoming a developed country.

The post-2010-11 period has thrown enough statistical evidence about the constraints that the economy is facing in achieving the potential growth rate. The most formidable challenge is created by the burgeoning unemployment in the country. The recent periodic labor force surveys have brought out that the country had the highest unemployment rate in the last 40 years in 2022 at 6.4 per cent, excluding the Covid years. This is due to the fact that country had jobless growth during 2003-04 and job-loss growth after 2012-13. The workforce being released from agriculture because of mechanization is not being absorbed in industrial or service sectors. The quality of employment has also deteriorated with the replacement of regular jobs with contractual ones.

This has contributed to making the agrarian crisis serious, and, consequently, rural unrest in India has grown. Agriculture, which employs more than 44 per cent of the total workforce, is facing a crisis of survival for 84 per cent of the peasants. Unfortunately, the country has no employment policy in place. The youth unemployment is alarming at 22.84 per cent at the country level, but in certain states like Punjab and Kerala, it was



When companies refused to pay their workers during the Covid lockdown, they were forced to pedal or march hundreds of kilometers to their villages in UP and Bihar. -Credit : PTI

nearing 30 per cent in 2022. This is why the youth of this country are racing to immigrate, even to conflict zones like eastern Europe and West Asia. Without providing employment to youth, the country cannot take advantage of the demographic dividend of the young population.

Another constraint has been created by the fast-widening income and wealth inequality. Less than 1 per cent of the individuals are able to corner more than 40 per cent of the national income while 50 per cent of the population has just 13.1 per cent of income. The wealth distribution is even more skewed than income distribution. The 50 per cent low-income population has only 5.9 per cent share in the national wealth, while the top 1 per cent of the population has a 40.5 per cent share. The middle class, which expanded very fast in the initial years of post-reforms period, has been facing a squeeze now under the fast-rising cost of private education and healthcare at corporate hospitals. The working poor are in a dire situation and deprived of quality education and affordable healthcare. The government's commitment to providing free food to 80 crore people is indicative of the alarming state of economic affairs. This is going to create a crisis of underconsumption and inadequacy of demand that may push the economy towards a slowdown.

The fiscal and monetary policy has contributed to widening gaps in income and wealth distribution. The major burden of taxation falls on common people via the GST, while corporate income taxes have been lowered from 35 per cent to 25 per cent. Business

companies have been given huge subsidies in the name of incentives. When corporates are not willing to share their prosperity even with their employees, how can one expect them to share it with common people, as borne out by a lack of adherence to the corporate social responsibility norms? A crude depiction of this was observed in the Covid period when companies refused to pay their workers during the lockdown. And they were forced to trek hundreds of kilometers to their villages in UP and Bihar. Several among them died on the way back home.

Along with burgeoning unemployment and widening income and wealth inequality, the problems related to climate change have been fast emerging on the scene. Unseasonal rainfalls and floods have been common. This is accompanied by a rise in the temperature amid a heatwave with an acute shortage of water, both for drinking and irrigation. No one is serious enough to prepare a roadmap to deal with pollution and water scarcity. This can create a crisis with ramifications for agriculture production activities in the severely affected areas.

It is the right time to recognize the gravity of problems such as unemployment (especially among the youth), inequality of income and wealth, and environmental degradation. The lack of proper attention to these issues would result in major constraints on the growth of the economy, and the projected targets would prove to be a mere mirage for the country.

(The author is a former Director General, CRRID, Chandigarh)

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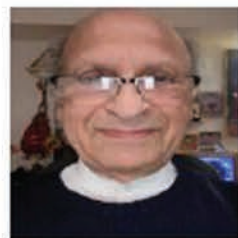


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# The 9/11 Notice Act Seeks to Inform the Forgotten Victims about Federal Support



Smoke rises from World Trade Center twin towers on 9/11

When the four airplanes hijacked by Al Qaeda's terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in rural Pennsylvania on the morning of September 11, 2001, the world changed. While geopolitical developments affect the lives of millions indirectly, 9/11 changed the lives of hundreds of thousands drastically. Nearly 3,000 people died on that day. Those who were in the disaster areas in the days, weeks, and months to follow now live with devastating long-term physical and psychological health effects caused by toxic exposure, injuries, and the stress and trauma they experienced. Many of these people were overlooked for years and still need support. The 9/11 Notice Act addresses the neglect.

Around 400,000 people were exposed to toxic pollutants following the attacks, mainly in the New York City Disaster Area, including parts of Lower Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn within a 1.5-mile radius from the World Trade Center site. The collapse of the Twin Towers left the densely populated blocks of Lower Manhattan covered in dust, ash, and hundreds of thousands of tons of debris containing toxic contaminants

and carcinogens like asbestos, silica, metals, concrete, and glass. The administration of the World Trade Center Health Program released an inventory of more than 350 chemicals and other biological, physical, and psychological hazards, so-called 9/11 agents, linked to the disaster. Fires burned for days, releasing carcinogenic gases, smoke, and combustion.

More than 91,000 first responders, firefighters, police officers, cleanup and construction workers, and voluntary rescue teams worked tirelessly, risking their lives to save others and to clean up the debris. Many got injured during the rescue, and many started reporting adverse health conditions in the years following 9/11. While funds were set up to treat the growing number of first responders getting sick, the effects of exposure to 9/11 agents on the thousands of civilians who lived, worked, and studied in the disaster area were initially overlooked. These survivors were encouraged to return to their jobs, schools, or residences only days after the attack, and most of them now suffer from similar conditions as responders do. The 9/11 Notice Act aims to reach out to these people and let them know there is Federal support they might be eligible to receive.

## FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO HELP THE VICTIMS

It took almost seven years and the tireless advocacy of public health workers until Congress finally expanded its 9/11 funding to provide free medical care and financial support for survivors, too, in 2008. The James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, passed in 2010, established two Federal programs to provide aid to responders and survivors of 9/11 until 2090.

The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program pays for the medical monitoring and treatment of 9/11-related health conditions for responders and survivors who were present in the NYC Disaster Area on September 11, 2001, and who

worked, resided, or attended school in the NYC Disaster Area between September 11, 2001 - July 31, 2002.

The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) gives financial compensation to 9/11 responders and survivors who were present at the crash sites and the NYC Disaster Area at any point between September 11, 2001 - May 30, 2002, and whose health was affected as a result of the exposure. The fund also provides financial compensation to the families of deceased individuals. Only those individuals can register to receive the VCF whose physical condition was previously certified for treatment by the WTC Health Program. In some circumstances, previous treatments by private physicians are accepted if they are verified as 9/11-related illnesses.

The 9/11 Notice Act seeks to reach out to survivors who might need medical treatment and financial support, but they are not aware of the programs. The Act requires employers from businesses and institutions to notify former or actual employees who worked in the NYC Disaster Zone between September 11, 2001, and the end of May 2002 of their potential eligibility for the VCF or the WTC Health Program.

## WHY IS THE 9/11 NOTICE ACT STILL RELEVANT TODAY?

Twenty-two and a half years later, aerodigestive conditions, various types of cancers, and mental health conditions are still being discovered among 9/11 victims. In the first years after the attacks, resources were primarily directed towards helping first responders struggling with debilitating illnesses. Until today, over 80% of the first responders have registered with the health and compensation programs. This is a horrific number pointing to the severe and widespread effects of 9/11 toxins. At the same time, it is a positive sign showing that the programs worked

reasonably well. Undoubtedly, everyone who showed up and sacrificed so much on that day and after deserves all the possible support.

9/11 survivors breathed in tiny particles of the World Trade Center for months after the attacks. Many have been diagnosed with cancer, PTSD, aerodigestive conditions, and other illnesses. Still, only a small percentage of those with qualifying medical conditions have registered for the two programs, as the numbers illustrate. In December 2023, 42,620 survivors were registered with the WTC Health Program, and 39,917 were registered with the September 11th VCF. The numbers are staggering because hundreds of thousands of civilians were in and returned to the NYC Exposure Zone.

According to the statistics of the WTC Health Program, cancer is the third most common condition among responders and the first most common among survivors registered into the program. It is expected, though, that more people will be diagnosed in the future, as some conditions, such as lung cancer caused by asbestos, develop decades after the impact. More than 5,890 people have died already since the attacks due to the toxins in the air. This is more than the number of those who lost their lives on that tragic day. Spreading the information about the 9/11 Notice Act and the two Federal programs is vital. Most medical treatment, especially for cancer, is expensive. PTSD is linked to 9/11 and should be treated. Encouraging people we suspect might be eligible to receive help could save lives in the years to come.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Sharp is a Chief Financial Officer at Environmental Litigation Group, P.C. The law firm, headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, assists toxic exposure victims. Sharp is responsible for case evaluation, financial analysis, and asset management.

## National debt will exceed \$50 trillion by 2034, budget watchdog estimates

The Congressional Budget Office says this year's federal deficit will hit \$1.9 trillion, as defense and social safety net costs rise



BY JACOB BOGAGE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): As lawmakers grapple with increasing defense demands and spending on social safety net programs, the Congressional Budget Office projected Tuesday that the federal debt will equal 122 percent of the

United States' annual economic output by 2034, far surpassing the high set in the aftermath of World War II.

The deficit will swell to \$1.9 trillion this fiscal year and keep growing until the overall national debt hits \$50.7 trillion a decade from now, Congress's nonpartisan bookkeeper said in its latest report. The group revised its forecast from four months ago, when it projected that the debt would reach \$48.3 trillion in 2034, and 116 percent of economic output.

The new figures add to the urgency facing policymakers in 2025 - and on the campaign trail - to tackle the nation's

financial health. Next year, vast portions of the tax code are set to expire, potentially forcing a steep tax hike on individuals and families. Congress suspended the debt limit in 2023, but that, too, will expire next year, setting up a showdown between the two parties over federal spending.

And Medicare and Social Security are running low on funds, which could force a benefit cut for tens of millions of Americans just as the national debt crescendos.

The debt is a bipartisan problem: Spending shot up under both President

Biden and then-President Donald Trump. And Trump's 2017 tax cuts, the ones that are set to expire next year, added nearly \$2 trillion to the existing debt, according to a nonpartisan estimate. Trump has proposed extending all of those cuts, which could add trillions more to the debt, and Biden also wants to keep the lower rates for people who earn less than \$400,000, as well as new social spending paid for by allowing some of the tax cuts to expire.

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

# International Yoga Day celebrated in Washington

JUNE 20, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Hundreds of yoga enthusiasts came together to observe the International Yoga Day at an event that was addressed by India's Deputy Ambassador to the US Sripriya Ranganathan.

At the picturesque Wharf, overlooking the Potomac river, the International Yoga Day event on Wednesday, June 19, began with prayers and Indian classical dance performances. The yoga session highlighted the spirit of oneness and harmony inspired by the ancient Indian practice.

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated on June 21 every year. This year's theme is 'Yoga for Self and Society'.

At the event, Ranganathan said yoga



illuminates the path to creating harmony and balance for a brighter

future of society.

Recognizing yoga's universal appeal, on December 11, 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, she said.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

Since its inception in the Indus Valley civilization, the practice of yoga has travelled far and wide. Nearly 5,000 years later, hundreds of millions of people around the world practice yoga, Ranganathan said.

The event also included elements to popularize inclusion of millets and environment-friendly products and practices in daily life, a media release said. (Source: PTI)

## India US Alumni Connect: LDCE Alumni Meet at Chicago

JUNE 20, 2024

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Lalbhai Dalpatbhai College of Engineering (LDCE), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, one of the oldest (established in June 1948) and premier institutes in the western part of India, is marching on to its Roadmap towards its 100th year, exactly on the same path as India started her journey of independence in 1947 and is on her path of development when she turns 100 in 2047.

A Core group of Alumni along with Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Technological University (GTU, of which LDCE is a part, as an affiliated Institute) and who is also the former Principal of LDCE, Dr. Nilay Bhuptani, current Principal of LDCE, Anand Patel, President of LDCE Alumni Association (LAA), Prerak Shah, Vice President, and members of LAA BOG, Apoorva Thakershy, Parag Shah, Chetan Thakkar and Saleel Bhatt are on a North America tour to the 3 cities of New Jersey, Chicago and San Francisco to re-invent the Alumni Network here. LDCE has an estimated 30 to 35k Alumni across the globe, with many of them heading global companies or have created their own large and highly successful ventures and businesses.

This Core Group from LAA- Ahmedabad is in a single-minded pursuit of bringing together this entire network of Alumni and connects them to their Alma Mater, like the mythical Kalpavruksh.



Dr. Rajul Gajjar, Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Technological University received Award from Dr. Prakasam Tata for her contribution to higher technical education

Photo credit : Asian Media USA

Their endeavors have met with a tremendous response from the two Alumni Meets at NJ and Chicago, where a total of 230 alums came together in one big celebration of home-coming. Alumni travelled from different cities to meet up with old friends, found to their pleasant surprise, new friends living across their own streets who they had not met in 20-25 years so far!

They are creating Local Chapters of LAA- USA and leaving behind a Framework for these Chapters.

At home LDCE Alumni have created a Strategic Plan



LDCE Alumni Meet at Chicago Photo credit : Asian Media USA

for LDCE@100 with KPMG to achieve global standards. They have also created a Master plan for redevelopment of the whole campus, by Aniket Bhagwat, an internationally renowned architect. The government on its own part has done matching grants to put LDCE on a fast track towards its LDCE@100 plan. A ? 100 cr Research Park in Emerging and Deep Tech is also on the anvil.

This small group of Alumni Leaders is super confident of reaching out and connecting the roots with the help of the Alumni who have joined this movement across USA and India.

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

## Nikhil Gupta will now face justice in American courtroom, says US attorney general



Nikhil Gupta being extradited to the US June 14. Photo credit: PTI

JUNE 18, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) :** Indian national Nikhil Gupta, 53, accused of being involved in a murder-for-

hire plot against a Sikh extremist on American soil, will now face justice in a US courtroom, Attorney General Merrick Garland has said, asserting that the country will not tolerate attempts to harm its citizens.

Gupta, 53, also known as Nick, was arrested and detained in the Czech Republic on June 30, 2023, at the request of the US government on charges of being involved in a plot to assassinate Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York. He was extradited to the US on June 14.

Gupta was produced before a federal court in New York on Monday, June 17, where he pleaded not guilty, according to his attorney, Jeffrey Chabrowe.

"This extradition makes clear that the Justice Department will not tolerate attempts to silence or harm American citizens," Garland said on Monday.

"Nikhil Gupta will now face justice in an American

courtroom for his involvement in an alleged plot, directed by an employee of the Indian government, to target and assassinate a US citizen for his support of the Sikh separatist movement in India," he said.

Gupta is charged with murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for each charge.

Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said this murder-for-hire plot, allegedly orchestrated by an Indian government employee to kill a US citizen in New York City, was a brazen attempt to silence a political activist for exercising a quintessential American right - his freedom of speech.

"The extradition of the defendant is a vital step towards justice," she said.

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

# NET fuel to NEET fire as exam row explodes; probe begins

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A simmering controversy over irregularities and alleged paper leaks marring two premier entrance examinations exploded on Thursday, June 20, as thousands of students hit the streets in protest and Opposition leaders took shots at the ruling party even as the government reiterated its commitment to weed out any corruption and fix lacunae.

The row snowballed a day after the Union education ministry cancelled the UGC-NET examination and said the integrity of the process may have been compromised, jeopardising the futures of 900,000 students who appeared for the test. The announcement added fire to a swirling controversy around skewed results and allegations of paper leaks and irregularities that have vitiated the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) this year, left 2.4 million aspirants in limbo, and sparked questions about the processes followed by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

"I come from a poor background and my parents have toiled for me to reach this level. This was probably my last chance at NET," said Amit Khan, an aspirant from Jammu's Doda district.

On June 20, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that a specific question paper of the University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) was leaked on the darknet and this led to the cancellation of the exam used to screen doctoral candidates, assistant professors and Junior Research Fellowships (JRF).

"Some irregularities have come to the



Activists protest against the NTA in New Delhi. Photo: TNS

notice of the government. We take responsibility for it," he said.

But the Opposition was unimpressed. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi earlier said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was incapable or unwilling to stop the paper leaks and alleged that the education system was captured by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its parent organisation.

Gandhi, who may become the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, announced that the government is going to get pressure from the Opposition, setting the stage for confrontation over the exam controversy in the upcoming session of Parliament.

"It was being said that Modi applied the brakes on the Ukraine war. He also stopped Israel's war in Gaza. But for

some reason, Modi is unable and not willing to stop the paper leak. Students work for months and years to prepare for these exams but the government is playing with their future," Gandhi said, comparing the NEET and NET issues with the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh. "The reason for the paper leak is that the education system has been captured by BJP and its parent organisation. This capture has been done by Modi," he added.

Gandhi demanded that the guilty be brought to book, announced the exam issue will be raised in the upcoming Parliament session and insisted that the rules and system of universities had to be "reviewed and changed."

The controversy began with this year's NEET, the medical entrance

examination, after allegations surfaced that in one centre in Rajasthan, students appearing for the Hindi medium test got question papers in English amid reports of torn OMR sheets and delay in distribution of question papers. A case was lodged in Patna over an alleged paper leak, after which the police arrested 13 people involved in solving question papers and supplying answers as part of a racket. The arrested people include four examinees.

For weeks, protests have swept across India as thousands of students hit the streets amid allegations of question paper leaks, inflated marking and arbitrary allowance of grace marks, even as opposition parties called for a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the allegations. The Supreme Court is set to hear a raft of petitions on the issue on July 8.

Then, on Wednesday evening, the education ministry cancelled the UGC-NET examination and said the integrity of the process may have been compromised. The June edition of the exam was held on June 18 with 908, 580 candidates appearing at 1, 200 centres, taking the test 83 subjects using pen and paper on OMR sheets.

But 24 hours later, the ministry said that UGC, India's higher education regulator, received certain inputs from the National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the home ministry on the examination.

On Thursday, June 20, Pradhan shed further light on the decision.

Source: HT

## HC ends 65% quota hike for jobs, colleges in Bihar

PATNA (TIP)

The Patna high court on Thursday, June 20, struck down Bihar's decision last year to raise caste-based quotas to 65%, underlining that merit could not be completely sacrificed at the altar of reparations in a verdict that delivered a blow to the state government and will have sweeping political and social ramifications.

Bihar had last year raised the quota for scheduled castes (SCs), scheduled tribes (STs), extremely backward classes (EBCs), and other backward classes (OBCs) in educational institutions and government jobs from 50% to 65% after a caste survey showed that these groups formed roughly 84% of the state's population.

But the court noted that not only were backward communities adequately represented in public employment, the government had also attempted no in-



depth study or analysis before enhancing reservation beyond the limit set by the Supreme Court in the landmark 1992 Indira Sawhney judgment. "We set aside the Bihar Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Amendment Act, 2023 and the Bihar Reservation (in Admission to Educational Institutions) Amendment Act, 2023 as ultra vires the Constitution

and violative of the equality clause under Articles 14, 15, and 16," held the bench of chief justice K Vinod Chandran and justice Harish Kumar, allowing a bundle of writ petitions that had challenged the 2023 law.

The court said the enhancement of reservations beyond the 50% limit – as set by a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in 1992 – was "bad in law" as well as opposed to the principles of equality emanating from the Constitution because the state failed to demonstrate any extenuating circumstance that could enable it to breach the 50% norm.

"The fact remains that backward communities are adequately represented in public employment, by virtue of reservation and also merit; which is an indication of one or other caste or community having reaped the benefits of reservation and the various beneficial welfare schemes implemented by the

State; in achieving an element of social capital. There is no requirement for an enhancement of reservations, as adequate representation now exists and there is no valid ground for breach of 50% rule; which in any way is not permissible," noted the court.

The state government said it will appeal the judgment in the Supreme Court. "The Bihar government will challenge the high court order before the Supreme Court," said deputy CM Samrat Choudhury.

The Opposition attacked the government. "I am aghast at the judgement. The BJP had been trying to scuttle the caste survey, which provided the basis of hiked quotas. It is no surprise that such a verdict has come within days of the party's return to power at the Centre," said Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Source: HT

## EC sets the ball rolling for J-K polls, electoral roll to be published by Aug 20

The Election Commission on Thursday, June 20, wrote to the chief electoral officers of poll-bound states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, to complete the special summary revision (SSR) of the electoral roll by August 20, setting the stage for holding Assembly elections after that.

According to EC sources, the poll panel wrote to the state CEOs, including those of Haryana, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, on Thursday initiating the process of updating the electoral roll. The publication of the final electoral roll would be done by August 20, as per the schedule, EC sources said. They added that the cut-off date for enrolling as an elector in these states and UT would be July 1.

The poll panel has also started the process for holding 47 by-polls that are due across the country, they said.

In addition to the SSR, the EC is holding training for officials of the poll-bound states in Delhi this week. While upholding the abrogation of Article 370, the Supreme Court had last year ordered the EC to hold Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections by September 30. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said earlier this month that the poll panel would start the process of conducting the elections "very soon".

Source: *The Indian Express*

# Punjab CM Mann orders transfer of 10,000 cops over nexus with drug peddlers

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has ordered the transfer of at least 10,000 police personnel in an unprecedented move to crack down on the drug menace in the state.

Chief Minister Mann said that the transfers were made because several police personnel were part of the drug pedlar nexus.

He said that because of the nexus, many of the accused have been let off the hook, and the complaints against them had been ignored for many years.

"Many of the Moharrir head constables (MHC), station house officers (SHO), and constables have been stationed at the same police station for many years and have formed a nexus with the drug smugglers there. They manipulate the procedures to save the accused. I have asked the Director General of Police (DGP) to immediately order mass transfers," Bhagwant Mann said.

A major rejig within the police department left the cops fuming. Speaking with India Today, former Punjab DGP (Prisons) Shashi Kant said that the state government's decision can backfire as merely transferring the cops will not solve the reigning drug menace in the state.

"While there is no denying the fact that there are black sheep within the police force, all cops are not corrupt. Similar action was required in the jails, which have become dens of drugs. The government should have first identified the tainted cops before ordering the transfers," Shashi Kant said.

While confirming the transfer orders, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Border Range Rakesh Kaushal said that linking the transfers with the drug problem is wrong.



"The decision to order transfers was made in 2020 but was delayed and is now being implemented. These transfers are administrative and not related to the alleged involvement of cops in drug smuggling," said Rakesh Kaushal.

Meanwhile, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav has said that the police seized the properties owned by drug smugglers worth Rs 200 crore in the last two years.

Apart from identifying the 750 hotspots, DGP Gaurav said that the State Task Force (STF) and the intelligence wing have prepared a list of 9,000 street-level pedlars.

Despite the Punjab Police's claims of taking strict action against drug smuggling, criminals have expanded their networks. Using drones and sea routes, smugglers are increasing drug supplies within the state. Addressing the media, Bhagwant Mann stated that drugs were coming from Gujarat, which is under investigation.

In 2023, the BSF and Punjab Police downed or recovered 107 drones used for drug transport. Drug seizures in Punjab have increased fivefold over the past seven years, from 179 kg in 2017 to 1,346 kg in 2023. Source: *India Today*

## Won't do any personal work of Muslims, Yadavs: Sitamarhi MP-elect

PATNA (TIP)

The Janata Dal (United)'s MP-elect from the Sitamarhi Lok Sabha seat, Devesh Chandra Thakur, on June 17 reiterated that Muslims and Yadavs did not vote for him, and he will not do their "personal work".

Two days ago, while speaking at a function in Sitamarhi, Thakur had said that the two communities voted for Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). "How can I do their work? All my Yadav and Muslim brothers are welcome for tea, but don't talk about work. I will not do your work," he had said. His comments created a flutter in Bihar's political circles.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Thakur said he will not do any work for the communities in his personal capacity. "Yes, I will not do any personal work of Muslims and Yadavs. I will offer them tea and sweets, and chat with them if they visit my residence. I have been doing their personal work for more than 30 years. But this election, I am really hurt by the way they did not vote for me. However, I will keep on doing public work."

Asked if the statement will hamper his public image, Thakur replied, "What



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Devesh Chandra Thakur | Photo Credit: PTI

will hurt me more than what they have done to me this time? Not even five percent of voters from the two communities voted for me. I have done the maximum work for them."

Thakur said his assessment of the voting pattern is based on "figures received from booth-level workers". Hailing from the Brahmin community, Mr. Thakur secured 5,15,719 votes, beating the RJD's Arjun Ray who got

4,64,363 votes.

Muslims and Yadavs are considered the core voters of the RJD and have helped party supremo Lalu Prasad to be at the helm for 15 years in Bihar. This Lok Sabha election, RJD got 22.14% votes, the highest vote share, but won only four seats.

In Sitamarhi, the Muslims and Yadavs make up 6 lakh voters. According to the caste-based survey, Muslims account for

17.70% whereas the Yadavs are 14.27 % of the population, the biggest voter base among the OBCs.

Party insiders said Thakur had helped develop religious structures of both the communities and was expecting their support this election. "The Bagahi Dham in Sitamarhi is considered the Mecca for the Yadav community. In 2017, following efforts by Thakur, the State government sanctioned Rs 24 crore for the structure. He personally gave Rs 50 lakh. But he hardly got any votes there. Another Rs 11 crore was sanctioned by the government for the KanhwaMadarsa in Sitamarhi due to his efforts. He had personally contributed a handsome amount," said a leader. The RJD lashed out at Thakur saying the MP-elect insulted 32% of Bihar's population.

"His statement is a violation of the Constitution and his oath to the post. Ruling by creating division in the society is the real character of the State's third largest party, the JD(U), and such people are the important members of Nitish Kumar's kitchen Cabinet. These narrow-minded casteist people always look at 70% of the State's population with hatred," the party wrote on X.

Source: *The Hindu*

# India in history this Week

## JUNE 21 TO JUNE 27

### 21 JUNE

1912 Birth of famous Hindi litterateur Vishnu Prabhakar.

2004 China supported the India-Pakistan talks.

2009 India's badminton star player Saina Nehwal won the title of Super Series Badminton Tournament. She is the first Indian woman to do so.

1982 World Music Day was celebrated.

1862 Gyanendra Mohan Tagore became the first Indian to receive an advocacy degree from Lincoln's Inn.

1933 Birth of the famous writer, novelist, playwright, critic and satirist Mudrarakshaas of India.

1948 C. Rajagopalachari became the Governor General of India. He was the last Governor General of the country.



1991 PV Narasimha Rao became the ninth Prime Minister of India.

2015 The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated. At the initiative of India at the United Nations, almost all the countries of the world are involved in this campaign of spreading yoga to stay healthy.

1932 Villain Amrish Puri, the star of Hindi cinema who ruled the hearts of fans for decades, was born on 22 June.

### 22 JUNE

1932 Villain Amrish Puri, the star of Hindi cinema who ruled the hearts of fans for decades, was born on 22 June.

2009 The longest solar eclipse of the 21st century appeared in India.

1939 Subhash Chandra Bose separated from the Congress and established the Forward Bloc.

1897 In Pune, the then District Magistrate Walter Charles Rand was shot dead by the Chafekar brothers in 1897.

1948 The title of Emperor of India has been removed in 1948 from His Excellency, King of the United Kingdom.

2007 Sunita Williams returned to Earth in 2007 with her team.

2008 Syed Faqir Hussain was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Central Advisory Board of Balashram in 2008.

2016 ISRO created history in 2016, launching 20 satellites.

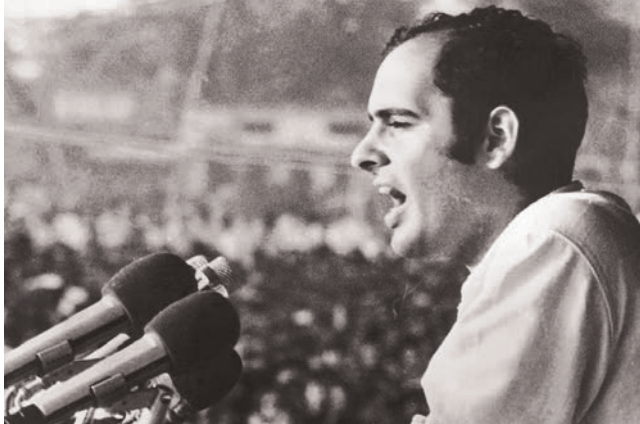
1900 Indian freedom fighter Ganesh Ghosh was born.

1932 Famous actor and villain of Indian cinema, Amrish Puri was born.

1988 Buddhist monk, Paladin scholar and writer Bhadant Anand Kausalyan died on 22 June 1988.

### 23 JUNE

1980 Sanjay Gandhi, a member of the Nehru-Gandhi



family, died in the plane crash.

1985 An Air India passenger plane crashed into the air near the coast of Ireland. All 329 passengers aboard the plane were killed in this accident.

1761 Death of Maratha ruler Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao.

1810 Construction of Duncan Dock of Bombay completed.

1953 Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died in a hospital in Kashmir.

2008 JK Tire India Limited, the country's leading tire maker, acquired Mexico's tire company Tormal and its subsidiaries for \$ 270 million.

2008 The selection committee recommended in 2008 to confer the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on famous Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

2014 Gujarat's 'Rani Ki Vav' and Himachal's 'Great Himalayan National Park' were included in the 2014 World Heritage List.

1934 Gandhian thinker and social worker Chandi Prasad Bhatt was born.

### 24 JUNE

1654 Rani Durgavati was martyred during the war with the Mughals.

1961 India's first indigenous HF24 supersonic fighter aircraft took off in 1961.



1966 117 people died when an Air India aircraft going from Mumbai to New York crashed in Mount Blanc, Switzerland. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, an Indian nuclear physicist, founding director, and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, was among those killed.

1974 The Indian team was reduced to 42 against England in the second innings of the 1974 Lord's Test. This is India's minimum score in the Test and it lost by innings and 285 runs.

1986 The government announced that unmarried mothers will also get maternity leave under their employment scheme.

1989 A majority of opposition members resigned from the Lok Sabha in 1989 over the issue of the CAG report on the Bofors gun deal.

1990 Defense scientists successfully tested the country's first third-generation anti-tank missile 'NAG' in 1990.

1885 Famous politician and staunch Sikh leader Tara Singh was born.

1869 Damodar Hari Chapekar, one of the revolutionary immortal martyrs of India, was born.

1863 Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade, the famous Indian writer, historian, best orator and scholar was born.

1980 The fourth President of India, V.V. Giri died.

### 25 JUNE

1908 Sucheta Kripalani, the first female Chief Minister in the country, was born.

1975 On the advice of Indira Gandhi-led Congress government, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed announced the imposition of Emergency in the country.

1932 The Indian cricket team played its first Test match at the Lord's ground in Britain.

1983 India defeated the West Indies by 43 runs to win the Cricket World Cup title for the first time.

2004 Russia decided to extend a strategic partnership with India.

1903 Chandrashekhar Pandey - was born a litterateur.

1950 Swami Sahajanand Saraswati social reformer and revolutionary died.

1931 Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the eighth Prime Minister of India was born.

1975 Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, an Indian Army officer who was posthumously awarded India's highest gallantry medal Paramveer Chakra for exceptional bravery in the 1999 Kargil War, was born

### 26 JUNE

2004 Famous filmmaker Yash Johar died on this day.

1838 The birth of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Bengali novelist and creator of Vande Mataram.

1873 Birth of Indian singer and dancer Gauhar Jaan.

1888 Birth of Bal Gandharva, the great hero and famous singer of Marathi theater.

1918 Birth of Indian Lieutenant Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane, awarded Paramveer Chakra.

1961 Famous litterateur Govind Shastri Dugvekar passed away.

1967 The birth of Tarun Sagar, the famous saint of the Indian Digambara sect of Jainism.

1975 India's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in the country.

### 27 JUNE

1839 Maharaj Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Sikh Empire, died.

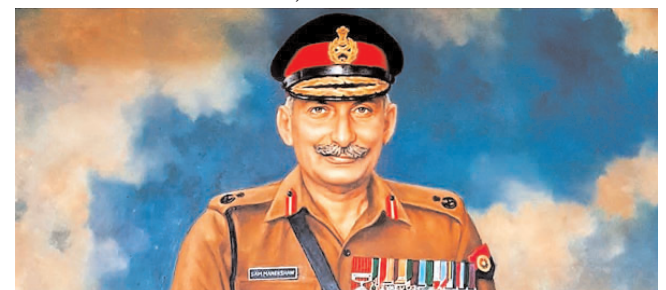
1838 Nationalist author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was born

1939 Music composer RD Burman, who gave music in more than 300 films, was born.

1964 PT Usha, who was known worldwide by the name of Udanpari, was born.

1964 Teen Murti Bhawan was made Nehru Museum.

2008 Former Army Chief Sam Manekshaw, who played a key role in the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war, died







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## International Yoga Day 2024

with TIRLOK MALIK

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# International Yoga Day

**INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY IS OBSERVED ON JUNE 21, THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, SYMBOLISING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LIGHT AND THE TRANSITION TO DAKSHINAYANA, AN AUSPICIOUS PERIOD IN INDIAN TRADITION.**



**Y**oga, which has its roots in India, is a physical and mental health-enhancing activity. The 10th International Yoga Day 2024 will be celebrated around the world on June 21. The day aims to raise awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga, right from physical, mental, and spiritual. The term "Yoga" comes from the Sanskrit root "yuj," which means "to join," "to yoke," or "to unite." Yoga reflects the union of mind and body, thoughts and actions, restraint and fulfillment, and harmony between humans and nature.

#### International Yoga Day 2024 Theme

Each year, International Yoga Day adopts a specific theme to focus the celebrations and activities around a particular aspect of yoga. The theme for 2024 is "Yoga for Self and Society."

#### International Yoga Day 2024 History

Though the origin of yoga dates back to ancient India, however, in September 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed to observe the International Day of Yoga during his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). While addressing the 69th session of the UNGA, the prime minister had said, "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being. Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

After which, the UNGA on 11 December 2014, proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.

#### International Yoga Day 2024 Significance

Over the years, yoga has become widely popular worldwide, with millions embracing it to enhance their overall health and mental well-being. Yoga is not only about physical exercises but includes breathing exercises and mediation. It not only helps to reduce stress, anxiety and depression but also improves flexibility, strength, balance, and endurance. International Yoga Day holds multifaceted significance, centered on promoting the practice of yoga and its associated benefits. Key aspects of its importance include:

**Global awareness:** The day aims to educate people worldwide about the extensive health benefits of yoga. By fostering a global community of practitioners, it encourages individuals to incorporate yoga into their daily routines.

#### Physical health

Yoga is renowned for enhancing flexibility, strength, and endurance. Regular practice can prevent and manage various physical ailments, including back pain and cardiovascular issues.

#### Mental well-being

Beyond physical health, yoga significantly benefits mental well-being. It aids in stress reduction, enhances



concentration, and promotes mental clarity. Practices such as pranayama (breath control) and meditation are crucial for managing anxiety and depression.

#### Spiritual growth

Rooted in spirituality, yoga fosters inner peace and harmony, guiding individuals toward self-awareness and self-realization. This spiritual aspect helps practitioners connect with themselves on a deeper level.

#### Community and unity

The theme "Yoga for Self and Society" emphasises yoga's role in creating a harmonious society. It promotes a sense of unity and collective consciousness, transcending cultural and geographical barriers.

#### Importance

Yoga is more than just an exercise. It is a method for empowering oneself, along with the body and psyche. With today's life, which is going so fast, everybody should integrate yoga into their everyday daily practice.

Yoga is essentially a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science of healthy living. The word 'Yoga' is derived from the Sanskrit root 'Yuj', meaning 'to join' or 'to yoke' or 'to unite'. As per Yogic scriptures the practice of Yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with that of the Universal Consciousness, indicating a perfect harmony between the mind and body, Man & Nature. According to modern scientists, everything in the universe is just a manifestation of the same quantum firmament. One who experiences this oneness of existence is said to be in yoga, and is termed as a yogi, having attained to a state of freedom referred to as mukti, nirvana or moksha. Thus the aim of Yoga is Self-realization, to overcome all kinds of sufferings leading to 'the state of liberation' (Moksha) or 'freedom' (Kaivalya). Living with freedom in all walks of life, health and harmony shall be the main objectives of Yoga practice. "Yoga" also refers to an inner science comprising of a variety of methods through which human beings can realize this union and achieve mastery over their destiny. Yoga, being widely considered as an 'immortal cultural outcome' of Indus Saraswati Valley civilization – dating back to 2700 B.C., has proved itself catering to both material and spiritual upliftment of humanity. Basic humane values are the very identity of Yoga Sadhana.

The practice of Yoga is believed to have started with the very dawn of civilization. The science of yoga has its origin thousands of years ago, long before the first religions or belief systems were born. In the yogic lore, Shiva is seen as the first yogi or Adiyogi, and the first Guru or Adi Guru.

Several thousand years ago, on the banks of the lake Kantisarovar in the Himalayas, Adiyogi poured his profound knowledge into the legendary Saptarishis or "seven sages". The sages carried this powerful yogic science to different parts of the world, including Asia, the Middle East, Northern Africa and South America. Interestingly, modern scholars have noted and marvelled at the close parallels found between ancient cultures across the globe. However, it was in India that the yogic system found its fullest expression. Agastya, the Saptarishi who travelled across the Indian subcontinent, crafted this culture around a core yogic way of life.

The Number of seals and fossil remains of Indus Saraswati valley civilization with Yogic motives and figures performing Yoga Sadhana suggest the presence of Yoga in ancient India. The phallic symbols, seals of idols of mother Goddess are suggestive of Tantra Yoga. Presence of Yoga is available in folk traditions, Indus valley civilization, Vedic and Upanishadic heritage, Buddhist and Jain traditions, Darshanas, epics of Mahabharat and Ramayana, theistic traditions of Shaivas, Vaishnavas, and Tantric traditions. In addition, there was a

# Yoga: Its origin, history and development



**NOW-A-DAYS, MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE HAVE BENEFITTED BY THE PRACTICE OF YOGA WHICH HAS BEEN PRESERVED AND PROMOTED BY THE GREAT EMINENT YOGA MASTERS FROM ANCIENT TIME TO THIS DATE. THE PRACTICE OF YOGA IS BLOSSOMING, AND GROWING MORE VIBRANT EVERY DAY.**

primordial or pure Yoga which has been manifested in mystical traditions of South Asia. This was the time when Yoga was being practised under the direct guidance of Guru and its spiritual value was given special importance. It was a part of Upasana and yoga sadhana was inbuilt in their rituals. Sun was given highest importance during the vedic period. The practice of 'Surya namaskara' may have been invented later due to this influence. Pranayama was a part of daily ritual and to offer the oblation. Though Yoga was being practiced in the pre-Vedic period, the great Sage Maharshi Patanjali systematized and codified the then existing practices of Yoga, its meaning and its related knowledge through his Yoga Sutras. After Patanjali, many Sages and Yoga Masters contributed greatly for



the preservation and development of the field through their well documented practices and literature.

Historical evidences of the existence of Yoga were seen in the pre-Vedic period (2700 B.C.), and thereafter till Patanjali's period. The main sources, from which we get the information about Yoga practices and the related literature during this period, are available in Vedas (4), Upanishads (108), Smritis, teachings of Buddhism, Jainism, Panini, Epics (2), Puranas (18) etc.

Tentatively, the period between 500 BC - 800 A.D. is considered as the Classical period which is also considered as the most fertile and prominent period in the

history and development of Yoga. During this period, commentaries of Vyasa on Yoga Sutras and Bhagawadgita etc. came into existence. This period can be mainly dedicated to two great religious teachers of India – Mahavir and Buddha. The concept of Five great vows – Pancha mahavrata- by Mahavir and Ashta Magga or eightfold path by Buddha - can be well considered as early nature of Yoga sadhana. We find its more explicit explanation in Bhagawadgita which has elaborately presented the concept of Gyan yoga, Bhakti yoga and Karma Yoga. These three types of yoga are still the highest example of human wisdom and even to day people find

peace by following the methods as shown in Gita. Patanjali's yoga sutra besides containing various aspects of yoga, is mainly identified with eight fold path of Yoga. The very important commentary on Yoga sutra by Vyasa was also written. During this very period the aspect of mind was given importance and it was clearly brought out through Yoga sadhana, Mind and body both can be brought under control to experience equanimity. The period between 800 A.D. - 1700 A.D. has been recognized as the Post Classical period wherein the teachings of great Acharyatrayas-Adi Shankracharya, Ramanujacharya, Madhavacharya-were prominent during this period. The teachings of Suradasa, Tulasidasa, Purandardasa, Mirabai were the great contributors during this period. The Natha Yogis of Hathayoga Tradition like Matsyendaranatha, Gorkshanatha, Cauranginatha, Swatmaram Suri, Gheranda, Shrinivasa Bhatt are some of the great personalities who popularized the Hatha Yoga practices during this period.

The period between 1700 - 1900 A.D. is considered as Modern period in which the great Yogacharyas- Ramana Maharshi, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Paramhansa Yogananda, Vivekananda etc. have contributed for the development of Raja Yoga. This was the period when Vedanta, Bhakti yoga, Nathayoga or Hatha-yoga flourished. The Shadanga-yoga of Gorakshashatakam, Chaturanga-yoga of Hathayogapradipika, Saptanga-yoga of Gheranda Samhita, were the main tenets of Hatha-yoga.

Now in the contemporary times, everybody has conviction about yoga practices towards the preservation, maintenance and promotion of health. Yoga has spread all over the world by the teachings of great personalities like Swami Shivananda, Shri T.Krishnamacharya, Swami Kuvalayananda, Shri Yogendara, Swami Rama, Sri Aurobindo, Maharshi Mahesh Yogi, Acharya Rajanish, Pattabhijois, BKS. Iyengar, Swami Satyananda Sarasvati and the like.

### Clearing Misconceptions

For many, the practice of yoga is restricted to Hatha Yoga and Asanas (postures). However, among the Yoga Sutras, just three sutras are dedicated to asanas. fundamentally, hatha yoga is a preparatory process so that the body can sustain higher levels of energy. The process begins with the body, then the breath, the mind, and the inner self.

Yoga is also commonly understood as a therapy or exercise system for health and fitness. While physical and mental health are natural consequences of yoga, the goal of yoga is more far-reaching. "Yoga is about harmonizing oneself with the universe. It is the technology of aligning individual geometry with the cosmic, to achieve the highest level of perception and harmony."

Yoga does not adhere to any particular religion, belief system or community; it has always been approached as a technology for inner wellbeing. Anyone who practices yoga with involvement can reap its benefits, irrespective of one's



faith, ethnicity or culture. Traditional Schools of Yoga :These different Philosophies, Traditions, lineages and Guru-shishya paramparas of Yoga lead to the emergence of different Traditional Schools of Yoga e.g. Jnana-yoga, Bhakti-yoga, Karma-yoga, Dhyana-yoga, Patanjala-yoga, Kundalini-yoga, Hatha-yoga, Mantra-yoga, Laya-yoga, Raja-yoga, Jain-yoga, Bouddha-yoga etc. Each school has its own principles and practices leading to ultimate aim and objectives of Yoga.

### Yogic Practices for Health and Wellness

The widely practiced Yoga Sadhanas (Practices) are: Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana (Meditation), Samadhi /Samyama, Bandhas & Mudras, Shat-karmas, Yukta-ahara, Yukta karma, Mantra japa, etc. Yama's are restraints and Niyama's are observances. These are considered to be pre-requisites for the Yoga Sadhanas (Practices). Asanas, capable of bringing about stability of body and mind ' kuryat-tad-asanam-sthairyam...' , consists in adopting various body (psycho-physical) patterns, giving ability to maintain a body position (a stable awareness of one's structural existence) for a considerable length and period of time as well.

Pranayama consists in developing awareness of one's breathing followed by willful regulation of respiration as the functional or vital basis of one's existence. It helps in developing awareness of one's mind and helps to

establish control over the mind. In the initial stages, this is done by developing awareness of the 'flow of in-breath and out-breath' (svasa-prasvasa) through nostrils, mouth and other body openings, its internal and external pathways and destinations. Later, this phenomenon is modified, through regulated, controlled and monitored inhalation (svasa) leading to the awareness of the body space/s getting filled (puraka), the space/s remaining in a filled state (kumbhaka) and it's getting emptied (rechaka) during regulated, controlled and monitored exhalation (prasvasa).

Pratyahara indicates dissociation of one's consciousness (withdrawal) from the sense organs which helps one to remain connected with the external objects. Dharana indicates broad based field of attention (inside the body and mind) which is usually understood as concentration. Dhyana (Meditation) is contemplation (focussed attention inside the body and mind) and Samadhi - integration.

Bandhas and Mudras are practices associated with pranayama. They are viewed as (the) higher Yogic practices mainly consisting on adopting certain body (psycho-physical) patterns along with control over respiration. This further facilitates control over mind and paves way for higher yogic attainment. Shat-karmas are de-toxification procedures, help to remove the toxins accumulated in the body and are clinical in nature.

Yuktahara (Right Food and other

inputs) advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living. However practice of Dhyana (Meditation) helping in self-realization leading to transcendence is considered as the essence of Yoga Sadhana (The Practice of Yoga).

### The Fundamentals of Yoga Sadhana

Yoga works on the level of one's body, mind, emotion and energy. This has given rise to four broad classifications of Yoga: karma yoga, where we utilize the body; bhakti yoga, where we utilize the emotions; gyana yoga, where we utilize the mind and intellect; and kriya yoga, where we utilize the energy.

Each system of Yoga we practice would fall within the gamut of one or more of these categories. Every individual is a unique combination of these four factors. "All the ancient commentaries on Yoga have stressed that it is essential to work under the direction of a Guru." The reason being that only a Guru can mix the appropriate combination of the four fundamental paths, as is necessary for each seeker. Yoga Education: Traditionally, Yoga Education was imparted by knowledgeable, experienced, and wise persons in the families (comparable with the education imparted in convents in the west) and then by the Seers (Rishis/Munis/Acharyas) in Ashramas (compared with monasteries). Yoga Education, on the other hand, aims at taking care of the individual, the 'Being'. It is presumed that a good, balanced, integrated, truthful, clean, transparent person will be more useful to oneself, family, society, nation, nature and humanity at large. Yoga education is 'Being oriented'. Details of working with 'being oriented' aspect have been outlined in various living traditions and texts and the method contributing to this important field is known as 'Yoga'.

Present days, Yoga Education is being imparted by many eminent Yoga Institutions, Yoga Colleges, Yoga Universities, Yoga Departments in the Universities, Naturopathy colleges and Private trusts & societies. Many Yoga Clinics, Yoga Therapy and Training Centers, Preventive Health Care Units of Yoga, Yoga Research Centers etc. have been established in Hospitals, Dispensaries, Medical Institutions and Therapeutic setups.

Different social customs and rituals in India, the land of Yoga, reflect a love for ecological balance, tolerance towards other systems of thought and a compassionate outlook towards all creations. Yoga Sadhana of all hues and colours is considered panacea for a meaningful life and living. Its orientation to a comprehensive health, both individual and social, makes it a worthy practice for the people of all religions, races and nationalities.

Now-a-days, millions and millions of people across the globe have benefitted by the practice of Yoga which has been preserved and promoted by the great eminent Yoga Masters from ancient time to this date. The practice of Yoga is blossoming, and growing more vibrant every day.

Yoga is an ancient practice that has been known for thousands of years for healing people. India is a country where this ancient practice was born 5000 years ago and a place where Lord Adiyogi Shiva has started this practice and later on our great Indian masters have kept the lineages of traditional yoga alive and passed them to their students and the rest of the world. Those were the yoga teachers who have kept the tradition of yoga alive and spread the light of this ancient art and transformed the whole dimension of yoga teacher training courses in India with their teachings. All of these yoga gurus have followed the path of yoga but it all leads to one goal that was to spread the light of traditional yoga and connect them with their inner consciousness through the practice of yoga.

Here are the most inspiring yoga gurus in India who have changed the whole dimension of yoga all over the globe:

#### **Patanjali (Sage Maharshi Patanjali)**

Gonardiya, or Gonikaputra, also known as Patanjali, was a Hindu scholar, author, philosopher, and yoga guru. He is called the "Father of Modern Yoga" because he standardised and organised yogic principles that existed during his time.

It is believed that Patanjali lived between the 2nd and 4th centuries BCE, based on the yogic texts written and compiled by him. He wrote the book "Patanjali Yoga Sutras" by compiling all the yogic knowledge contained in ancient Indian scriptures and his own yoga knowledge.

Patanjali's work is mainly dedicated to the practice of Ashtanga Yoga.

#### **Tirumalai Krishnamacharya**

Tirumalai Krishnamacharya (1888–1989) was an Indian yoga guru and scholar of Ayurveda. He is also called the "Father of Modern Yoga" because he promoted other forms of modern yoga, including postural yoga and hatha yoga.

Krishnamacharya is responsible for the hatha yoga. Under the patronage of the King of Mysore, Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV, he travelled across India and taught yogic principles and practices to people in different regions of the country.

#### **Swami Sivananda**

Sivananda Saraswati, a.k.a. Swami Sivananda (1887–1963) was a prominent yoga teacher in India who was born in Tamil Nadu and worked as a physician in British Malaya (an island in Singapore) during his young adulthood. Later, he learned yoga, achieved mastery in it, and became a yoga teacher.

Swami Sivananda founded the Divine Life Society (1936) and the Vedanta Forest Academy (1948). These organisations have many branches in India and western countries that teach yoga asanas and meditations. He also wrote more than 200 books about yoga and spirituality, which are leaving a significant impact on people about the importance of yoga and spirituality.

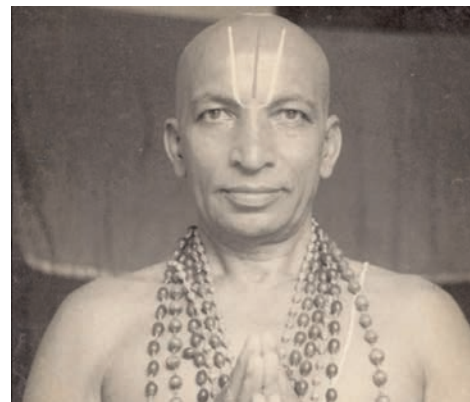
#### **B. K. S. Iyengar**

Bellur Krishnamachar Sundaraja

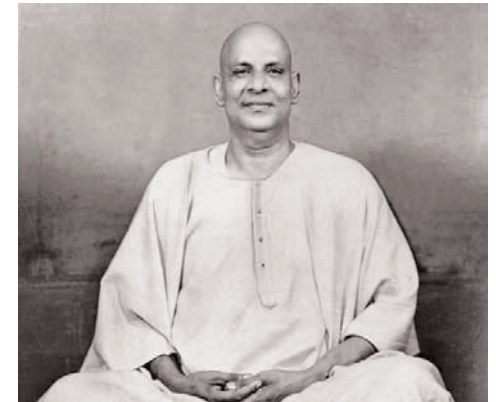
# Eminent Yoga gurus



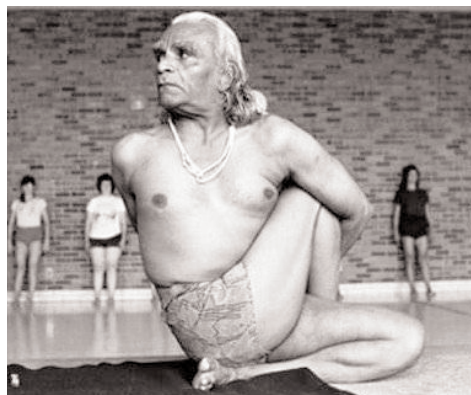
Sage Patanjali



Tirumalai Krishnamacharya



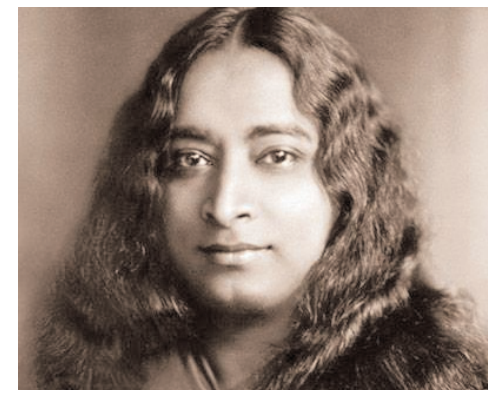
Swami Sivananda



B. K. S. Iyengar



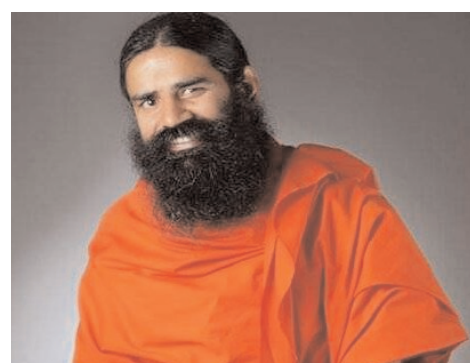
K. Pattabhi Jois



Paramahansa Yogananda



Swami Vivekananda



Baba Ramdev



Sadhguru

Iyengar, a.k.a. B. K. S. Iyengar (1918–2014), was an Indian yoga teacher and author who promoted yoga as a physical exercise. Guru Iyengar emphasised the importance of precision, alignment, and details related to yoga asanas or yoga postures. The methods he describes are called "Iyengar Yoga."

B. K. S. wrote many books about yoga, including "Light on Yoga," "The Tree of Yoga," "Light on Pranayama" and many others, which inspired people of western nations to learn Iyengar yoga. The first Iyengar yoga institute in India, Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Institute, Pune, was founded by Guru Iyengar in 1975. Later on, Iyengar yoga institutes were also founded by his disciples in western countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Poland, and many others.

#### **K. Pattabhi Jois**

Kowshika Pattabhi Jois, or K. Pattabhi, was also a famous Indian yoga guru. He was contemporary to B. K. S. Iyengar and founded the Ashtanga Vinyasa form of yoga. Guru Pattabhi played a vital role in promoting Indian yogic practice in the United States of America.

#### **Paramahansa Yogananda**

Mukunda Lal Ghosh, a.k.a. Paramahansa Yogananda (1893–1952), was one of the most influential Indian yoga gurus. He played a vital role in reviving "Kriya Yoga," which is a yogic practice consisting of pranayamas, mudras (gestures), and mantras (sacred utterances). This yogic practice aims to help individuals spiritually develop and provides peace of mind.

Kriya Yoga was first mentioned in Paramahansa Yogananda's book, "Autobiography of a Yogi." Paramahansa Yogananda was the first Indian yoga guru who introduced the western world to yoga. He founded two organisations, the Yogananda Satsanga Society of India (1970) and the Self-Realization Fellowship (1920), in Los Angeles, United States, to teach yoga to eastern and western people.

#### **Swami Vivekananda**

Narendranath Datta, a.k.a. Swami Vivekananda, was an Indian scholar, philosopher, and Hindu monk who is one of the most renowned personalities in the world because of his incredible knowledge about various subjects. Swami Vivekananda travelled to different parts of India and other nations

and supported different social reforms. He also taught "Raja Yoga" to people across the world, which is a yogic practice that helps individuals become the best version of themselves.

#### **Baba Ramdev**

Ramkrishna Yadav, a.k.a. Baba Ramdev is the most famous Indian yoga teacher of modern times. He teaches yoga asanas and yoga pranayamas through his yoga school, Patanjali Yogapeeth, which has many branches in India, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Nepal, and Mauritius.

Baba Ramdev played a vital role in the revival of yoga and Ayurveda in India.

#### **Sadhguru**

Jagdish Vasudev, also known as Sadhguru, is also a modern Indian yoga teacher and spiritual leader. He promotes yoga worldwide through his organisation, the Isha Foundation, which was founded in 1992. He has been teaching yoga since 1982. His famous work based on yoga is his book, "Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Crafting Your Destiny." Sadhguru's yoga courses are available online and offline in different yoga centres of the Isha Foundation worldwide.

# PM Modi leads 10th International Yoga Day celebrations from Srinagar

SRINAGAR (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, June 21, said the world sees yoga as a powerful agent for global good as it helps people live in the present without carrying the baggage of the past.

Addressing a gathering at the 10th International Yoga Day event at the SKICC here, the prime minister said yoga has helped people realise that their welfare is linked to the welfare of the world around them.

"The world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good. Yoga helps us live in the present moment without the baggage of the past," the prime minister said.

"When we are peaceful within, we can also make a positive impact on the world...Yoga is making new ways of positive change in the society," the prime minister said.

The event was scheduled to be held on the lawns of the SKICC on the banks of the Dal Lake but had to be shifted indoors due to incessant rain.

The prime minister said the number of yoga practitioners across the globe is growing every day and the regimen is becoming a part of their daily life.

"The number of yoga followers is growing continuously. Wherever I go, there is hardly any (international) leader who does not talk to me about the benefits of yoga.

"In many countries, yoga is becoming a part of the people's daily lives," Modi said as he cited the examples of Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, Mongolia, and Germany, saying the ancient form of meditation was fast becoming popular there.

In his address, the prime minister also



Prime Minister Narendra Modi performs yoga during celebration on the 10th International Day of Yoga, in Srinagar, Friday, June 21.

made a mentioned of 101-year-old Frenchwoman Charlotte Chopin who was awarded a Padma Shri for her services in popularising yoga in her country.

Modi said the spread of yoga globally has led to a change in perception about it as more people are travelling to India to get authentic knowledge about it.

"We are now seeing yoga tourism in states like Uttarakhand and Kerala. People are coming to India because they get to see authentic yoga.

"People are now hiring personal yoga trainers for fitness, and companies are including yoga in mind and body (fitness) programmes for their

employees. It has opened new avenues of livelihood," he said.

The prime minister said yoga provides solutions to several problems faced by people today.

"Yoga is not only knowledge but it is science as well. In this era of information revolution, there is a flood of information sources and it is a challenge for the human mind to focus on one subject.

"A solution for this is also in yoga as it helps the mind to focus. That is why from army to sports, yoga has been included in their routine," he said.

The prime minister said astronauts and people working on space projects are

also trained in yoga as it increases "productivity as well as tolerance".

"In many prisons, the inmates are also taught yoga so that they can think positively," he added.

Modi expressed satisfaction that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are also taking up yoga which will help the tourism sector of the Union Territory.

"I have been seeing since yesterday that yoga is becoming popular with the people of Srinagar and (rest of) Jammu and Kashmir. It is a big thing that 50,000 to 60,000 people are associated with yoga. This will attract more tourists here," he said.

Source: PTI



India Coast Guard celebrated the International Day of Yoga in Delhi NCR with great enthusiasm. Director General Rakesh Pal participated in the event alongside 1,000 ICG personnel and their families.



Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh performs Yoga with soldiers at 1 Corps in Mathura, UP, as he leads the Armed Forces in celebrating 10th International Day of Yoga.

# SAVE THE DATE



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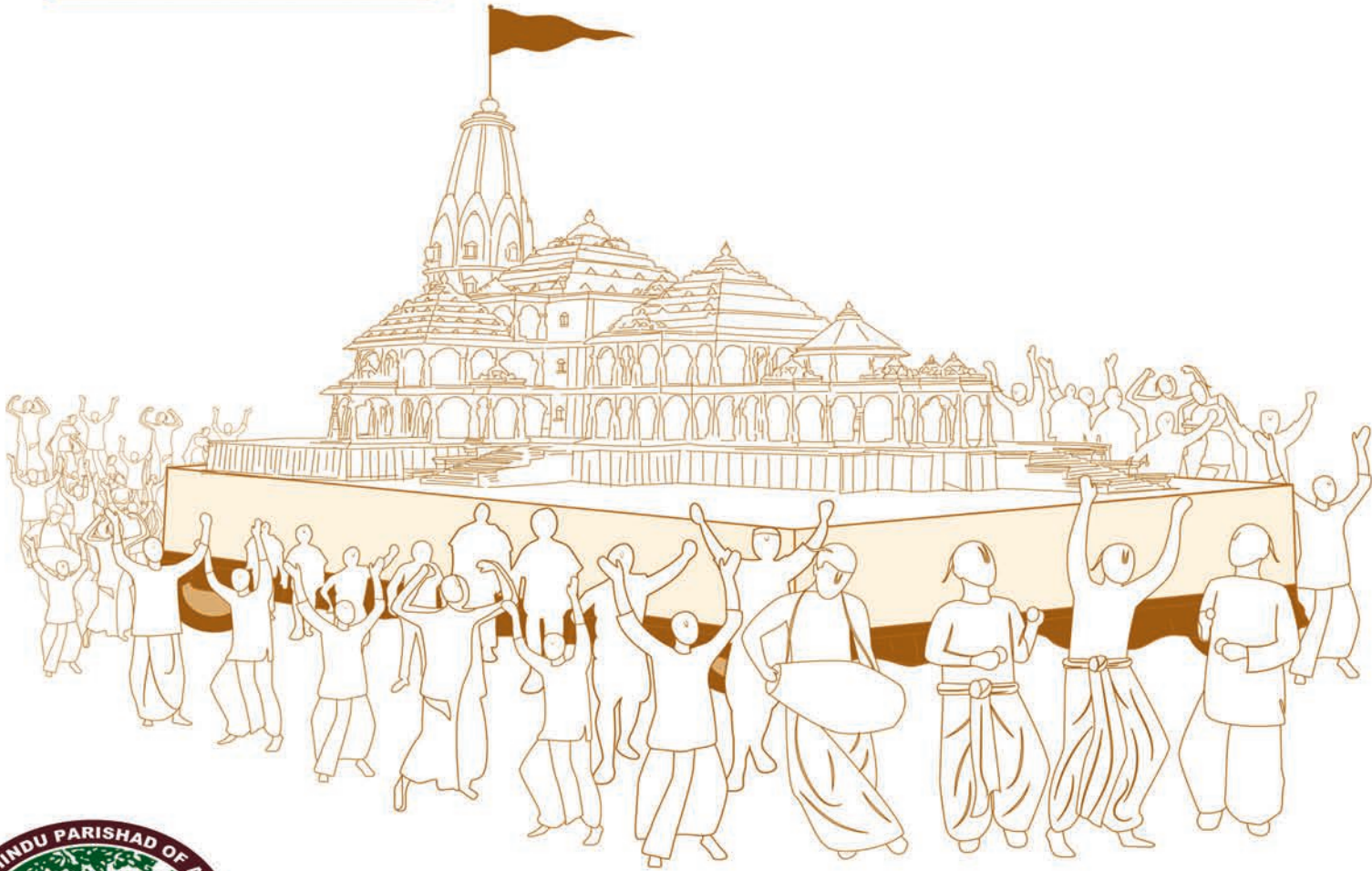


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# N2S MAKES FINAL STOP AT NEWARK WITH VARIETY OF EVENTS



Kevin Hart



Zarna Garg



Kevin Smith



Jhene Aiko

Credit for all : Courtesy, NJPAC.org

**BY MABEL PAIS**

Get ready to experience the talent of singer-songwriters, DJs, comedians, hip hop artists, spoken word poets, dancers, a jazz violinist and more to be featured at several venues for Newark's home-grown stars.

The North to Shore Festival makes its final stop in June in Newark, city of many talents. Below is a listing of events spread over several locations:

7 p.m.: Samara Joy at Prudential Hall at NJPAC

**JUNE 24**

9 a.m.: Black Creative Economy Summit at Symphony Hall

**JUNE 24-30**

Newark International Film Festival at various venues

**JUNE 25**

9 a.m.: Black Creative Economy

Summit at Symphony Hall  
7 p.m.: "Prescribing Creativity: Promoting Health Equity through Arts-on-Prescription" panel discussion, online

**JUNE 26**

9 a.m.: Black Creative Economy Summit at Symphony Hall

5 p.m.: Well Together & BLAKTHEBRAND, "The Paradox of Being Art Show" at Equal Space

6 p.m.: "In Our Words ... Stories from the Battlefield of Love - The Good, Bad, and Revolutionary" at 44 William Street

6:30 p.m.: The Lincoln Park Jazzy Soul Series at Terrace Ballroom at Symphony Hall

7 p.m.: "Jazz, Jamming, and Living Life" at Clement's Place

**JUNE 27**

9 a.m.: Black Creative Economy Summit at Symphony Hall

6 p.m.: Felix Hernandez Rhythm Revue Dance Party at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC

6 p.m.: "Rah Digga's Lyrics Matter: The

Salon Series" at Clement's Place  
7 p.m.: Blues People at Clement's Place  
8 p.m.: Matchbox Twenty, Andy Grammer at Prudential Center

**JUNE 28**

7 p.m.: Lynette Sheard Experience at Clement's Place

7 p.m.: The Amethyst & Amber Griot Gala: A Celebration of Newark Poetry at Kruger Scott Mansion

7:30 p.m.: New Jersey Symphony at Branch Brook Park

8 p.m.: Gabriel Iglesias at Prudential Center

8 p.m.: Brothers Osborne at Prudential Hall at NJPAC

8 p.m.: Zarna Garg at Victoria Theater at NJPAC

8 p.m.: Jeezy, Scarface at Symphony Hall

8 p.m.: Brick City Jam at All Points West Distillery

**JUNE 29**

10 a.m.: Art-making activities at Newark Museum of Art

11 a.m.: Lincoln Park Music Festival

Power Up Yogi Fest at Lincoln Park  
Noon: Showcase Stage, presented by Audible at Harriet Tubman Square. With Choy, Aja Moyé, J Read, Nicole Soul, Rasha Jay, Evelyn Tejeda, Charisa the Violin Diva & Strings Nation, Company of Collaborative Artists

Noon: Family Fun Day: An Interactive STEAM Fair at Newark Public Library

1 p.m.: CURRENTS: Collaborative Art & Ecology on the Passaic River at Riverfront Park Boat Dock

1 p.m.: "Newark Arts: Murals and Martinis" at Harriet Tubman Square

6 p.m.: "Newark Alliance: Night Market" at Halsey Street between New and Bleeker streets

6:30 p.m.: "Newark Levels: The Muses of Brick City" at Equal Space

7 and 9:30 p.m.: Sommore at Victoria Theater at NJPAC

7:30 p.m.: "Hey! I Heard You're Black" (staged reading) at NJPAC Center for Arts Education

8: p.m.: Kevin Hart at Prudential Center

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**JUNE 30**

10 a.m.: Art-making activities at Newark Museum of Art

Noon: Showcase Stage, presented by Audible at Harriet Tubman Square. With Choy, Aja Moyé, J Read, Nicole Soul, Rasha Jay, Evelyn Tejeda, Charisa the Violin Diva & Strings Nation, Company of Collaborative Artists

1 p.m.: Down in the Ro' Open Mic Experience at Tinjune Restaurant

2 p.m.: "Broadway in the Bricks" at Military Park

2 p.m.: "Glory in the Garden" (gospel tribute) at Newark Lab School

3 p.m.: "Coming Home" (staged reading), presented by Aurway Repertory Theatre at West End Avenue Park

6 p.m.: The Vibes in the City Experience & Awards Ceremony at Newark Art Hub

6 p.m.: Roc & the Collective RnB Night at The Yard

8 p.m.: Kevin Hart at Prudential Center

**THE AUDIBLE SHOWCASE STAGE**

Rising Newark artists will step into the spotlight over three days at the Audible Showcase Stage, a new feature of the 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival, which comes to Newark June 23-30.

For three days at Harriet Tubman Square, the 'Audible Showcase Stage' will present festival-goers with giveaways plus FREE performances by a lineup of up-and-coming Newark artists.

From 6 to 9 PM on Friday, June 28, and from 12 noon to 6 PM on both Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30, the Audible Showcase Stage will offer a continuous series of FREE performances by hip hop and R&B artists, comedians, spoken word poets, instrumentalists, dancers and more, with DJ sets in-between, on an outdoor stage in the city's Harriet Tubman Square, adjacent to the recently installed monument to Tubman, Shadow of a Face.

Performances are just the start of what's on offer. The 'Audible Showcase Stage' will effectively be a festival-within-a-festival with games, live music and activities for children throughout the park and food trucks on the park periphery offering a range of cuisines and beverages for kids and adults alike.

This presentation, featuring a cohort of local artists all on one stage within easy walking distance of festival venues - such as NJPAC, The Newark Museum of Art and the Newark Public Library along with the shops and restaurants on Halsey Street - is a new feature of 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival', the three-week, three-city summer celebration of arts and ideas produced by NJPAC, now in its second season.

*"The 'Audible Showcase Stage' is a way for us to shine a brighter light on a number of our city's up-and-coming performers and, at the same time, it creates a hub where festival visitors can*

*go to extend their stay here, take in performances that give them a real understanding of Newark's incredibly varied cultural landscape, and maybe explore The Newark Museum of Arts or Halsey Street. It can be a destination or a stepping stone for further exploration," says John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC.*

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

Audible has long been a champion of Newark, where it has been headquartered since 2007, and the company works to elevate emerging creators through a range of programs that amplify underrepresented voices around the world.

*"As the leading storytelling company and one of the largest employers of creative talent in the NYC Metro area, Audible has always been committed to celebrating the creative community," says Aisha Glover, Global Head of Urban Innovation at Audible. "The Audible Showcase Stage will highlight the vast creative talent right here in Newark, and we're thrilled to share their dynamic performances with festival goers."*

*"Newark is an international city of the arts and we wanted to curate a snapshot of all the different cultures that make up our city," says Marcy DePina, Executive Director of the Newark City Parks Foundation, which was chosen to produce the Audible Showcase Stage in the park. "There are so many unique cultural expressions in Newark. Our goal was to highlight that diversity and make it really welcoming for everyone to come and take part."*

**'Official Selection' artists to be featured at the 'Audible Showcase Stage' include:**

Trinidadian singer, storyteller and activist Choy

Vocalist and songwriter Aja Moyé

Newark-native violinist J Read

Nevisian-American comedian, writer and activist nicole soul

New Jersey resident and alternative rock vocalist Rasha Jay

Dominican dancer and choreographer Evelyn Tejeda

Charisa the ViolinDiva, the Newark-based soul jazz violinist

New Jersey-based choreographer Camille Moten Rennie and her troupe Company of Collaborative Artists

These 'Official Selection' performers will be joined by other notable Greater Newark area performers including the world-renowned DJ, producer, label head, promoter, curator and influencer DJ Spinna on Friday; Eli Fola, the Nigerian-American, multi-disciplinary sound artist, saxophonist, DJ and producer behind "Yoruba Tech Soul" headlining on Saturday, and trailblazing NJ hip-hop artist P.Genz kicking things off on

Sunday. Performances will be interspersed with sets by local turntablists including Newark's DJ Wallah, DJ Shell Spin, DJ Sienna Chanel as well as hosts Alexandra Hill, Unicorn151 and Kitab Rollins.

In the event of inclement weather, performances will be held in the Newark Public Library's Centennial Hall across the street from the park.

Through a first-ever collective and collaborative effort, a coalition of Newark organizations including NJPAC, Newark Parks Foundations, the Newark Arts and Education District, Newark Alliance, Newark Arts, The Newark Museum of Art, the Newark Public Library, FORSA Media, SO FRESH Fest, Lauren LeBeaux Lifestyles and Audible worked to offer a range of additional complementary festival events held near or adjacent to the 'Audible Showcase Stage' so festival-goers can spend an entire day (or weekend) at events within easy walking distance to Harriet Tubman Square.

Explore the lineup at the 'Audible Showcase Stage' and surrounding events:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**

From 6 to 9 PM, the 'Audible Showcase Stage' in Harriet Tubman Square kicks off the weekend with DJ Spinna, hosted by Alexandra Hill.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29**

From 12 noon to 6 PM, the Audible Showcase Stage will feature performances from dynamic Newark artists including host Unicorn 151, DJ Shell Spin, Choy Band (12 noon), Aja Moyé (1 PM), Evelyn Tejeda (2 PM), J Read (3 PM) and Eli Fola (4:30 PM).

From 10 AM to 5 PM, The Newark Museum of Art, which faces the park at 49 Washington Street, will offer free admission and drop-in art-making activities on its plaza for families.

From 12 noon to 4 PM, the Newark Public Library, which faces one end of the park at 5 Washington Street, will host a free Family Fun Day and Interactive STEAM Fair, with art-focused activities for kids including paint-making and graffiti print making.

At 1 PM, Newark Arts will launch a Prudential presents North to Shore edition of its Martinis & Murals bus tour of Newark's public art works - including lunch and cocktails - that leaves from just down the street at Vermella Broad Street (355 Broad Street). (Tickets available through Eventbrite.com.)

The Newark Alliance will host a family-friendly, free Night Market along Halsey Street, between New and Bleeker Streets, from 3 to 9 PM featuring DJs from bunkr.

FORSA Media and DEYIOR present Luv + Grind - International Music Series with DJs spinning the romantic sounds of Africa and the diaspora, 9 PM at Tinjune Downtown (494 Broad Street).

**SUNDAY, JUNE 30**

From 12 noon to 6 PM, the Audible Showcase Stage in Harriet Tubman Square will offer performances from host Kitab Rollins, DJ Sienna Chanel,

DJ Wallah, P.Genz (12 PM), nicole soul (1 PM), Company of Collaborative Artists (1:45 PM), Rasha Jay (3 PM), Charisa the Violin Diva (4 PM) and DJ Wallah (5 PM).

From 10 AM to 5 PM, The Newark Museum of Art will offer free admission and drop-in art-making activities on its plaza for families.

SO FRESH Fest will host Rest Fest from 11 AM to 4 PM, with a series of restorative wellness activities including guided meditation, restorative yoga, breathwork, stress-reduction strategies, aromatherapy, sound baths and holistic health practices at The Newark Museum of Art. (Tickets available at Eventbrite.com.)

From 10 AM to 2:30 PM the Newark Historical Renaissance Ride presents The Black Ivy Ride: Celebrating Sarah Vaughan and 100 Years of Newark Arts leaving from Harriet Tubman Square. (Tickets available through Eventbrite.com.)

And at 1 PM, Kween Moore presents Down In The Ro' Open Mic Experience, one of Newark's leading poetry and performance arts platforms at Tinjune Downtown (494 Broad Street).

**ZARNA GARG**

Zarna Garg, named 'Variety' Magazine's '10 Comics to Watch for 2023', is "One in a Billion." This Indian immigrant mom is breaking down barriers with her hilarious stand-up routines that tackle everything from family life to cultural stereotypes.

Her performance at the Victoria Theater at NJPAC takes place on Friday, June 28 at 7 pm.

Thanks to her captivating performances and relatable content, Zarna has gained immense popularity on TikTok, where she has over 100 million views. She's also racked up performances at iconic venues like 'Comedy Cellar', 'Carolines on Broadway' and the famed 'Kennedy Center'.

Awards include Kevin Hart's 'Lyft Comics' comedy competition on Peacock and the 2021 'Ladies of Laughter' Newcomer Award. Additionally, she won the Top Comedy Feature Screenplay Award at the 2019 Austin Film Festival and was a Nicholl Fellowships Semi-Finalist.

Deftly defying expectations and stereotypes, Zarna is quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with on the comedy scene. Don't miss out on the chance to see her live at North To Shore.

**UPDATES, TICKETS**

*To get a full listing of Newark's 'North to Shore' events and tickets, visit [northtoshore.com/newark](http://northtoshore.com/newark).*

Get Festival updates most quickly on social media. Follow 'North to Shore' on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and TikTok.

Events are subject to change.

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# Centennial of first black senator lipman who influenced passage of domestic violence act of 1981 and more

BY MABEL PAIS

The Centennial Celebration of the groundbreaking Senator Wynona Lipman, the first African-American female State Senator, continues. In her 27 years representing the 29th Legislative, she championed the well-being of underserved populations and achieved passage of the Domestic Violence Act of 1981 and the Fair Housing Act of 1985, among many other Bills.

The program includes a film screening followed by a panel conversation. Preceding the screening is a reception at 4:30PM hosted by the New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place (across the street from



Senator Wynona Lipman

Credit: Courtesy NJPAC.org

NJPAC) where there's an exhibit about Lipman's life and achievements.

The documentary 'Stronger Than Steel: The Senator Wynona Lipman Story' (A Blue Butterfly Arts & Media Production examines her life and how she achieved her goals while battling gender and racial discrimination.

There is limited seating for this event.

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

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## ONLINE WELLNESS EVENTS

As part of the 'Prudential presents North to Shore Festival,' two online wellness programs are worthy of note:

### NJ FIRST LADY MURPHY MODERATES PANEL ON POWER OF ARTS ON MATERNAL HEALTH

BY MABEL PAIS

First Lady Tammy Murphy moderates the panel on the transformative power of the arts on maternal well-being. The event

takes place on June 18, 2024 via zoom at 12 Noon.

"As we celebrate the second annual North to Shore Festival, I am thrilled to participate in a panel that demonstrates the incredibly unique nature of this festival," said First Lady Tammy Murphy. "Not only does North to Shore bring together top performers from around the world and across our state, but it also allows us to come together to partake in meaningful conversations about the challenges our state faces. Improving maternal and infant health is an urgent priority for our administration, and I am thrilled to take the stage with experts in the field to discuss innovative approaches to making New Jersey the gold standard for maternal and infant care."

Join an illuminating conversation on how creative engagement fosters resilience, self-expression

and emotional healing during the journey of motherhood. Learn how artistic interventions can address maternal mental health challenges, promote bonding and empower women to navigate the complexities of pregnancy, childbirth and beyond.

A special feature of this session includes witnessing art and maternal health in action with a performance by Kelline Bonny, a parent in the Lullaby Project at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), who will perform an original lullaby created in collaboration with a teaching artist.

#### PANEL

Moderator  
Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey

#### PANELISTS

Yvelisse Gonzalez, MSW, LSW, PMH-C,

Senior Manager, Public Health Programs, Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey

Andrea Harris, Vice President and Chief Quality & Health Equity Officer, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ

Tiffany Ortiz, Director, Early Childhood Programs at Carnegie Hall

Lisa Tremayne, RN, PMH-C, CBC, Program Director, RWJBarnabas Health Center for Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (rwjbh.org)

Tonya S. Wright, MD, FACOG, Chief, Division of Academic Specialists in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Assistant Professor and Vice Chair of Education, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn State Health

*For those who cannot watch online, the recording can be seen at northtoshore.com.*

## ART-ON-PRESCRIPTION PILOT PROGRAM IN NJ USES ARTS TO BUILD HEALTH EQUITY

BY MABEL PAIS

WHEN: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 @ 4 PM

WHERE: Via Zoom (see below for registration link)

Creativity empowers individuals to take charge of their health and enhance their quality of life - from reducing stress and anxiety to fostering emotional resilience and strengthening

social connections. Join us for an informative conversation on how the first Arts-on-Prescription pilot program in New Jersey uses the arts to build health equity.

Launched by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in collaboration with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ and Rutgers University-Newark, this program enhances health and well-being by increasing access to arts and culture. Our panel of experts from healthcare, arts and community sectors will explore the profound impact on individuals and the community when creativity intersects with health.

This session includes a spoken word performance by Alana Jackson, Director of Arts & Wellness at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, Fla.

#### REGISTRATION

Registration is required @ njpac.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_7rdFif-oT029yJZWicIXuA#/registration

#### PANEL

Moderator  
Julia Hotz, Author of The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging (Simon & Schuster, 2024).

#### PANELISTS

Ketlen Alsbrook, Director for the City of Newark's Department of Health & Community Wellness and CEO for the Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Center

Aly Maier Lokuta, Senior Director, Arts & Well-Being at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

Theresa Tantay-Wilson, Director, Health Promotion Division at Rutgers University-Newark

Maureen Zimmer, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor, Behavioral Health at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ

**The Prudential presents North to Shore Festival**

*Learn more at www.NorthtoShore.com.*

**The Prudential**

*Learn more at news.prudential.com.*

**Audible**

*Learn more at audible.com.*

**Newark City Parks Foundation**

*Learn more at newarkcityparks.org*

**The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)**

*Learn more at NJPAC.org.*

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

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DESIGN - ODEON GRAPHICS



## Singer Alka Yagnik reveals she has a 'rare hearing loss'

Veteran Bollywood singer Alka Yagnik has revealed that she has been diagnosed with a 'rare hearing loss' due to a viral attack, and hence was missing in action.

Alka Yagnik, one of the most prominent singers of the 1990s in Bollywood, took to Instagram and shared the news. She posted a picture of herself and wrote, "To all my fans, friends, followers, and well-wishers - a few weeks ago, as I walked out of a flight, I suddenly felt I was not able to hear anything."

The 58-year-old singer said she mustered some courage in the weeks following the episode. "I want to break my silence now, for all my friends and well-wishers who have been asking me why I'm missing in action. It has been diagnosed by my doctors as a rare sensory neural nerve hearing loss due to a viral attack. This sudden, major setback has caught me completely unawares. As I attempt to come to terms with it, please keep me in your prayers."

She is known for her iconic songs such as Ek Do Teen, Choli Ke Peeche, among others.

## Sonakshi Sinha teams up with Riteish Deshmukh, Saqib Saleem for 'Kakuda'

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, who is all set to tie the knot with Zaheer Iqbal, has an upcoming streaming film 'Kakuda' on the horizon.

The actress will be seen sharing the screen with Riteish Deshmukh and Saqib Saleem in the horror-comedy film.

The film is set in the curse-inflicted village of Ratodi in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. Every house in the district has two similar doors, one that is of a normal size and another which is smaller than the other. The film revolves around a peculiar ritual that demands the opening of the smaller door of each house every Tuesday at 7:15 pm.

Failure to comply with this rule invites the wrath of Kakuda, who punishes the man of the house.

The film is directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, who is known for 'Zombivili', and the recent box-office miracle 'Munjya'.

Talking about the movie, Aditya Sarpotdar said, "As a filmmaker and a fan of the horror-comedy genre, I find it incredibly fascinating to explore the delicate balance between fear and laughter. It's a challenging task to make viewers simultaneously scared and amused, but with 'Kakuda', I am confident that we have hit the right chord yet again. I am thrilled to have worked with an exceptionally talented cast, including Riteish Deshmukh, Sonakshi Sinha, Saqib Saleem and Aasif Khan who have supported the narrative brilliantly by adding humour and emotions to the story."

He further mentioned, "Their spotless comic timing and the way they portray genuine emotions have made my job as a director much easier. Together, we have crafted a unique and engaging story that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating every twist and turn. 'Kakuda' is an experience that will take the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotions." Produced by RSVP, 'Kakuda' will soon drop on ZEE5.

Source: IANS



## Nothing in 'Hamare Baarah' movie against Muslim community: HC

The Bombay High Court on June 18 said it watched actor Annu Kapoor-starrer "Hamare Baarah" movie and found nothing objectionable in it that was against the Quran or the Muslim community, and observed that the film is in fact aimed at the upliftment of women.

It also said that the Indian public was "not gullible or silly".

A division bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla said the film's first trailer was objectionable, but that has been removed and all such objectionable scenes have been deleted from the movie.

The court noted that it was in fact a "thinking movie" and not the sort where the audience is expected to "keep their brains at home" and only enjoy it.

"The movie is in fact for the upliftment of women. The movie has a Maulana misinterpreting the Quran and in fact one Muslim man objects to the same in the scene. So this shows that people should apply their mind and not blindly follow such Maulanas," the high court



said. A bunch of petitions were filed in the high court earlier this month seeking a ban on the movie claiming that it was derogatory towards the Muslim community and had distorted what the Quran says.

While initially the high court postponed the release of the movie, it later permitted the release after the makers said the objectionable portions would be deleted as directed by the Central Board for Film Certification (CBFC).

Source: PTI

## Shraddha makes relationship with Rahul Mody official

Shraddha Kapoor just confirmed her relationship with Rahul Mody. The actor took to Instagram Stories and posted a selfie with Rahul. The two have been dating for a while now, after they reportedly got close while working on Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar.



In the new picture, Shraddha and Rahul twinned in white and looked directly into the camera. Shraddha held Rahul's arm and smiled, whereas Rahul made a goofy expression. In the caption, Shraddha said, "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar (Take away my heart, but at least return my sleep) (smiley face and red heart emoticons)."

Shraddha and Rahul made an appearance together when they were spotted by the paparazzi and fans in Jamnagar, where they attended Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding festivities. They were also photographed post a dinner rendezvous in Mumbai last year.

Source: HT



## Will Smith books next movie with Sony's 'Resistor'

Will Smith is in talks to star in *Resistor* for Sony Pictures, *The Hollywood Reporter* has confirmed. The project that hails from Escape Artists is an adaptation of the 2014 novel *Influx* from New York Times bestselling author Daniel Suarez, although specific plot details have not been shared. The book focuses on a government agency that locks away inventors in a secretive prison and hijacks their work.

A director is not yet attached for the film, which is currently in development. Screenwriter Zak Olkewicz (*Bullet Train*) penned the first draft, and the latest version is from Academy Award-nominated writer Eric Warren Singer (*Top Gun: Maverick*, *American Hustle*).

Producers include Todd Black, Jason Blumenthal, Steve Tisch, Tony Shaw and Dave Wilson, alongside Westbrook's Smith and Jon Mone. Heather Washington is executive producing.

Smith and Black have previously collaborated on the Sony films *Seven Pounds*, *The Pursuit of Happyness* and *Emancipation*.

The news follows Smith's return to his position as a top box office earner following his controversial confrontation with Chris Rock at the 2022 Oscars ceremony. His Sony film *Bad Boys: Ride or Die*, which hit theaters earlier this month and co-stars Martin Lawrence, has surpassed \$100 million at the domestic box office after 10 days of release.

*Ride or Die* — the fourth installment in the action-comedy movie franchise that began with 1995's *Bad Boys* — marked the first movie of this summer to come in significantly ahead of tracking at the box office.

THR previously reported that Smith's representatives at CAA had recently been contacting studio production executives for the first time since the controversial Academy Awards moment to explore potential projects in hopes of riding his *Bad Boys* momentum.

# JLo's extreme 'love and sex addiction' failed her marriage with Ben Affleck

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are heading to divorce because of JLo's "love addiction". The latest episode of "TMZ Investigates," titled 'JLo & Ben: Missed Warning Signs,' featured film producer Jon Peters and Dr. Drew Pinsky discussing the possibility that Lopez might be obsessed with romance.

"She's a love and sex addict, look at the men she's been with," Peters, 79, commented, pointing to the fact that the 54-year-old superstar has been divorced three times and has had an additional broken engagement.

"She can't be alone. She needs a man in her life, she has never spent any real time developing herself. And her career is in the [censored]. And she's talented," he added.

Dr. Drew Pinsky, a well-known TV personality and addiction specialist, concurred with Peters' assessment, noting that "there are actually thousands of people engaged in 12-step programs who identify as love addicted." "The features of that include not having great boundaries, they tend to get sucked into relationships readily and easily, they fall hard for people, and once they go in they can't get themselves out."

Earlier this year, Lopez announced the cancellation of her 'This Is Me... Live Tour,' which was set to begin on June 26.

"I am completely heartsick and devastated about letting you down. Please know that I wouldn't do this if I didn't feel that it was absolutely necessary," she expressed in a newsletter.

The cancellation fueled speculation that it was due to both low ticket sales and her ongoing issues with Affleck.

Reports indicate that the couple has been living separately while trying to determine the future of their relationship. They have also listed their \$60 million marital home for sale.

An insider suggested that "Jennifer had started ramping up her work commitments and prepping for her tour. She's very focused on work and overextends herself", and this stems from their opposing lifestyles.

Us Weekly also reported last month that Ben "checked out" as their "honeymoon phase has worn off" due to their very different lifestyle.

"Of course Jenny is sad, she loves Ben, but they are just too different, there is no give and take, there was no blending, they are just on separate tracks," a source told the Daily Mail earlier. *Source: HT*



## Angelina Jolie wins 1st Tony amid family drama



Angelina Jolie's expanding horizons as an actor and entrepreneur has culminated in a new milestone, namely with her bagging a Tony win. Not many know that Angelina's nascent journey in Broadway was actually sparked by her daughter Vivienne. Though the actor was acquainted with the book and film adaptation of *The Outsiders*, she was yet to experience it on Broadway. Going for a show with Vivienne then, served as a game changer on many counts. Angelina's Tony victory however, still stands against the looming shadow of her personal life which has eternally been in the spotlight since 2016 owing to her shocking fallout with Brad Pitt.

Hollywood royalty, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt made each other's acquaintance in the summer of 2004 while filming their spy thriller *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. The two eventually came around to admitting that they fell in love right there on the sets — something which to date has been a controversial admittance owing to the fact that Brad was still married to actor Jennifer Aniston at the time. Angelina and Brad eventually tied the knot on August 14, 2014. 2 years and 6 children later, the duo announced their decision to divorce in September 2016.

While Angelina requested for physical custody of their 6 children — Maddox, 21, Pax, 19, Zahara, 18, Shiloh, 17 and twins Knox and Vivienne, 14, Brad gunned for both legal as well as physical guardianship. It was also around this time that Brad was being investigated by the FBI and LAPD for reportedly lashing out at the family on a flight ride, accusations he was eventually cleared of. Within the year, the two end up agreeing on a temporary custody arrangement.

## JAPAN'S 'BEAT POET' KAZUKO SHIRAISHI, PIONEER OF MODERN PERFORMANCE POETRY, DIES AT 93

**TOKYO (TIP):** Kazuko Shiraishi, a leading name in modern Japanese "beat" poetry, known for her dramatic readings, at times with jazz music, has died. She was 93.

Shiraishi, whom American poet and translator Kenneth Rexroth dubbed "the Allen Ginsberg of Japan," died of heart failure on June 14, Shichosha, a Tokyo publisher of her works, said on June 19.

Shiraishi shot to fame when she was just 20, freshly graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo, with her "Tamago no Furu Machi," translated as "The Town that Rains Eggs" — a surrealist portrayal of Japan's wartime destruction.

With her trademark long black hair and theatrical delivery, she defied historical stereotypes of the silent, non-assertive Japanese woman.

"I have never been anything like pink," Shiraishi wrote in her poem.

It ends: "The road / where the child became a girl / and finally heads for dawn / is broken."

Shiraishi counted Joan Miro, Salvador Dali and John Coltrane among her influences. She was a pioneer in performance poetry, featured at poetry festivals around the world. She read her works with the music of jazz greats like Sam Rivers and Buster Williams, and even a free-verse homage to the spirit of Coltrane.

Born in Vancouver, Canada, she moved back to Japan as a child. While a teen, she joined an avant-garde poetry group.

Shiraishi's personality and poems, which were sometimes bizarre or erotic, defied Japan's historical rule-bound forms of literature like haiku and tanka, instead taking a modern, unexplored path.

Rexroth was instrumental in getting Shiraishi's works translated into English, including collections such as "My Floating Mother, City" in 2009 and "Seasons of Sacred Lust" in 1978.

Over the years, her work has been widely translated into dozens of languages. She was also a translator of literature, including works by Ginsberg.

In 1973, Paul Engle invited her to spend a year as a guest writer at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, an experience that broadened her artistic scope and helped her gain her poetic voice.

"In the poems of Kazuko Shiraishi, East and West connect and unite fortuitously," wrote German writer Gunter Kunert. "It refutes Kipling's dictum that East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. In Kazuko Shiraishi's poems this meeting has already happened." (AP)

# South Korea will consider supplying arms to Ukraine after Russia and North Korea sign strategic pact

**SEOUL (TIP):** South Korea said on June 20 that it would consider sending arms to Ukraine, a major policy change suggested after Russia and North Korea rattled the region and beyond by signing a pact to come to each other's defense in the event of war.

The comments from a senior presidential official came hours after North Korea's state media released the details of the agreement, which observers said could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. It comes at a time when Russia faces growing isolation over its war in Ukraine and both countries face escalating standoffs with the West.

According to the text of the deal published by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, if either country gets invaded and is pushed into a state of war, the other must deploy "all means at its disposal without delay" to provide "military and other assistance." But the agreement also says that such actions must be in accordance with the laws of both countries and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which recognizes a U.N. member state's right to self-defense.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the pact at a summit Wednesday in Pyongyang. Both described it as a major upgrade of bilateral relations, covering security, trade, investment, cultural and humanitarian ties.

The office of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol issued a statement



condemning the agreement, calling it a threat to the South's security and a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and warned that it would have negative consequences on Seoul's relations with Moscow.

"It's absurd that two parties with a history of launching wars of invasion — the Korean War and the war in Ukraine — are now vowing mutual military cooperation on the premise of a preemptive attack by the international community that will never happen," Yoon's office said.

At the United Nations in New York, South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul called it "deplorable" that Russia would act in violation of multiple U.N. sanctions resolutions against North Korea that Moscow voted for.

Yoon's national security adviser, Chang Ho-jin, said Seoul would reconsider the issue of providing arms to Ukraine to help the country fight off Russia's invasion.

South Korea, a growing arms exporter with a well-equipped military backed by the United States, has provided humanitarian aid and other support to Ukraine while joining U.S.-led economic sanctions against Moscow. But it has not directly provided arms to Kyiv, citing a longstanding policy of not supplying weapons to countries actively engaged in conflict.

Speaking to reporters in Hanoi, where he traveled right after Pyongyang, Putin said Thursday that supplying weapons to Ukraine would be "a very big mistake" on South Korea's part. (AP)

## Historic flooding in China's Guangdong kills nine, warnings issued for other parts of country

**BEIJING (TIP):** Nine people have died and six are missing after downpours caused historic flooding in rural parts of Guangdong province in southern China, while authorities warned on June 21 of more flooding ahead in other parts of the country.

**FOUR PEOPLE DIED AND FOUR ARE MISSING, IN MEIXIAN DISTRICT IN GUANGDONG'S MEIZHOU CITY, STATE BROADCASTER CCTV REPORTED THURSDAY NIGHT. ANOTHER FIVE ARE DEAD IN JIAOLING COUNTY, WHICH IS ALSO IN MEIZHOU.**

The heaviest rains were from Sunday into Tuesday, toppling trees and collapsing homes. A road leading to



Meixian district completely collapsed during the heavy rains. The Songyuan river, which winds through Meizhou, experienced its biggest recorded flood, according to CCTV.

The estimated direct economic loss is 3.65 billion yuan (\$502 million) in Jiaoling county, while in Meixian district, the loss is 1.06 billion yuan (\$146 million).

Other parts of the country also face

torrential rains and extreme weather in the next 24 hours, with the National Meteorological Center issuing a warning for several provinces in the south and a few individual places in the north.

Henan and Anhui provinces in central China, as well as Jiangsu province on the coast and the southern province of Guizhou, all are expecting hail and strong thunderstorms, according to the forecast. Rainfall could be as high as 50 mm to 80 mm (1.9 to 3.14 inches) in one day in Henan, Anhui and Hubei provinces, the National Meteorological Center said.

Last week, it was southern Fujian and Guangxi provinces experienced landslides and flooding amid heavy rain. One student died in Guangxi after falling into a river swollen from the downpour. (AP)

# Navigating through darkness: Ukraine's emergency blackouts return after Russia pounds infrastructure

**KYIV (TIP):** During daytime, entire districts of Ukraine's capital are disconnected from the power grid to save energy. Traffic lights stop, choking traffic, accompanied by the constant rumble of generators installed outside cafes and shops.

Ukraine, including Kyiv, is struggling to cope with a new wave of rolling blackouts after relentless Russian attacks took out half the country's power generation capacity.

Residents and businesses of Kyiv are adapting to the absence of electricity using generators, power banks, and flashlights and even recalculating their bathroom visits. Heavy damage inflicted to the country's power system has left millions feeling uncertain about Ukraine's ability to meet the national electricity demand after the warm weather months are over and the weather turns cold.

"I light my apartment as our grandparents used to — with candles and small flashlights," said Rudoy, a 40-year-old insurance agent from Israel who relocated from Tel Aviv to Kyiv in 2023 after Russia launched its full-scale



invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

He said that he wanted a new life despite the war — to live side-by-side with old friends and reside in a milder climate — but he hadn't foreseen the inconveniences of living without power. Rudoy bought an apartment on the seventh floor of a newly built 25-story high rise with no gas system or water

supply that's wholly dependent on electricity.

"I have to adjust my life to the blackout schedules, otherwise it is impossible to live normally — not even to use a toilet at times," Rudoy told The Associated Press.

A friend in a nearby district typically has power when he doesn't, which makes

his life easier. Work often gets done at a cafe that has a generator, but there's a catch.

"Even if you find a free table at a cafe nearby, working generators are very noisy and spread diesel fumes," he said. "That's why not many cafes that operate during blackouts are actually good to work in."

Ukraine is struggling to meet electricity demand as systematic attacks on its power infrastructure have intensified since March, forcing utilities to ration household supplies over the last three months. The country's top officials repeatedly called on allied countries to provide more air defense systems to protect its power plants from Russian missiles and drones, but tangible damage had already been inflicted.

The blackouts in Kyiv are the worse since the early months of the war when Russian strikes on the country's power grid led to major winter-time blackouts that led to authorities setting up communal heating areas and hundreds of emergency points where residents could drink tea, recharge their phones and get help. (AP)

## 2024 UK ELECTIONS

# Ambitious Tory hopefuls could learn from Lady Macbeth's fate ahead of leadership battle

**LONDON (TIP):** Stefan Stern, City, University of London. Grant Shapps is running. The Tory MP has held what seems like every ministerial post possible and is famous in Westminster for his command of spreadsheets and data—in other words, for tracking the views and intentions of his fellow Tory MPs. He is ready for the battle ahead.

**Priti Patel is running.** The former home secretary is on good terms with Nigel Farage, leader of the Reform party. "She could plausibly present herself as the candidate who could best unify a divided right," according to Paul Goodman, a former Conservative MP.

**Kemi Badenoch is running.** She is less of a fan of Farage's, but has set out some sharp views, including on gender identity, which have further endeared her to many existing admirers on the right.

**Penny Mordaunt is running.** She has the profile after her striking sword-bearing role in the King's coronation. She also has a confident manner on television, as exemplified in her appearance on the first seven-way debate of the campaign, during which, it should be noted, she said her boss, the prime minister, had been "completely wrong"



to leave the D-day commemoration events rather early. She also has, it must be admitted, great hair.

**Robert Jenrick is running.** A new champion of tougher rules on immigration, a slimmed-down Jenrick has worked hard to establish a forceful political identity for himself.

**And Suella Braverman is running.** Hope—and ambition—spring eternal.

And yet none of these people appear to be running for July 4. Their sights are set firmly on July 5.

Even as the Conservative Party stands poised to suffer one of its biggest ever election defeats, potential contenders to succeed Rishi Sunak as party leader are

preparing for the fight to come. The body of the (seemingly) outgoing leader is not yet cold, but already thoughts are turning to the post-Sunak future.

This is business as usual at Westminster, where an old, macabre joke has it that, on hearing of the death of an elderly fellow MP, the traditional response is: "Oh dear, how sad, what was the majority?"

Future leadership contenders—Patel, Badenoch and Braverman—are positioning themselves with regard to their future relationship with Farage and the Reform Party rather than with the electorate. The current low poll rating for their own party has not

dimmed their enthusiasm or energy levels.

What explains this sort of burning ambition, which seems to manifest itself as a renewable form of energy? The subject of ambition has intrigued me for many years, so much so that eventually I wrote a book about it, which is being published next month, just as Conservative ambitions are likely to collide in a fresh leadership battle.

The book's title: Fair or Foul – the Lady Macbeth Guide to Ambition, hints at that ambivalence which, I think, many people experience with regard to personal and professional goals. On the one hand, we know that life can be extremely competitive and that the meek are very unlikely to inherit the earth. There is nothing wrong with being ambitious to achieve more and secure our future.

And yet, how do we feel when confronted by the truly, deeply ambitious—those people whose ruthlessness and determination can cause unease and even revulsion? How much time do we really want to spend around people like that? For a politician seeking popularity, and votes, these are hardly trivial questions. (AFP)

## NEPAL SUSPENDS SALES OF ANTIBIOTIC INJECTION MANUFACTURED BY INDIAN COMPANY CITING 'HEALTH RISKS'

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** The sales and distribution of Biotax 1gm, manufactured by an Indian firm, has been banned in Nepal due to "health risks."

The Department of Drug Administration suspended the antibiotic injection since it was not in compliance with the production specifications, The Kathmandu Post reported.

Biotax 1gm injection is an antibiotic medicine used to treat bacterial infections, including those of the brain, lungs, ear, urinary tract, skin, soft tissues, bones and joints, blood, and heart. It is also used to prevent infections during surgery.

The injection is manufactured by Zydus Healthcare Ltd.

"We have directed the manufacturing company, importers and distributors to immediately suspend sales, import and distribution of the said medicine, until further notice," said Pramod KC, spokesperson at the department. "Some serious issues have been detected in the said antibiotic. Decisions about further actions will be taken once the investigation is completed," he was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post.

According to the department, which carried out the testing in its own laboratory, BIOTAX-1gm batch F300460 is not safe for use and could risk patients' lives. (AP)

## PAK JOURNALIST SHOT DEAD IN RESTIVE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PROVINCE

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** A Pakistani journalist was gunned down on June 18 by unknown gunmen in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the country's northwest, according to a tribal journalist association.

Khalil Jibrán, associated with Pashto News Channel 'Khyber News' was shot dead by shooters near his home in the Mazrina Sultankhel area of the Khyber district.

Another person, identified as Sajid, was injured in the shooting.

The attackers managed to flee from the scene after killing the journalist.

Police contingents were on their way to the shooting site, according to sources.

The Mazrina area of the tribal district is a hotbed of militants.

Family sources confirmed Jibrán's killing, and a senior journalist alleged that it was a case of targeted killing. (PTI)

# A Muslim mob in Pakistan torches a police station and lynches a man after accusing him of blasphemy

**PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN (TIIP):** A Muslim mob in northwestern Pakistan on June 20 broke into a police station, snatched a man who was held there and then lynched him over allegations that he had desecrated Islam's holy book, the Quran.

The attackers also torched the station in Madyan, a town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and burned police vehicles parked there, according to local police official Rahim Ullah.

The slain man, Mohammad Ismail, was a tourist who was staying at a hotel in the town when some locals turned on him and accused him of blasphemy.

Ullah said police officers took the man to the station for his protection but the mob swelled and pursued them. The mob then attacked the station, snatched Ismail, beat him to death and then burned his body and left it on the road.

Additional police forces have arrived



in Madyan to bring the situation under control, Ullah said.

It wasn't immediately known if any of the attackers were arrested.

Attacks on people accused of blasphemy are common in this conservative Islamic nation where charges of blasphemy can carry the death sentence. International and

national rights groups say blasphemy accusations have often been used to intimidate religious minorities and settle personal scores.

Last month, a mob in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province attacked a Christian man, Nazir Masih, 72, after accusing him of desecrating pages of Quran. He later died at a hospital. (AP)

## Five family members of Malaysian man who attacked police station face terrorism charges

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** The father of a Malaysian man who attacked a police station and killed two police officers last month was charged on June 19 with inciting terrorism in his family. His Singaporean wife and three other children were also brought to court to face charges.

Radin Imran Radin Mohd Yassin, 62, faces four charges including promoting terrorist acts by allegedly instilling the violent ideology of the Islamic State group in his family, including his 21-year-old son Radin Luqman, who was killed by police in the attack.

Radin Luqman stormed the police station in southern Johor state near Singapore in the early hours of May 17 with a machete. He hacked a police constable to death and then used the officer's weapon to kill another. He wounded a third officer before being shot dead. Police initially said the man could have been planning to take firearms from the station.

The incident sparked concerns of a wider security threat but government officials said the man and his family were reclusive, and that the attacker was believed to have acted on his own.

Radin Imran, who is unemployed, was also accused of supporting

terrorist acts by keeping four homemade air rifles in his home for Islamic State activities, according to charge sheets seen by The Associated Press.

He also allegedly pledged allegiance in 2014 to Islamic State's then-leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who was killed in a U.S. raid in Syria in 2019. A book linked to the Islamic State was found in his possession.

His eldest son, Radin Romyullah, 34, faces two separate charges of pledging loyalty to Abu Bakar and of possessing an external hard drive containing materials related to the Islamic State, the charge sheets showed. Both father and son face life imprisonment, which in Malaysia is up to 40 years, and a fine.

Radin Imran's Singaporean wife, Rosna Jantan, 59, and two daughters aged 19 and 23 each face a vague charge related to the omission of information related to the spread of terrorism. No details were given.

Local media said the five were brought to a court in Johor under heavy security. The Star newspaper said no plea was recorded but the five, who were not represented by lawyers, said they understood the charges against them. The next hearing in the case will be on July 31. (AP)



## At least nine Rohingyas killed in landslides at Cox's Bazar refugee camps

**COX'S BAZAR (TIP):** At least nine Rohingyas were killed in landslides caused by heavy torrential rain in Ukhiya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar June 19 morning, The Daily Star reported.

Quoting Mohammad Samsudduza, additional refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, The Daily Star that the landslides took place in camp no. 9 and 10.

"Nine bodies were recovered," he said, adding that they are working to evacuate Rohingyas living in risky hilly areas.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of them fled to Bangladesh facing atrocity by the Myanmar junta forces in 2017, have been living in 33 camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar, the report said.

Cox's Bazar has been witnessing heavy rainfall since June 18.





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# Why cleaning your makeup brushes is so important

There are a few reasons to clean your makeup brushes. The first, and most important is bacteria. Bacteria, dead skin cells and any dirt or oil that may be on your face is now in your brushes. Over time, this collects and not only fills your brushes with bacteria, which you are then rubbing all over your face and your makeup products each time you use that brush but this can in turn cause blemishes and irritate the skin.

All of that build-up can also affect the way your makeup applies. When you have a fresh clean brush, you are more likely to get a smoother, more flawless application versus when your brushes have gone one too many days (or weeks, or months) without having a good clean. You might find that your foundation just doesn't look as good as it could, or your blush starts to look a little patchy. You might be having what I call a 'bad skin day,' or you might just need to give your brush a good cleanse.

## Clean your brushes weekly

Remember the gross residual makeup, dirt, and oil we just talked about? That disappears after a good brush cleaning. If you're a makeup artist or just someone who wears a significant amount of makeup regularly, brush should be cleaned after each use.

## A step-by-step brush cleaning method

- Squeeze a dollop of gentle shampoo into a glass/mug and fill with warm water
- Swirl your brushes in the water and gently massage the bristles to further remove the gunk



- Rinse with clean water and carefully squeeze the water out
- Lay flat to dry
- Pour a small amount of the blue liquid into a small cup and dip your brush to saturate
- Gently swirl the brush on a paper towel which will absorb the cleanser, taking the dirt with it.

## Bacteria can settle on brushes, which are not clean

When you are not particular about hygiene and don't wash your brushes, they become a breeding ground for bacteria and dirt from the environment around them. This can lead to breakouts and a serious acne problem.

Dirty brushes won't give you

the desired look

Application of makeup involves using brushes to blend it in properly so that you can achieve a flawless, even look. However, dirty brushes make it difficult to achieve that. If you have a lot of residual makeup on brushes, it may not pick the right colour of the product that you are using. Hence, it will alter the shade and look you are working at. It also affects the overall look as it can look patchy and streaky.

## Save money

If you take care of your brushes, and clean them regularly, they will last longer. You won't have to keep spending money on purchasing new makeup brushes, and will end up saving money in the long run.

## FOOD CORNER

# Kadai chicken

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg chicken, washed, cleaned and cut into big pieces
- 4 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 cup onion, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups tomatoes, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons fresh coriander leaves, chopped,
- 1 tablespoon ginger paste
- 1 tablespoon garlic paste
- 4 teaspoons garam masala powder
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 whole red chillies
- 2 teaspoons coriander seeds
- 1 teaspoon red chili, powder, salt

## Method

- Grind coriander seeds and whole red chillies into a coarse powder.
- Heat oil in a kadai.
- Add bay leaves.
- After about 30 seconds, add onions and saute till they turn light golden brown.
- Add ginger-garlic paste.
- Saute for 2 minutes on medium flame.
- Add the above coarse powder.
- Stir well.
- Add tomatoes and cook till they are fully cooked.
- Add chicken pieces, salt to taste and red chilli powder.
- Mix well.
- Cover the kadai.
- Cook till the chicken becomes tender.
- Sprinkle garam masala powder over the chicken.
- Garnish with coriander leaves and onion rings.
- Serve hot with rotis or parathas.



# Personal care products harmful for children

Personal care products like shampoo, lotion, nail polish and cologne may send one child to the hospital every two hours due to poisoning and chemical burns, according to a study.

Researchers found that 64,686 children younger than five years of age were treated in US emergency departments for injuries related to personal care products.

The study, published in the journal *Clinical Pediatrics*, found that most injuries from these products occurred when a child swallowed the product (75.7 per cent) or the product made contact with a child's skin or eyes (19.3 per cent).

These ingestions and exposures most often led to poisonings (86.2 per cent) or chemical burns (13.8 per cent), researchers said.

"When you think about what young

children see when they look at these products, you start to understand how these injuries can happen," said Rebecca McAdams, a senior research associate at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

"Kids this age can't read, so they don't know what they are looking at. They see a bottle with a colourful label that looks or smells like something they are allowed to eat or drink, so they try to open it and take a swallow.

"When the bottle turns out to be nail polish remover instead of juice, or lotion instead of yogurt, serious injuries can occur," McAdams said.

The top three product categories leading to injuries were nail care products (28.3 per cent) hair care products (27.0 per cent), and skin care products (25.0 per cent), followed by fragrance

products (12.7 per cent).

Nail polish remover was the individual product that led to the most number of visits to the emergency room (17.3 per cent of all injuries).

Of the more serious injuries that required hospitalisation, more than half were from hair care products (52.4 per cent) with hair relaxers and permanent solutions leading to more hospitalisations than all other products.

Also of concern, is the ease of access to these products, researchers said.

"Children watch their parents use these items and may try to imitate their behaviour. Since these products are often stored in easy-to-reach places and are not typically in child-resistant containers, it can be easy for kids to get to and open the bottles," said McAdams.

# Suffering from high BP, blood sugar? Avoid these supplements

If you're managing high blood pressure (BP) and blood sugar, you're likely prioritising a healthy lifestyle. But what about those supplement bottles lining the shelves? While some vitamins and minerals can be beneficial, others can interact with medications or worsen your condition.

Here's a guide to supplements you should avoid with high BP and blood sugar, according to Dr Srinivas Kandula, Consultant Endocrinologist, CARE Hospitals, Nampally, Hyderabad.

## Sodium-Containing Supplements

**Why Avoid:** Sodium can elevate blood pressure. Many supplements, especially those marketed for muscle building or hydration, may contain high levels of sodium, said Dr Kandula.

## Licorice Root

**Why Avoid:** Licorice can increase blood pressure and cause fluid retention, which is problematic for both high blood pressure and diabetes.

## Caffeine and Stimulant-Based Supplements

**Why Avoid:** Caffeine can increase blood pressure and cause rapid heart rates, which are detrimental for individuals with hypertension. Some weight loss and energy supplements contain high levels of caffeine or other stimulants, Dr



Kandula explained.

## Ephedra (Ma Huang)

**Why Avoid:** Ephedra is a powerful stimulant that can raise blood pressure and heart rate, posing risks for those with hypertension and heart disease.

## Ginseng

**Why Avoid:** While ginseng may have some benefits, it can also interfere with blood pressure control and blood sugar regulation, leading to potential complications.

## Calcium Supplements

**Why Avoid:** High doses of calcium supplements have been linked to increased risk of cardiovascular

events. It's better to get calcium from dietary sources under medical guidance.

## High-Dose Vitamin D

**Why Avoid:** While Vitamin D is important, excessively high doses can cause calcium buildup in the blood, potentially leading to heart and kidney problems.

Always consult your doctor before starting any new supplement, especially if you have high BP, blood sugar, or take medications. This ensures they avoid potential interactions with their condition or medications and receive personalized advice based on their health needs.

Source: *The Indian Express*



## Blood test can detect rare forms of dementia, neurological diseases

Scientists said they have devised a new method to detect rare forms of dementia as well as other neurological diseases through blood tests. The blood markers can spot frontotemporal dementia (FTD) as well as neurological diseases amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), said the team from the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE).

FTD, ALS and PSP form a spectrum of neurodegenerative diseases with overlapping symptoms characterised by dementia, behavioural symptoms, paralysis and muscle wasting, movement impairment and other serious impairments.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, are based on the measurement of certain proteins in the blood, which serve as biomarkers.

The study also involved the University Hospital Bonn and other research institutions in Germany and Spain.

"As yet, there is no cure for any of these diseases. And, with current methods, it is not possible to reach a conclusive diagnosis of the molecular pathology of these diseases during a patient's lifetime, since brain tissue must be examined," explained Professor Anja Schneider, a research group leader at DZNE.

The researchers showed that PSP, behavioural variant of FTD and the vast majority of ALS cases with the exception of a particular mutation can be recognised by blood testing. This also applies to their underlying pathology.

"Our study is the first to find pathology-specific biomarkers. Initially, application is likely to be in research and therapy development. But in the long term, I consider it realistic that these biomarkers will also be used for diagnosis in medical routine," said Schneider, who is also affiliated with the University of Bonn.

The results were based on data and blood samples from study collectives in Germany and Spain with a total of 991 adults.

Source: *IANS*

## High levels of stress can give you a pot belly

Stress plays a crucial role in the accumulation of belly fat. High levels of stress trigger the release of cortisol, a hormone that, when chronically elevated, can lead to fat deposition in the abdominal area.

This pot belly not only affects your appearance but also increases the risk of various health issues.

When you're stressed, your body releases cortisol as part of the "fight or flight" response. Studies have shown that elevated cortisol levels can lead to increased appetite and cravings for high-calorie foods, particularly those high in sugar and fat.

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or flight" response. Studies have shown that elevated cortisol levels can lead to increased appetite and cravings for high-calorie foods, particularly those high in sugar and fat.

Cortisol also promotes fat storage in the abdominal area, which is

more metabolically active and associated with higher health risks, including type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Even exercise and diet cannot help much with belly fat if stress is elevated.

"We underestimate how stress causes fat accumulation, especially visceral fat. And we just keep on focusing on exercise and diet," wrote dietitian Deepta Nagpal on X.

Visceral fat, also known as belly fat, is the fat that surrounds your liver, intestines, and other internal organs beneath your abdominal muscles.

Some of this fat is stored in the omentum, a layer of tissue under the muscles. As more fat is added, this tissue becomes harder and thicker, making your waistline bigger.

Source: *India Today*

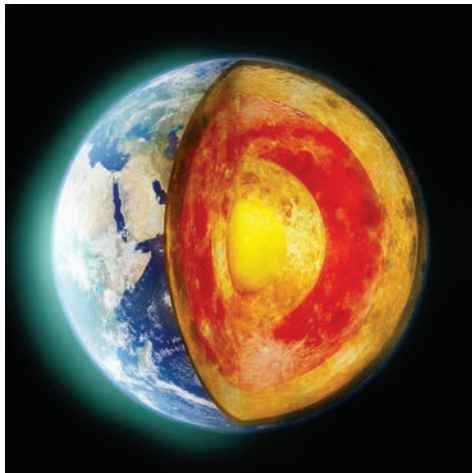
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## Earth's inner core 'unambiguously' slowing down, could change day's length

A new study has provided "unambiguous evidence" that the Earth's inner core began to slow down its rotation in 2010, compared to the planet's surface.

Researchers said that the slowing down could change the length of one day on the Earth by fractions of a second.

The Earth's inner core, a solid sphere made of iron and nickel, is suspended within the liquid outer core (made of molten metals) and anchored in its place by gravity. Together, the inner and the outer core, form one of the planet's three layers—the other two being mantle and crust.

Being physically inaccessible, researchers usually study the core by analysing the recordings of waves sent out by earthquakes—seismograms.

"When I first saw the seismograms that hinted at this change, I was stumped," said John Vidale, a professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Southern California, US.

"But when we found two dozen more observations signalling the same pattern, the result was inescapable. The inner core had slowed down for the first time in many decades," said Vidale, also the corresponding author of the study published in the journal Nature. The slowing down of the inner core is hotly debated in the scientific community, with some studies even suggesting that it rotates faster than the Earth's surface.

It is known that the spin of the inner core is influenced by the magnetic field generated in the outer core and the gravitational effects within Earth's mantle. However, it is considered that the inner core is reversing and backtracking relative to the surface, because of rotating slower than the mantle for the first time in about 40 years. "Other scientists have recently argued for similar and different models, but our latest study provides the most convincing resolution," Vidale said. A study published earlier this year, in the journal Nature, had found that climate change-driven melting of ice in Greenland and Antarctica was affecting global timekeeping by slowing down Earth's rotation. *Source: PTI*

# Google releases Android 15 beta 3 phase with improved UI for passkeys

As Android 15 gets ready, Google is a step closer to releasing the new operating system. Today, Google announced that it will be releasing Android 15's third beta. The update indicates that it has reached platform stability. This means that the developer APIs and all app-facing behaviours are now final for testers to review and integrate into their apps, and apps targeting Android 15 can be made available on Google Play. While Android 15 Beta 3 has not changed much since the last update, there are a few interesting pin-pointers that have been unveiled with this update. In the blog, Google brings attention to one significant change to the passkey UI.

### Android 15: Improved passkey UI

The Android 15 Beta 3 update uses a passkey with biometric authentication that happens in one step rather than two. Users will be able to sign-into apps that target Android 15 using passkeys in a single step, either with facial recognition, fingerprint, or screen lock.

If they accidentally dismiss the prompt to use a passkey to sign-in, they will be able to see the passkey or other Credential Manager suggestions in autofill conditional user interfaces, such as keyboard suggestions or drop-downs.

As the final release is close, Android expert Mishaal Rahman dug out that it might be able to identify when a



biometric model is not working well. According to the expert, in this case, it will automatically delete it and prompt the user to redo it.

### Other Highlights of Android 15 Beta 3

Apart from the improved passkey UI, Google also shares that the Android 15 Beta 3 update will have other new features as well.

**Private Space Feature:** Similar to Samsung's Secure Folder, this allows locking certain apps behind extra authentication. Developers may need to adjust profile logic, and custom launchers must be updated to hide these apps from the home screen and app drawer.

**Force-Close Changes:** When an app is force-closed, it is stopped indefinitely

until relaunched. Widgets for such apps will be grayed out.

**Memory Page Size Support:** Android 15 now supports devices with a maximum memory page size of up to 16KB, up from the usual 4KB, allowing for phones with larger RAM capacities.

**Predictive Back Animations:** Enabled by default, incentivising developers to support the feature.

While Google has not announced the release date of the final product, the rumour has it that Android 15 might be released around October 2024, following the launch of the Pixel 9 series. Last year, Google also launched Android 14 with the Pixel 8 series. The latest Pixel phones are generally the first to come with the final version of the new Android iteration. *Source: India Today*

## Apple watch to get ability to change default ringtones with watchOS 11 update: Report

Apple's latest watchOS 11 update will finally let users change the default ringtone on their Apple Watch, according to a report. The Cupertino-based tech giant unveiled watchOS 11 – the latest operating system for its smartwatches at the Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2024 on June 10. The key highlights included a new Vitals app and more Smart Stack widgets. One of the features which Apple did not advertise but is said to be making its way to the Apple Watch is the ability to change the default ringtone.

### Change ringtones with watchOS 11

At present, Apple Watch users have only one ringtone without any option to change it. According to a 9to5Mac report, that is set to change with the upcoming update. With the watchOS 11 developer beta update, users can choose from eight different ringtones, including the two original ones: Pebbles (Cellular ringtone), Focus, Jingle (original ringtone), Nighthawk, Transmit, Twirl, Windup, and Wonder.

In addition to changing ringtones, users are also reported to have the option to set tones for different alerts, notifications and reminders for text messages, emails, and more.

While changing ringtones has now become possible, the report speculates that it still does not allow setting a specific ringtone for a user on the Apple Watch.

With watchOS 11, Apple is also reportedly bringing automatic



sleep tracking to the Apple Watch. Prior to the update, Apple Watch tracked the sleep activity only when the Sleep Focus mode was toggled. Moreover, it is also said to bring a new Smart Stack widget for Shazam. Although the app was already available to Apple users via the App Store or through Siri, this new shortcut could potentially allow for even quicker music searches. *Source: NDTV*



## India becomes third-largest domestic airline market

Driven by robust growth in the aviation sector in the last decade, India is now the third-largest domestic airline market in the world, up from 5th position 10 years ago.

Ten years ago, India was the smallest market with around 8 million seats, followed by Indonesia at 4th and Brazil at 3rd place, and the US and China occupying the top two positions.

Today, the US and China remain the largest domestic aviation markets.

"However, India is surpassing the Brazilian and Indonesian domestic markets to become the third-largest domestic market with airline capacity of 15.6 million seats in April 2024," according to OAG data.

India's capacity growth rate of seats over a 10-year average is the highest, growing at 6.9 per cent annually.

"India is the fastest growing market across all five domestic markets we considered. China was close behind with annual growth of 6.3 per cent between 2014 and 2024, and there is a much smaller growth rate in the US and Indonesia," according to the data.

According to the OAG report, another interesting metric to consider across these large domestic markets is low-cost carrier (LCC) capacity share.

In April 2024, LCCs accounted for 78.4 per cent of domestic airline capacity in India, the highest LCC share of any of these five domestic markets.

"In the last 10 years, IndiGo has almost doubled their market share, from 32 per cent of capacity in 2014 to 62 per cent today. While the rest of the market has barely grown, averaging just 0.7 per cent a year, IndiGo has a domestic capacity growth rate of 13.9 per cent annually," the report mentioned.

On November 19 last year, airlines in India flew 4,56,910 domestic passengers. This was the highest single-day air traffic since the pandemic hit, marking a remarkable 7.4 per cent surge above pre-Covid averages, as per the Civil Aviation Ministry's data.

According to the government, the number of airports in the country has increased to 157 from 74 in the last 10 years.

Source: IANS

# ADB sanctions USD 170 mn loan to reinforce India's health infrastructure

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 170 million policy-based loan aimed at enhancing the country's health system.

According to ADB, the loan, part of the Strengthened and Measurable Actions for Resilient and Transformative Health Systems (SMART Health) Subprogram 1, is designed to support the Indian government's National Health Policy 2017. This policy seeks to provide high-quality healthcare services to all citizens, ensuring readiness to tackle future health crises.

The USD 170 million loan from ADB will play a crucial role in addressing gaps in India's health system and enhancing its capacity to respond to future pandemics.

Sonalini Khetrapal, ADB Senior Health Specialist, said, "The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us valuable lessons and adoption of several innovative practices that would significantly strengthen pandemic preparedness and response capacities if consolidated, sustained, and institutionalized. ADB has been working with the Government of India to strengthen its health system and adopt transformative solutions."

She added, "This policy-based loan will help fill the gaps in policy, legislative, and institutional governance and structures and contribute to India's goal of providing universal access to quality and affordable health care services to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response."

The program will establish comprehensive disease surveillance systems to effectively respond to public health threats.

It will set up laboratory networks for infectious disease surveillance at various levels, including state, union, and metropolitan areas, ensuring a robust and coordinated response to emerging health threats.

The initiative will support the development of robust data systems to monitor and coordinate national health programs, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the poor and women.



These data systems will facilitate better governance and decision-making in health service delivery.

ADB will assist in implementing policy reforms to ensure an adequate and competent health workforce.

This includes legislation to regulate and maintain standards for education and professional conduct of nurses, midwives, allied health workers, and doctors.

The program will also support public health teams in various states, enhancing their capacity to deliver essential health services.

The loan will facilitate the management of integrated public health laboratories in five states and districts, enhancing services for infectious diseases and critical care.

District critical care hospital blocks will be improved to provide better services for managing critical illnesses and health emergencies.

The initiative will assist in establishing green and climate-resilient healthcare facilities through the support of an intersectoral governing body and a multisector task force.

This will ensure that health infrastructure is sustainable and can withstand climate-related challenges.

ADB will support the adoption of innovative solutions to enhance health service delivery, ensuring that the health system is responsive and adaptive to changing needs.

Source: ANI

## Fitch raises India's FY25 growth forecast to 7.2%

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday raised its growth estimates for India by 20 basis points to 7.2 percent — same as that of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — citing positive economic outlook driven by recovering consumer confidence and increased investment.

"Investment will continue to rise but more slowly than in recent quarters, while consumer spending will recover with elevated consumer confidence. Purchasing managers survey data point to continued growth at the start of the current financial year. Signs of the coming monsoon season being more normal should support growth and make inflation less volatile, though the recent heatwave poses a risk," the rating agency said in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO).

The Indian economy grew at an impressive rate of 8.2 per cent in FY24, driven by a stronger-than-expected expansion of 7.8 per cent in the fourth



quarter.

Fitch said growth in later years may slow and approach its medium-term trend estimate. "We forecast real GDP growth of 6.5 per cent in FY25/26 (unchanged from March), and 6.2 per cent in FY26/27, driven by consumer spending and investment," it added.

While highlighting the decrease in retail inflation, Fitch acknowledged persistent high food price inflation. "We expect headline inflation to continue declining to 4.5 per cent by calendar year-end, and average 4.3 per cent in 2025 and

2026, staying slightly above the mid-point of its target range," the rating agency said.

Fitch said it expects the RBI to cut its policy rate this year, but only once, to 6.25 per cent. "In the March GEO, we expected 50bp of cuts this year. We then expect 25bp of cuts in both 2025 and 2026," it added.

At its latest meeting in May, the RBI maintained the policy rate at 6.5 per cent and confirmed its hawkish stance of "withdrawal of monetary accommodation" and the need to bring down inflation towards the 4 per cent target.

The World Bank last week maintained India's growth forecast at 6.6 per cent for FY25, affirming the country's position as the fastest-growing economy among major economies. Meanwhile, the RBI raised its growth projection for FY25 to 7.2 per cent from an earlier estimate of 7 per cent in its last monetary policy review.

# Sikh History This Week

## JUNE 21 TO JUNE 27

### 21st June



1661 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visited Banaras.  
1936 Anup Singh of Manko was murdered.  
1984 Panj Payaras successfully pressured the Indian government to open all Gurdwaras (except Sri Harimandir Sahib) for public visits.

### 22nd June

1713 Sikhs fought a fierce battle with the ruling forces at Sadhaura. After four months of siege, Banda Bahadur escaped into the Himalayas.

1984 Panj Payaras excommunicated Baba Sant Singh Ji for co-operating with the Indian government. He was the main Nihang leader of Budha Dal, who cooperated with government in its forced kar Sewa under curfew. This was against the wishes of Sikh Sangats and Sikh Sahibans at that time. Thus the result decision of the Panth.

### 23rd June

1982 Sikh shops burned in Patiala.



1984 Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India, visits Darbar Sahib after operation Blue Star. All Sikh Sahibans were present but boycotted this visit. No sarropa was given as a protest and exhibition of Sikh anger.

### 24th June



1885 Master Tara Singh was born on 24 June, 1885,

in Haryal in Rawalpindi district of North Western Province of undivided India. His mother, Moolan Devi, was a pious lady and his father, Bakshi Gopi Chand, was a patwari of the village and was a well known and respected person. Tara Singh's original name was Nanak Chand. In 1902 Nanak Chand embraced Sikhism and came to be called Tara Singh. Tara Singh had a bright educational career and was a scholarship holder almost at all stages of his education. In 1907 he passed his B. A. examination from Khalsa College, Amritsar. Later Tara Singh joined as headmaster of Khalsa High School, Lyallpur, at an honorarium of Rs. 15 per month. Since then he came to be known as Master Tara Singh. His career as a teacher ended in 1921, following the Nankana tragedy. He also edited two Akali newspapers, Akali (Udru) and Akali te Pardesi (Grumukhi) in which he forcefully put forward the aims and objectives of the Akali Dal. He took an active part in national politics till his death on 22 November 1967.



1962 Punjabi University established.

### 25th June

1700 Sikhs forces defeated the combined forces of Hill chiefs and imperial troops.



Guru Gobind Singh Ji's forces routed the 10,000 combined forces of Hill chiefs and the imperial troops. It was from the Baisakhi of 1699 that the hill chiefs became thirsty for Guru Gobind Singh's blood and resolved to destroy the Sikh Panth which they considered inimical to varnashram dharam. They resolved to try all venues suggested to them by Kautilya's statecraft: weakening the movement from within; instigating people of other faiths against it; and involving it straight away in an armed struggle with the forces of the state to retard its momentum, if not destroy it. This was the first battle of Anandpur Sahib.

1889 Maharaja Dalip Singh sent message from Geneva to initiate uprising against the British government. 1924 9th Shahidi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sardar



Kaesar Singh of Vidang (Amritsar), courted arrest upon reaching Jaito.

### 26th June

1838 Maharaja Ranjit Singh signed a tri-party agreement with the British and Shujah and British. Under this agreement, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was to give 5000 troops, British to give officers and financial assistance to Shah Shujah against Dost Mohd. Maharaja Ranjit Singh was virtually forced into this treaty by British diplomacy.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh suffered another stroke.

1984 Baba Nihal Singh Hariawalae arrested.

1984 Panj Payaras demanded from the President, Prime Minister, and Governor of Punjab to give control of kar Sewa to SGPC.

### 27th June

1745 Nawab Zakaria Khan's orders were carried out and Bhai Taru's scalp was removed. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh passed away in Lahore.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the great ruler of Punjab for 40 years, breathed his last at 7 P.M. on this day and thus the most brilliant period of Sikh history came to a close.



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**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

### ARIES



Ganesha says the beginning of this week cannot be considered favorable from your health point of view. However, it may improve over the weekend. Therefore, it would be better to be more cautious about health, especially at the beginning of the week. Because this time is creating a very good combination for investing in these schemes. In such a situation, do not miss these opportunities and take full advantage of them. During this time, you can do some work for the benefit of your family as well as society, which can significantly increase your respect. During this time, you may also be seen participating enthusiastically in religious activities. This week can bring progress in your career but you are advised to take special care that whatever work you do during this period, do it thoughtfully. Apart from this, if you have to talk to senior officers and superiors, then do it yourself and not through anyone. Because only then you can be successful in giving your better performance. This week, students may have to make a decision related to their education for which they are not yet ready. This may also increase your stress. In such a situation, it would be better for you to consult an elder before making any decision.

### TAURUS



Ganesha says this week, some health-related problems may hinder some important work in your workplace. Therefore, if you get stuck in a difficult situation, do not be afraid of it, but face it bravely. Because your nervousness in adverse circumstances can make you mentally weak and can also increase your physical problems. This week, there may be an increase in creative ideas within you, due to which you may be successful in earning good profits by finding new opportunities to earn money. However, during this time you are also advised to read each document carefully before signing it. From the beginning till the end of this week, you can enjoy your perfect family life. This can help you live your life happily and peacefully. Younger members of the family may be influenced by you and at this time you may also be successful in establishing a better image among the elder members. Due to this you can get rid of your mental stress to a great extent forever. Some chances of being in a hurry all the time may harm your career this week. Because you may act hastily even when given some important information. Due to this, you can move

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 24 TO JUNE 30, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

forward only by listening to half-baked words and may get into some big trouble. In the field of education, this week students of your zodiac sign may get better results in the examinations for which they were waiting for a long time. Because in the beginning most of the students will be able to concentrate on studies and due to this they can also get success.

### GEMINI



Ganesha says health-related problems may trouble you throughout this week. Due to this, you may be deprived of enjoying your life and it is possible that your health may not be completely good this week. Due to this family members especially your partner may have to face problems. This week, with your hard work and dedication, you may get many such opportunities from which you can earn money. For this, you may need to invest your savings traditionally in a good scheme instead of blindly investing them. Your younger brothers and sisters at home may get a lot of success in every aspect of life this week. Because if he was unemployed then he is likely to get a job. If they work, they are likely to get a promotion at this time. Because during this time you are likely to get good results from your hard work. Although there may be some minor obstacles in the path of attaining higher education, your hard work can bear fruit and you alone can be successful in finding solutions to all those problems.

### CANCER



Ganesha says this week you will have to avoid wasting most of your time and energy in criticizing others. Because at this time you need to understand the most that it can hurt your image as well as your health. Therefore, think positively and bring sweetness to your speech also. Because of this, you may get many lectures on morality from different members of the household. This can not only lead to stubbornness in your nature, but it can also hurt your relationships. Your inferiority complex towards others at the workplace can create many doubts in your mind. Due to this, you may look at everyone with suspicion. Not only can this deprive you of getting the right support from them, but it can also affect the pace of progress in your career. This week, students may have to face some kind of rebuke from their parents or elders regarding their studies. Due to this, your mood may remain bad this whole week. In such a situation, do not do any work from the beginning which will cause you trouble.

### LEO



Ganesha says this time is very important for you from a health point of view. Because during this

time you may not have to face health-related problems, but despite this you may be seen including yoga and exercise in your daily routine to keep yourself healthy. This week, you are very likely to discuss saving money with your family members and close ones from the beginning, otherwise by the end of the week you may have to face many problems due to financial constraints. This week, do not let your concentration get disturbed due to the ongoing tension in family life. In such a situation, you have to understand that bad times come in everyone's life and these bad times teach a person the most. Therefore, instead of wasting time getting fed up and disappointed with adverse circumstances, it is better to try to understand and learn the lessons of life. This week at work you will find that another colleague is praising all your achievements. Therefore, do not let anyone else take credit for the work you have done. Otherwise, you may have to suffer negative losses in your career. This week can be especially noteworthy for students. Because during this time they can get help in removing all kinds of obstacles, especially in the field of education. So that their thinking and understanding power can also develop. The families of the students may be surprised by their intelligence and become very happy with them.

### VIRGO



Ganesha says this week may be full of hustle and bustle for you, due to which you may become irritable. Due to this, aggression can be seen in your nature and you may find yourself completely unsuccessful in talking to everyone directly. However, due to the steady increase in your income, the impact of these expenses will not be visible in your life and you may be able to spend some money on your luxuries. Therefore, you need to maintain a balance between income and expenditure. There is full scope for positive changes in the father's health this week. Due to this, you can be seen spending time with them and discussing many domestic issues. This can not only help you in improving your relationship with your father but your father will also be able to support you. This means that whether it is business or job, your strategy and planning can be appreciated everywhere. Also, other people may be seen paying attention to your discussions. Seeing this you can feel encouraged. People of your zodiac sign may have to remain committed to their goals to achieve success in the field of education this week. Therefore, at this time, take any step only after thinking about your goal.

### LIBRA



Ganesha says financial situations and problems related to it can prove to

be the cause of your mental stress. It is possible that due to work pressure at the workplace and domestic differences, you may not pay attention to your eating habits. Due to this, along with deterioration in health, you may also have to face some weakness. This week many people may be seen spending money on their spouse. In such a situation, you may also plan to go on a beautiful trip with them, because at this time you may see an increase in your salary. You may be seen openly accepting this happiness with your loved ones. However, spending too much money can prove harmful for you. This week you have to understand that there will hardly be any house where there are no differences among the members. Therefore, you have to avoid sharing your family issues with other acquaintances, otherwise, you may become a laughingstock among others. Due to this your mental stress is likely to increase. This week you may face difficulty in moving forward with accuracy in your career. But you can stop yourself from taking help from others at this time by considering yourself supreme. Due to this, you may have to face failure in the future. The horoscope of the students of your zodiac sign says that this time seems to be most favorable for you. Because if you keep yourself a little cautious regarding education at this time, you can still get favorable results.

### SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week may not be like those days when you were lucky. Therefore, whatever you say during this time, say it thoughtfully. Because a small conversation can drag on throughout the day and turn into a big dispute and cause unnecessary mental stress for you. Overall, this week is going to be very good from the economic aspect. Because during this time, there is a strong possibility that you will get many opportunities for profit and your financial position will become stronger. Therefore, try to use it only by making proper strategy and planning about it. So that if you have to face sudden financial problems in the future, you can be prepared to face it. This week your behavior with your family may be very bad, due to which you may regret your actions at the end of the week. But despite these regrets, you may fail to improve your relationship with your family. This week you are likely to get many auspicious results in your career. Be it office politics or any dispute, you can be seen overcoming every problem and continuously climbing the stairs of success. However, seeing your success, even your enemies may become your friends, due to which you may be appreciated a lot at the workplace. This time can prove to be very favorable,

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## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 24 TO JUNE 30 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

### JUNE 24

Ganesha says today you have many opportunities to improve your financial condition. Traveling abroad or doing transactions can be beneficial. Property-related disputes can be resolved. Children may bring good news for you demanding more attention. Take good care of yourself. At the end of the year, you are planning a pilgrimage which can give you relaxation and peace of mind.

### JUNE 25

Ganesha says you are a great host and love socializing, but sometimes you should curb your stubborn and extravagant tendencies. Foreign travel or transactions can be very beneficial. Some people get a healthy romantic period during marriage. You can give priority to real estate transactions, construction projects, and renovations. Avoid any confrontation and situation that creates tension and stress.

### JUNE 26

Ganesha says although you are incredibly talented and highly respected by your friends and colleagues, you need

to check your tendency to be rigid, extravagant, and sometimes jealous. People with piles and high blood pressure need to be extra careful about their health. The marital front seems smooth despite occasional disputes and estrangement. You can gain popularity among your friends and the social environment because of your creative thinking.

### JUNE 27

Ganesha says you have a great memory and amazing technical skills, but you need to work on your tendency to be irritable and vindictive at times. Today many changes can be seen in the company in which you work. You can get a lot of benefits from these, but there can be a change in your routine. Offers can be lucrative for businessmen looking to make quick cash. Women who are pregnant should pay more attention to their health. Paying attention to your diet and prescription medications is important.

### JUNE 28

Ganesha says you should exercise

financial restraint today and avoid spending money on unnecessary luxuries. The closeness between you two can increase and you can respect each other more. For most of you, a distant trip is likely towards the end of the year. You should not be disappointed by the high expectations of your family members. Also, you can spend some special and romantic moments with your partner.

### JUNE 29

Ganesha says you enjoy surrounding yourself with beautiful things. Even if you are not an artist, you still like to collect objects that have artistic value. This year, there may be occasions of improper communication with your employer. Check thoroughly before handing over your work to your superiors. Although many factors may not be in your favor, the support and assistance of friends and family members can give you new energy and make things more comfortable than otherwise. It couldn't be an easier time

### JUNE 30

Ganesha says you put in a lot of effort, and your dedication and efforts are always appreciated, but you need to curb your tendency to be indecisive, stubborn, and sometimes lazy. This year, your employer and you may become close relatives. As a result, you can play an important role as an ambassador for the company. You can be the center of attraction at any social gathering. You can meet new people and develop important relationships. Even if you seem to be in good health, it is still recommended that you take preventive medications.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)  
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especially for female students and during this time they can get success in competitive examinations. As a result, their parents can feel proud of them. Along with this, they can also get relief to a great extent from the difficulties they face in choosing the right career option in higher education.



### SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week, the selfish behavior of a friend or colleague can destroy your mental peace. In such a situation, it is possible that you may not be able to concentrate even while driving. Therefore, you are advised to be more careful while driving this week. If you have been facing difficulty in making any financial decision for some time, then this week that problem can be completely resolved. Because at this time you can get the support of Goddess Lakshmi in your financial life, due to which you can be successful in earning money even with less hard work. However, at this time you will have to avoid making any wrong financial decisions, otherwise, you may suffer financial loss. According to the weekly horoscope, this week people of your zodiac sign are likely to get immense happiness in their family life. At this time, you may also be successful in removing all kinds of old contradictions going on between family members. This may make your parents feel proud of you. This time can prove to be very good because during this time you can launch some new products. Along with this, you cannot shy away from taking some new risks this week, which can benefit you during this period. Students of your

zodiac sign may get favorable results in every subject during this period. Especially the middle part of the month is going to prove very lucky for you in the field of education. Because at this time you may be more interested in studies, due to which you may be successful in winning the hearts of your teachers by improving your performance.



### CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, despite being close to success in some important work, your energy level may decline. Because at this time you will not be able to keep yourself energetic and due to this you may have to face some problems. You have to understand that if you use your creative talent in the right way then it can prove to be very beneficial and with its help, you can also be successful in improving your financial condition. Due to this, you can get good benefits in the coming time. Your thirst for knowledge may help you make new friends this week. Along with this, if any member of the family is eligible for marriage, then the atmosphere at home is likely to be favorable as their marriage is fixed this week. This week you may get a chance to talk directly to your senior officer and get answers to all your questions. With this, you will also be able to know why your boss talks to you so rudely. As soon as you know the real reason behind this, your mind can get peace to a great extent. However, while talking to them during this time, use your words very thoughtfully. This week is going to be positive for many students who are preparing for government exams. Because the position of many planets may change during this period, luck may favor the students and they may get

immense success in every field.

### AQUARIUS



Ganesha says in terms of health, you may have to face minor problems this week, but no major illness is visible during this time, so you may be quite lucky. Still, you should not be careless about your health and keep practicing yoga, meditation, and exercise from time to time so that you can keep yourself active and fit. The week is not very profitable for you, so keep an eye on your pocket and avoid overspending. Otherwise, you may have to feel embarrassed among other family members due to financial constraints. May an invitation to your child's awards ceremony bring joy to you and your family. He can live up to your expectations and you can see your dreams coming true through him, which can see the moistness in your eyes. This week can also prove to bring auspicious results for you in terms of work-related travels. Because these trips can provide you with new opportunities. Apart from this, for those who are involved in the import-export sector, there is a possibility of financial gain from a trip. If you are thinking of pursuing higher education then you may have to work hard during this period. However, luck may favor you during this time, due to which you may be successful in remembering whatever subject you study.



### PISCES

Ganesha says this week you may not feel mentally stable. Therefore, you may need to be careful in showing masculinity while talking in front of others and behaving well with

others. Otherwise, increasing stress can harm your image. This week you may especially have to avoid all types of long-term investments. The best option for this would be to go out with your friends and have some happy moments. Because it can not only give you peace but can also allow you to develop your thinking ability. The youth of this zodiac sign may need the help of their elders or their siblings for any project in their school or college this week. So whenever you get time, sit with them and try to get their opinion. Also, tell them about your project. This week you may get a project in the office that you already wanted. Therefore, now that you have got the responsibility, your mind may appear happy at this time, the glow of which can enhance the beauty of your face. In such a situation, continue your efforts towards taking proper benefits while living this good time. This week can bring good results for the people of your zodiac sign in matters related to education. But despite this, you may limit yourself to your comfort zone to such an extent that even facing some small challenges begins to seem like a big task. Therefore, it would be better for you to take yourself out of your comfort zone as soon as possible and try to focus on your education.

#### 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](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## US Congressional delegation calls...

The delegation described India-US relations as the most consequential one and expressed their strong support for further deepening Comprehensive Strategic Global Partnership in all areas, including trade, new and emerging technology, defense, people to people exchanges.

Prime Minister highlighted the significant role played by the consistent and bipartisan support of the US Congress in advancing India-US ties, which are based on shared democratic values, respect for rule of law and strong people-to-people ties. He reiterated commitment to further strengthen bilateral relations for the global good. Prime Minister recalled his State Visit to the US in June last year during which he had an opportunity to address a Joint Session of the US Congress for a historic second time. (Source: PIB)

## Delhi HC puts Kejriwal's bail on hold...

A Vacation Bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain is hearing the arguments advanced by Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju on behalf of the ED. Thereafter, the court will hear arguments on behalf of Mr. Kejriwal's lawyers.

The ED's counsel sought a stay of the bail order, granted by a trial court on June 20, saying he was denied full opportunity to complete his argument by the trial court.

Commencing his arguments, the ASG argued that the trial court's order, which has been made available today, is "perverse".

The High Court on Friday said the trial court order shall not be given effect to till it hears the ED's plea challenging the relief granted in the money laundering case.

The ED mentioned its plea for an urgent hearing before a Bench of Justices Sudhir Kumar Jain and Ravinder Dubeja, which said the case file will come before it soon and till then the trial court order shall not be acted upon.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the ED, sought a stay on the trial court order contending that the agency was not given a proper opportunity to argue its case.

He said the trial court pronounced the order around 8 p.m. on June 20 and the order is not yet made available to them. Even after passing of the order when the ED lawyers urged the trial court to keep its order in abeyance for 48 hours to enable them to approach superior courts, the prayer was not considered, the ASG contended.

"I was not allowed to argue fully. I was not given proper time of 2-3 days to file written submissions. This is not done. On merits, I have an excellent case. The trial court said finish of in half an hour as it wanted to deliver the judgment. It did not give us full opportunity to argue the case," the ASG contended, "I am making the allegations with full seriousness," he added.

"Let the order be stayed and the plea be heard as early as possible. That order cannot be allowed to stand even for a day," the law officer said.

### Allegations made by the ED counsel 'incorrect': Kejriwal's lawyers

The plea was opposed by senior advocates Abhishek Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhari, representing Mr. Kejriwal, submitting that the allegations made by the ED counsel were patently incorrect and it was astonishing that they cannot accept anything with grace.

"The noise and heat is not going to solve this problem," Mr. Singhvi said.

He said there are 10 judgements of the Supreme Court which say cancellation or reversal of bail is radically different from grant of bail.

Advocate Chaudhari said, "This person (Kejriwal) was released by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court granted him liberty. This would be a travesty of justice. We are on caveat here and we should be given opportunity to be heard. We would address arguments.

An ex-parte order of such a nature..."

To this, Justice Jain said, "File is coming to me in 10-15 minutes after proper numbering, thereafter, you can start your arguments. You can argue for as much time as you want to argue".

The ED had arrested Mr. Kejriwal on March 21, shortly after the Delhi High Court refused to grant him protection from arrest on his petition challenging summonses issued to him.

While pronouncing the order on Thursday, the trial court ordered Mr. Kejriwal's release on a personal bond of 1 lakh and imposed certain conditions, including that he will not try to hamper the investigation or influence the witnesses.

On May 10, the Supreme Court had granted interim bail to the AAP supremo till June 1 to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections, saying he will have to surrender and go back to jail on June 2. Kejriwal had surrendered before Tihar jail authorities on June 2 and has been there since then.

**Dictatorship has crossed all limits: Delhi CM's wife** : Responding to the development, the Delhi CM's wife Sunita Kejriwal said, "Even before Kejriwal's bail order was uploaded, the ED reached HC. They are behaving as if he is a terrorist."

AAP leader Sanjay Singh accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of making a mockery of the justice system after the Delhi High Court put on hold the trial court order granting bail to Arvind Kejriwal.

Taking to X, Mr. Singh said in a post in Hindi, "Look at the hooliganism of the Modi government, the trial court's order has not yet come, even a copy of the order has not been received, so Modi's ED reached the High Court to challenge which order? What is happening in this country? Modi ji, why are you making a mockery of the justice system? The whole country is watching you?" the AAP MP said. (With inputs from PTI)

## French journalist forced to leave...

Sebastien Farcis, who is married to an Indian and has the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status since 2021, said he was deeply attached to India, which had become his second homeland. "But with no more work nor income, my family has been pushed out of India without explanation, and uprooted overnight for no apparent reason," Mr. Farcis said in a post on social media platform X.

When asked to comment on the matter, there was no response from the MHA.

Earlier this year, French journalist Vanessa Dognac, who had been living in India for 22 years, left the country after the MHA sent a notice citing "malicious reportage" and visa violations, asking why her OCI card should not be cancelled.

Mr. Farcis was the South Asia correspondent and bureau chief of Radio France, a national public broadcaster, and its world service, Radio France Internationale, a government-funded, independent broadcast organization.

He had earlier received permits from the MHA to visit restricted areas, had reported from Sikkim on organic farming, and attended a G20 meeting in Jammu and Kashmir.

He had previously been granted a journalist permit on September 1, 2022 for a period of one year. Upon applying for its renewal on August 9, 2023, he was informed on March 7, days before the recently concluded General Election was announced, that his application had been denied. No reasons were cited. His appeal against the decision in April did not elicit a response from the MHA.

"On 17th June, I was forced to leave India, a country where I had lived and worked as a journalist for 13 years. Three months ago, on March 7, MHA denied the renewal of my journalist permit, preventing me from practicing my profession and depriving me of all my income. No reason has been provided to justify this work ban, despite formal and repeated requests made to the MHA. I have tried to appeal also, but to no avail so far," Mr. Farcis said in a statement on X.

He added that he had been working as a journalist

in India since 2011 and obtained all the necessary visas and accreditations. "I have respected the regulations imposed in India for foreign journalists and never worked in restricted or protected areas without a permit. On several occasions, the MHA even granted me permits to report from border areas. Therefore, this work ban comes as a big shock: it was communicated to me on the eve of the Indian general elections, the largest democratic elections in the world, which I was hence forbidden to cover. This appeared to me as an incomprehensible censorship," he stated.

"This denial comes in a worrying context of increasing restrictions on the work of foreign journalists: after Vanessa Dognac, I am the second French journalist in four months having to leave India under these conditions. At least five OCI foreign correspondents have been banned from working as journalists in less than two years. I have now applied for a new work permit and hope it will be accepted. In the meantime, as I am not able to work, I am forced to return to France," Mr. Farcis said.

Meanwhile, the New York based Journalists Beyond Borders has deplored that journalists are being harassed in India. The organization's President Prof. Indrajit S Saluja has called upon the media fraternity to convey its displeasure to government of India.

## President Biden offers legal status...

In his address to the nation from the East Room of the White House on Tuesday, June 18, Biden also announced a plan to ease the process for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) beneficiaries (and potentially other Dreamers) to access high-skilled employment visas.

This will allow employers to keep their critical employees while providing DACA recipients an opportunity to continue to invest in their communities.

"It's the right thing to do. I want those who've been educated at US colleges and universities to put their skills and knowledge to work here in America. I want to keep building the strongest economy in the world with the best workforce in the world. We've already created 15 million new jobs, a record," Biden said.

Family, he said, is about the beginning, middle, and the end, about keeping married couples together where one spouse is a US citizen and the other is undocumented, and they've been living in the United States for at least 10 years.

"These couples have been raising families, sending their kids to church and school, paying taxes, contributing to our country for 10 years or more," he added.

Biden further said, "Matter of fact, the average time they've spent here is 23 years, people who are affected today, but living in the United States all this time with fear and uncertainty. We can fix that. And that's what I'm going to do today, fix it. It doesn't require any fundamental change in our immigration law."

Major national immigrant and Latino advocacy groups, including UnidosUS and The Immigration Hub, Democratic leaders, and others praised President Biden for working to keep families together after his predecessor Donald Trump "ripped them apart".

"Through his actions, President Biden is helping half a million non-citizen spouses and step-children of Americans to remain with their families, including many from Asia and the Pacific Islands who have lived here for years.

"Easing visa processes for Dreamers will cut red tape and allow young people to secure a job of their choice and contribute to our communities and economy," said Congresswoman Judy Chu.

UnidosUS president and CEO Janet Murguía said the announcement by Biden is a godsend for 5,00,000 American families and will provide a considerable boost to the US economy and community stability across the country. **(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))**

# Sant Kabir Das Jayanti

Sant Kabir Das (1440-1518 circa) was a famous poet, saint and social reformer of India. His writings have greatly influenced the Bhakti movement. Kabir Panth which is a religious community recognizes him as its founder and its members are known as Kabir Panthis, the followers of Saint Kabirdas.

His writings include Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthawali and Anurag Sagar. The major part of Kabir's work was collected by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, and incorporated into the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib. The hallmark of Kabir's work consists of his two line couplets, known as Kabir Ke Dohe.

## About Kabir Das

Sant Kabir Das was born in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He was brought up by a Muslim couple who were weavers by profession.

He was a renowned saint, poet and social reformer of India who lived during the 15th century. His esteemed works and poems describe the greatness and oneness of the Supreme Being.

Sant Kabir Das was a proponent of Bhakti Movement.

The legacy of Kabir Das still remains through a sect referred to as Panth of Kabir, a spiritual community that considers him as the founder. Kabir Panth is not a separate religion, but a spiritual philosophy.

In his poems, Kabir calls himself a julaha and kori. Both mean weaver, belonging to a lower caste. He did not associate himself completely with either Hindus or Muslims.

Kabir did not undertake any formal education. He was not even trained as a weaver. While his poems abound with weaving metaphors, his heart was not fully into this profession. He was on a spiritual journey to seek the truth, which is clearly manifested in his poetry.

Sant Kabir Das' early life was in a Muslim family. He was brought up by a family of Muslim julahas or weavers, but he was strongly influenced by Vaishnava Saint Swami Ramananda (his teacher), the Hindu bhakti leader.

Some of his famous writings include 'Sakhi Granth', 'Anurag Sagar', 'Bijak' and 'Kabir Granthawali'.

His great writing, Bijak, has a huge collection of poems.

The writings of Kabir Das were mainly based on the concept of reincarnation and karma.

After being an illiterate he had written his poems in Hindi mixing with Avadhi, Braj, and Bhojpuri. The poems are called variously as 'Dohe', 'Saloka' and 'Sakhi'.

Sant Kabir Das was best known for his two-line couplets, referred to as 'Kabir Ke Dohe'.

The major part of his work was collected by the fifth Sikh guru, Guru Arjan Dev.

The verses of Kabir Das are found in Sikhism's scripture Guru Granth Sahib.

Kabir's works were mainly written in the Hindi language.

In the 15th century, when Persian and Sanskrit were predominant North Indian languages, he chose to write in colloquial, regional language.

His poetry is a mixture of Hindi, Khari Boli, Punjabi, Bhojpuri, Urdu, Persian and Marwari.

## Contribution of Sant Kabir Das to Bhakti Movement

Sant Kabir Das got fame all over the world because of his influential traditions and culture. He was prejudiced by the existing religious mood of that time like Hinduism, Tantrism as well as personal devotionalism.

Kabir Das tried to coordinate the religions by giving a universal path which could be followed by all human beings. According to him, every life has a relationship with two spiritual principles (Jivatma and



## Important information

**Saturday, 22 June 2024**

**Birth Place : Varanasi (Kashi).**

**Died Place : Maghar**

**Parents: Neeru, Neema**

**Children: Kamaali, Kamaal.**

**Birth Year : Approximately 647th Birth Anniversary of Sant Kabir Das**

Paramatma). His view about the moksha is that it is the process of uniting these two divine principles.

He simply followed the oneness of God. In the Dabistan of Mohsin Fani and Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazl, he is mentioned as a 'Muwahid' (Believer in one God).

He always opposed the idea of worshipping the idols and showed clear confidence in Bhakti and Sufi ideas.

He composed poems in a concise and simple style, resonating the admiration for the factual guru.

He tried to interpret the meaning of the true religion of human beings that one should follow. This has helped the common people to understand his message very easily. He was against the caste system imposed by the Hindu community. Not just caste, Kabir also criticised the rites, rituals and customs which he thought were futile. From Khajinat al-Asafiya, we find that a Sufi Pir, Shaikh Taqqi was also the teacher of Kabir. Sufi-influence is also quite apparent in Kabir's teaching and philosophy.

Sant Kabir's teachings revolved around the concept of the formless God and rejected the traditional beliefs

**“Everyone thinks how to become a better son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister, husband or wife, and man or woman. But no one puts actual thoughts on that they are all HUMAN and how to become a better HUMAN. What can we do to learn how to be a better human? ”**

**-- Arish K Sahani**

and rituals of both Hinduism and Islam. Kabir emphasized the importance of devotion, love, and meditation to attain spiritual enlightenment. He believed that every human has a spark of the divine and should strive to connect with it. He particularly criticized the caste system, social inequality, and emphasized the equality of all humans. Sant Kabir's works have inspired millions of people to seek spiritual enlightenment and a connection with the divine.

Sant Kabir's works include verses, couplets, and hymns that reflect his teachings and ideas. He wrote in Hindi and drew inspiration from both Hindu and Muslim traditions. One of his most popular works is the "Bijak," a compilation of couplets that reflect his philosophy. His works were simple yet profound and inspire people to this day.

Sant Kabir's teachings embody the spirit of love, devotion, and universal brotherhood. His philosophy transcended the boundaries of castes, religion, and nationality and aimed to connect all humans with the divine. The influence of his teachings can be found in several Indian religions, including Sikhism and Hinduism. His influence is widely felt in the field of literature, music, and spirituality.

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**“If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?”**

**“If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?”**

**“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”**

# History This Week JUNE 21 - 27

## JUNE 21

June 21, 1964 - Three white civil rights workers - James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - left Meridian, Mississippi, at 9 a.m. to investigate a church burning. They were expected back by 4 p.m. When they failed to return, a search was begun. Their murdered bodies were discovered on August 4th.



Birthday - French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) was born in Paris. Dubbed the "father of existentialism," in 1964, he rejected the Nobel Prize for Literature when it was awarded to him.

Birthday - Britain's Prince William (William Arthur Philip Louis) was born in London, June 21, 1982.

## JUNE 22



June 22, 1918 - A Michigan Central Railroad troop train struck the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train in Ivanhoe, Indiana. Fifty-three circus performers were killed. Of the circus animals not killed, most were maimed and had to be destroyed. The performers, of whom only three could be identified, were buried in a mass grave.

June 22, 1941 - Starting at 3:15 am, some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 1800-mile front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."

## JUNE 23

June 23, 1865 - The last formal surrender of Confederate troops occurred as Cherokee leader and Confederate Brigadier General Watie surrendered his battalion comprised of American Indians in the Oklahoma Territory.

## JUNE 24

June 24, 1948 - Soviet Russia began a blockade of Berlin. Two days later the Allies responded with an emergency airlift to relieve two million isolated West Berliners. During the Berlin Airlift, American and British planes flew about

278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from eleven Allied staging areas in West Germany. The Russians lifted their blockade of Berlin on May 12, 1949, however the airlift continued until September 30th.

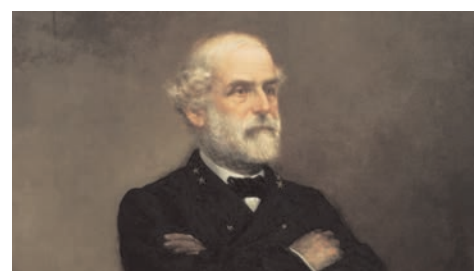


June 24, 2010 - Labor Party deputy Julia Gillard became Australia's first female Prime Minister. She was born in Wales and had moved to Australia as a child. She worked as a lawyer before entering politics.



Birthday - Boxing champ Jack Dempsey (1895-1983) was born in Manassa, Colorado. Dubbed "The Manassa Mauler," he reigned as world heavyweight champion from 1919 to 1926. Following his boxing career, he became a successful New York restaurant operator.

## JUNE 25



June 25, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Seven Days Campaign began as Confederate General Robert E. Lee launched a series of assaults to prevent a Union attack on Richmond, Virginia. The Campaign included battles at Oak Grove, Gainey's Mills, Garnett's Farm, Golding's Farm, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill, resulting in over 36,000 casualties on both sides. Despite losing the final assault at Malvern Hill, the Confederates succeeded in preventing the Union Army from taking Richmond.

June 25, 1876 - General George A. Custer, leading 250 men, attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. Custer and his men were then attacked by 2000-4000 Indian braves. Only one scout and a single horse survived 'Custer's Last Stand' on the Little Bighorn Battlefield. News of the humiliating defeat infuriated Americans and led to all out

war. Within a year, the Sioux Indians were a broken and defeated nation.

June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

June 25, 1990 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that it was unconstitutional for any state to require, without providing other options, a minor to notify both parents before obtaining an abortion.

June 25, 1991 - Following the collapse of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe, the republics of Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence from Yugoslavia. Ethnic rivalries between Serbians and Croats soon erupted. In 1992, fighting erupted in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Serbians and ethnic Muslims. A campaign of terrorism and genocide, termed 'ethnic cleansing,' was started by the Serbs against the Muslims. At least two million people became refugees, and about 200,000 were missing and presumed dead. Violence in the region raged on through 1995 despite economic sanctions and the efforts of U.N. peacekeeping forces in the area.



Birthday - British satirist George Orwell (1903-1950) was born at Motihari in Bengal (as Eric Arthur Blair). He is best known for two works of fiction Animal Farm (1944), and 1984 (1949).

## JUNE 26



June 26, 1893 - Illinois Gov. John P. Altgeld issued a controversial pardon for three anarchists convicted after the Haymarket Riot. The riot had occurred in Chicago in May of 1886, after 180 police officers advanced on 1,300 persons

listening to speeches by labor activists and anarchists. A bomb was thrown. Seven police were killed and over 50 wounded. Four anarchists were then charged with conspiracy to kill, convicted and hanged while another committed suicide in jail. Three others were given lengthy jail terms, then pardoned by Gov. Altgeld in a move that likely cost him his political career.

June 26, 1945 - The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco by 50 nations. The Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945.



Birthday - American author Pearl Buck (1892-1973) was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia. She became a noted authority on China and wrote books including The Good Earth which revealed the mysterious Chinese culture to Western readers. She received a Nobel Prize in 1938 for her many books.

Birthday - Champion athlete Mildred "Babe" Didrikson (1911-1956) was born in Port Arthur, Texas. Nicknamed after baseball legend Babe Ruth, she won two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics, setting world records in the javelin throw and high hurdle. She then took up golf, winning the 1946 U.S. Women's Amateur Tournament. In 1947, she won 17 straight golf championships and became the first American winner of the British Ladies' Amateur Tournament. As a pro golfer, she won the U.S. Women's Open in 1950 and 1954. She also excelled in softball, baseball, swimming, figure skating, billiards, and even football. In 1950, she was named 'woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century' by the Associated Press. She died of cancer at age 45.

## JUNE 27



Birthday - American musician Mildred J. Hill (1859-1916) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She composed the melody for what is now the world's most often sung song, Happy Birthday to You.

She is charming, she is classy, she is unique – she is the Queen of Hill Stations in India. Udhagamandalam, popularly known as Ooty is a hill station that will surely mesmerise you with its beguiling beauty.

A chain of misty hills spread across a lush green carpet – with plenty to see, enjoy and experience. Ooty is much more than a visitor's paradise. It lends a piece of itself to its guests that they will be thrilled to take back. One of the most beautiful hill stations in India, Ooty nestles in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu. An erstwhile summer resort of the British Raj in India, Ooty has transformed over the years into one of the most sought-after tourism destinations in Tamil Nadu.

With a cool and soothing climate almost all year round, Ooty welcomes tourists from far and wide. It's not just about the mountains and hills, Ooty offers much more to discerning travellers who drive up the winding roads to reach the pinnacle. Lakes, gardens, parks, peaks, waterfalls and simply amazing accommodation options. No wonder Ooty is called the 'Switzerland of India', of such grandeur is the scenic beauty the destination is so well acclaimed for. If you would love to relax over a cup of tea, sitting back and gazing at the vastness of nature, Ooty is indeed the place to be. Besides that, the Nilgiri biosphere is rich in flora and fauna, allowing you to escape into the depths of mystic jungles and explore once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Also, you just can't afford to miss the Toy Train ride from Mettupalayam to Ooty, which is the only daily operational meter-gauge, rack railway in India, providing you with mesmerising views of the Nilgiris.

## Top Attractions

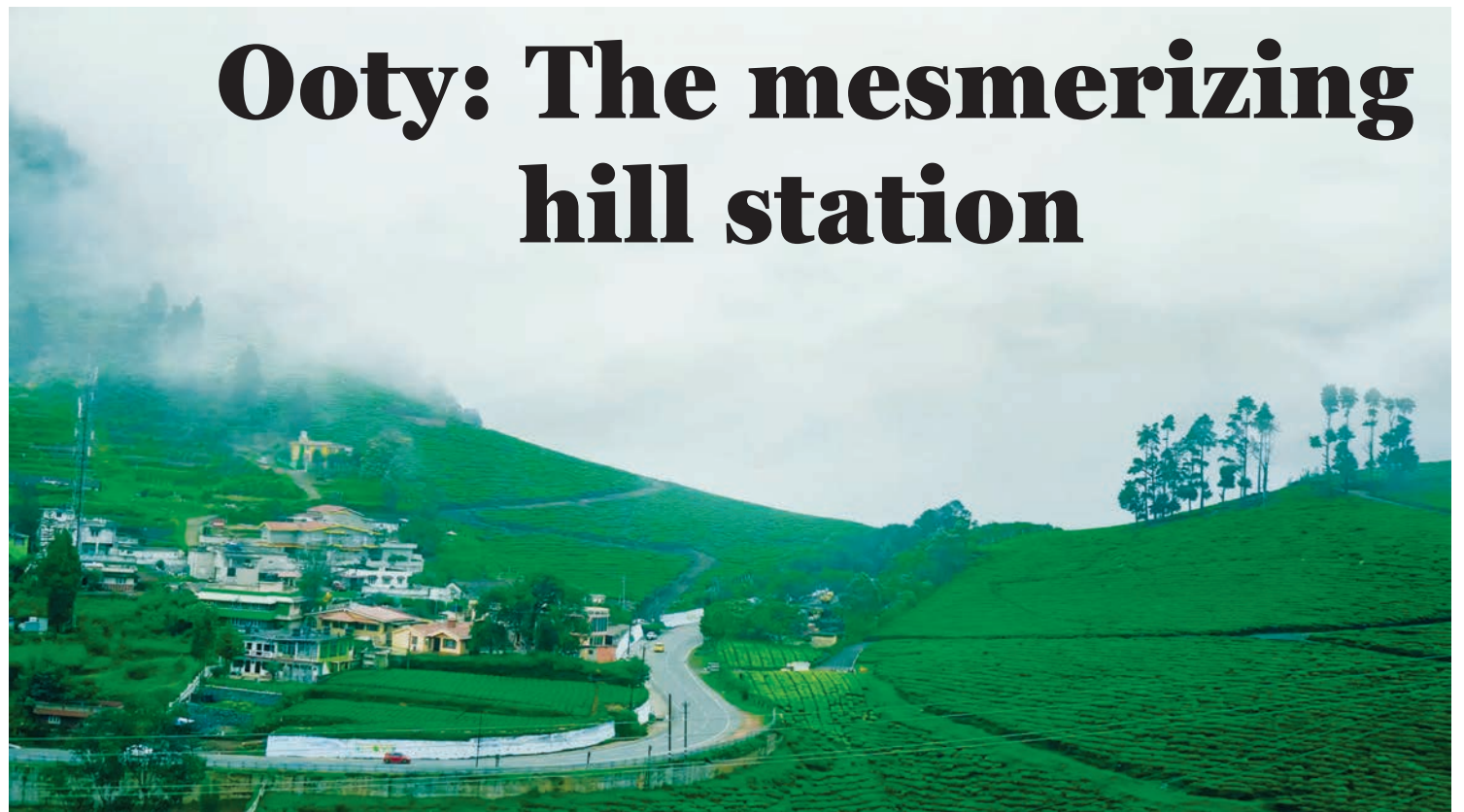
### Botanical Garden

The Government Botanical Garden in Ooty, spread over 55 acres, is a mesmerizing tourist site that has been attracting visitors for years. Situated about 2400 – 2500 mts above sea level, the botanical garden was established by Marquis of Tweedale in 1897 with William Graham McIvor as the architect.

The Ooty Government Botanical Garden has a lot to offer for Nature lovers with its 600 varieties of plant species cultivated and exhibited here. The verdant lawns and the exotic varieties of flora are pleasing to the eye because they are very well maintained by the Tamil Nadu Horticulture Department. The mighty Doddabetta peak can be viewed from the garden.

Some of the enticing attractions here are the Cork tree, which is probably one of the very few of its kind in India, the paperbark tree, monkey puzzle tree, the majestic 20-million-year-old fossil tree trunk and the Toda mund or Toda hill.

There is a garden built in Italian pool-style by the Italian prisoners of war from the First World War. It is remarkable for its many varieties of colourful annuals and the lily pond where aquatic plant species are grown.



### Ooty Lake

The picturesque Ooty Lake, also known as the Ooty boat house, is a much sought-after tourist attraction located in the midst of serene greenery. The Ooty Lake is an artificially constructed lake, built by John Sullivan in 1824.

Surrounded by the majestically-tall eucalyptus trees and dotted with green bushes along the shores, the Ooty Lake is an impressive spot in Nilgiris district. The Lake, spanning over 65 acres, was originally constructed for fishing. It was later transformed into a tourist park when the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation took over it in 1973. There are many fun activities that tourists can indulge in when they are at the Ooty Lake. Cycles are available for rent to ride around the Lake. Boating is another attraction. A tranquil ride through the waters is an attractive pastime as it lets one take in the entire beauty of the Lake. Paddle boat-, motor boat- and rowing boat services are also available. The ride offers a view of the serene greenery around and also of the distant hills.

### Pine Forest

A journey of just 15 minutes from Ooty town centre will take you to the famed Pine Tree Forests of Ooty. These scenic woodlands, obscured in a fleeting veil of mist, offer a delightful experience to all travellers.

### Deer Park

Spread over 22 acres in Udhagamandalam town is another tranquil spot near the Ooty Lake, that is home to a vast number of deer. About six acres of the lake have been used to develop the park. The park was inaugurated in 1986 and is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Although the name suggests that the park is exclusively for deer, the Deer Park is also home to a wide variety of birds and rabbits. This is one of the high-altitude animal parks in India and is easily accessible by road.

The Sambar and Chital species of deer



can be found in the park. The Deer Park in Ooty is a haven for Nature lovers as it is wrapped in a chilly climate and surrounded by enticing flora and fauna.

### Avalanche Lake

Hidden away from the commotions of urban jungles is the Avalanche Lake, a natural, crystal blue freshwater body. Nestled between the green slopes of the Nilgiris, the Avalanche Lake is a picture-perfect location set just over 20 km from Ooty town. The lake, with its refreshing blue waters and soothing greenery of the surrounding woods, is a treat for anyone in search of a getaway destination to escape the fatigue of

mundane life. The lake has some of the best views of the Nilgiris, overlooking the undulating hills draped in perfectly aligned tea shrubs and the opulent greenery of the woods, all in the background of a picturesque lake always veiled in a white fog. The Avalanche Lake and its surroundings are a pristine tract of the Western Ghats, immaculately maintained with the help of local tribes. The Avalanche Lake will be an enthralling experience for anyone who wants a getaway spot to escape into the raw beauty of Nature and be lost and undisturbed in its serenity. Avalanche Lakeshore is one of the best camping spots in Ooty.

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# Smiles and heartbreaks of T20 WC

**SOUTH ASIAN TEAMS END THEIR CAMPAIGNS ON A WINNING NOTE**



BY  
**PRABHJOT SINGH**

Three of the Asian teams competing in the T20 World Cup ended their group matches on a winning note. The last match wins proved inconsequential for Pakistan (over Ireland) and Sri Lanka (over the Netherlands) as they already stand eliminated from the next round. However, for Bangladesh, its 21-run win over Nepal made sure of its entry into the Super 8 round, thus making it the third South Asian team after India and Afghanistan to join the elite group.

Though Afghanistan has already assured itself a place in Super 8, it has a match against the hosts West Indies in hand.

Until the last group game, one Super Eight spot was still open after Nepal's heart-breaking loss to South Africa. With Nepal and Sri Lanka out of the reckoning, the battle was between Bangladesh and Netherlands. Bangladesh sealed its slot with a 21-run win over Nepal. Had Bangladesh lost to Nepal in Kingstown, and the Netherlands had beaten Sri Lanka in the last night games, the Super 8 qualification would have come down to net run rates. Since "ifs" are "ifs", nothing of the sort happened. Bangladesh had the NRR advantage also as it was on 0.478, compared to -0.408 for the Netherlands.

The only redeeming feature of the Sri Lanka-the Netherlands game was that the South Asian Islanders became the first team in this marquee event to cross the 200-mark. Sri Lanka made 201 for six, the highest of the tournament so far, before bowing out with two losses and an abandoned game. Sri Lanka then bowled out the Netherlands for 118 in 16.4 overs to win its last game by 83 runs.

India's last game against Canada was abandoned. The outcome was inconsequential to the Group A standings as India and USA qualified for the Super 8. After Pakistan won its last game against Ireland, it moved up to number three position in the group, pushing Canada to fourth while winless Ireland remained at the bottom.

A fiery opening spell from Tanzim Hasan Sakib powered Bangladesh to a slightly tense win over Nepal, sealing its progress to the Super Eight stage. For the second game in a row Nepal had a Full Member side on the ropes with its bowling performance in Kingstown. Its batters, however, could not withstand the onslaught of pace battery of Bangladesh.

A win, let alone a comfortable one, looked like a tricky prospect for Bangladesh after it was bundled out for



A fiery opening spell from Tanzim Hasan Sakib powered Bangladesh to a slightly tense win over Nepal.



The last match win proved inconsequential for Pakistan over Ireland.



Afghanistan has already assured itself a place in Super 8.

106. Having come within two runs of chasing down a slightly bigger target against South Africa, Nepal would have fancied its chances of recording its first win against a full member team, but Tanzim scythed through its top order with stunning figures of 4-2-7-4 that reduced Nepal to 26 for 5.

Since the asking rate was neither

high nor impossible, it kept Nepal in the hunt as Kushal Malla 27 made from 40 balls, Dipendra Singh Airee 25 from 31 balls, and wicketkeeper batter Aasif Sheikh 17 from 14 balls waged a gallant battle against the ball. But nothing could stop pacers Tanzim Hasan Sakib (4 for seven) and Mustafizur Rehman (three for seven) put on a death bowling



masterclass when Nepal needed 30 off 24 to help Bangladesh pull off the lowest successful defense in a men's T20 World Cup. In fact, when Nepal came to challenge the target of 107 runs, it found itself in a big trouble as Tanzim struck twice in his second over - the third of the innings. Kushal Bhurtel missed a low full toss that swung away late to clip the off stump before Anil Sah toe-ended his effort to mid-off.

As the battle between the bat and the ball continued, Taskin Ahmed created a couple of chances in the next over: It was Tanzim who reaped the rewards of the pressure built, with Rohit Paudel slapping a short and wide delivery straight to backward point. Tanzim nearly struck again in the over, but a plodder from Sundeep Jora fell short of the bowler.

Reliable Aasif Sheikh fell next, caught at cover to complete an excellent powerplay for Bangladesh. Tanzim bowled out in the seventh over, and picked up his fourth wicket when he had Jora caught at gully. He bowled a double-wicket maiden and a wicket maiden, and his 21 dot balls were the most by a bowler in a men's T20 World Cup match.

In the eighth over, Dipendra Singh Airee ended a 23-ball boundary drought, when he swept the last ball of leg spinner Rishad Hossain to help Nepal reach 50 in the next over.

Kushal Malla and Dipendra Airee continued to build the innings of Nepal, shifting gears in the 16th over when highest scorer for Nepal, Kushal Malla, slog-swept Mahmudullah for teams' first six of the innings. One ball later, he nudged him fine on the leg side for a four to bring up the fifty partnership. They were left with 30 to win off the last four. But Bangladesh did not let the chance go.

**Bangladesh 106 (Shakib 17, Kami 2/10, Lamichhane 2/17, Paudel 2/20, and Dipendra Airee 2/22) beat Nepal 85 (Kushal Malla 27, Dipendra Singh Airee 25 and Aasif Sheikh 17, Tenzim 4/7, Mustafizur 3/7) by 21 runs.**

# India wraps up Super 8 opener in style

## BATTERS, BOWLERS PUT UP STELLAR SHOW TO HELP INDIA MAKE WINNING START IN SUPER 8

By Prabhjot Singh

Putting up a good team effort, India wrapped up its Super 8 opener defeating Afghanistan by 47 runs. Both batters and bowlers contributed their mites in helping the 2007 champions to a dream start.

Deciding to bat first after winning the toss, India had the misfortune of losing its captain and opener, Rohit Sharma, early on with the scoreboard reading 11 from 2.5 overs. However, subsequent batters, including Virat Kohli, had their heads down as they missed no opportunity to punish the loose balls to end up with a defensible total of 181 for eight wickets.

Virat Kohli got his highest of this tournament by making 24 while wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh (20), mercurial Surya Kumar Yadav (53), Shivam Dube (10), Hardik Pandya (32) and Axar Patel (12) propped up Indian innings. For Afghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi (3 for 33) and skipper Rashid Khan (3 for 26) were devastating.

Chasing 182 for an outright win, Afghan batters met tough resistance from Indian pacers and spinners alike. While Jasprit Bumrah, as usual, was outstanding, finishing with a marvelous figure of three for seven, his opening bowler partner, Arshdeep Singh ended with three for 36, claiming the last wicket of Noor Ahmad on the last ball of the innings.

Though it was a turning track, India



It was Jasprit Bumrah who gave India a good start claiming the first two wickets of Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Hazratullah Zazai.

brought in Kuldeep Yadav to replace Mohammed Siraj. Though he was hit for three sixes, Kuldeep justified his inclusion by finishing with two for 32 while other spinners Ravindra Jadeja (one for 20) and Axar Patel (1 for 15) were among the wickets.

With one change in the team and winning the toss, skipper Rohit Sharma must have got into the game with mixed feelings as his form in the tournament has been far from expectations. Though he failed with bat again, making only 8 from 13 balls with the help of a boundary,

he inspired his colleagues to give their best. They did. Virat Kohli was more cautious than aggressive as he preferred singles and twos to build his innings. He hit a six but his usual Strokeplay was conspicuous by its absence. He made 24 from as many balls. Incidentally, it was his highest in the ongoing tournament. It was the first time in this marquee event, he got into the double figures.

The toast of Indian innings was Surya Kumar Yadav who notched up his second successive fifty from 28 balls with five boundaries and three towering sixes. He

held the Indian innings together while keeping the scoreboard moving. He got ample support from Hardik Pandya after Shivam Dube left at 90 for four. Hardik and Surya added 60 for the fifth wicket.

In between Afghan skipper Rashid Khan tied Indian batters in knots with his intelligent weave of spinners. He claimed the wickets of Virat, Rishabh, and Shivam Dube.

It was Jasprit Bumrah who gave India a good start claiming the first two wickets of Rahmanullah Gurbaz for 11 and Hazratullah Zazai for 2 to make the Afghan score 23 for 3 in 4.1 overs after Axar Patel had claimed the wicket of Ibrahim Zadran (8) with the score reading 23 for 2. When Jaspreet returned to bowl his second spell, he removed Najabullah Zadran for 19 by getting him caught by Arshdeep Singh.

For Afghanistan, Gulbadhin Naib (17 from 21 balls), Azmatullah Omarzai (26 from 20 balls), Najbullah Zadran (19 from 17 balls) and Mohammad Nabi (14 from 14 balls) were outstanding batters.

Arshdeep after an expensive opening spell of none for 22 in two overs, came back strongly to claim three wickets, including two wickets of skipper Rashid Khan and Naveen-ul-Haq on successive balls to end with an impressive tally of three for 36. The win for India comes as a great morale booster to start the Super 8 on a cheerful note with both batters and bowlers coming together with impressive shows.

By Prabhjot Singh

Giant killers of the group matches, and one of the hosts of the T20 World Cup, USA put up a magnificent fight before bowing down by 18 runs to South Africa in the first game of the Super 8.

Comprising mostly of players of South Asian and West Indian descent, the USA is also identified as "Mini India". Allrounder Harmeet Singh (2/24 and 38) justified the confidence put in the Diaspora.

Responding to a massive challenge of scoring 195 against formidable Proteas, USA came close needing just 28 from 12 balls. But it was experienced Kagiso Rabada, the most successful South African bowler, who just conceded 2 runs in his 19th wicket besides breaking the 91-run partnership between Andries Gous and Harmeet Singh.

Once Harmeet was gone, the game swung back in the favor of Proteas. In the final and 20th over, Anrich Nortje bowled well to concede just seven to end the gallant fight of the Americans, who had earlier in the group matches, caused a major flutter by defeating Pakistan by five runs in the Super over.

After slipping to 76-5 in pursuit of 195, a superb partnership worth 91 between Andries Gous and Harmeet Singh gave USA hope of a stunning victory. The hero of the American fightback was its wicketkeeper-batsman Andries Gous who

## South Africa survives a scare

### USA PUTS UP A GALLANT FIGHT BEFORE GOING DOWN TO PROTEAS BY 18 RUNS



Quinton de Kock top-scored for South Africa with a sublime 74 from 40 balls.

not only remained unbeaten on 80 made from 47 balls but also had a fruitful partnership with Harmeet Singh, who had earlier impressive figures of 2/24, claiming wickets on successive balls.

Harmeet Singh was a member of the

WC U-19 champion Indian team before migrating to the USA.

The USA lost its star batter and captain Aaron Jones for a blob when Keshav Maharaj, a player of South Asian descent, had him caught by de Cock.

Earlier, Steven Taylor and Andries Gous gave the US a good start putting up 33 runs in just 3.3 overs. They suffered a reverse when Nitish Kumar left at 53 with his score of 8, including a hit to the maximum. Cory Anderson, originally from New Zealand, too, could not last long and was out for 12 making US 71/4. When Jahangir fell for 3, the US were struggling at 76 for 5.

At this stage, Harmeet joined Andries Gous and the two went about repairing the damaged innings with some solid hitting. They took the total past the 150 mark. At the end of the 18th over, the US needed just 28 from 12 balls but the 19th over from Kagiso Rabada went for just two runs and included the wicket of Harmeet to drag the game back in South Africa's favor.

The final over from Anrich Nortje went for just seven as South Africa held on for the win.

Gous ended unbeaten on 80 after a brilliant knock that included five fours and five sixes, while Rabada was the pick of the Proteas bowlers taking 3-18.

Quinton de Kock earlier top-scored for South Africa with a sublime 74 from 40 balls, seven fours and five sixes. Quinton de Kock was declared man of the match.

Skipper Aiden Markram added a lively 46 from 32 balls and Heinrich Klassen 36 from 22 as South Africa posted 194-4 - their highest tournament score so far.



# Cricket is an amazing game that produces instant heroes

## SAHIL CHAUHAN OF ESTONIA PUTS NICHOLAS POORAN'S EFFORT TO SHADE

By Prabhjot Singh

Cricket is an amazing game that produces instant heroes. While Nicholas Pooran of West Indies was on a record-shattering spree against Afghanistan in the last group game of the T20 World Cup, elsewhere in Cyprus, Sahil Chauhan of little-known Estonia scripted history, smashing the quickest T20 century in 27 balls.

Neither Cyprus nor Estonia are any entities big enough to qualify for the T20 World Cup, a 6-match series played between the two teams at Episkopi produced some amazing records. The three-day six-game series featuring several players of Indian origin, including Sahil Chauhan for Estonia and Taranjit Singh for Cyprus, had the game statisticians busy. It may be a mere coincidence that Sahil Chauhan's unprecedented 27-ball century coincided with Nicholas Pooran's explosive innings of 98.

Sahil Chauhan also created a record of hitting 18 hits to the maximum in his unbeaten innings of 144 made from 44 balls. His fastest century also broke Jan-Nicol Loftie Eaton's mark of the fastest T20I hundred from 33 balls. It was also the fastest century in all T20s, thus eclipsing Chris Gayle's 30-ball innings in IPL in 2013.

In the first match of the series, Sahil went cheaply. In the second, Estonia had a dismal start while chasing a huge target of 191 for seven. Unperturbed by the early dismissals of openers, Sahil started on an aggressive note and took command of the game with his lusty hits to the maximum, smashing a record 18 sixes, to achieve a record strike rate of 351.21 and help his team win the game.

Thousands of miles away, the batters of the host West Indies were in terrific form. They not only recorded the highest aggregate of all Group matches - 218 for five in 20 overs - against Afghanistan but also saw wicketkeeper-batter Nicholas Pooran climbing to the top position as an individual scorer. He made 98 to overtake Aaron Jones of USA who remained unbeaten on 94 in the opening game against Canada.

The explosive Nicholas Pooran hammered 36 runs in one over of Omarzai's bowling. He got 6, 5NB, 5WD, 0, 4LB, 4, 6, 6 from the over that had eight balls because of a no-ball and a wide each.

Pooran with his superb feat joined a select band of cricketers who have scored 36 runs from an over in the T20 format of the game. Others on the elite list include three Indian players. Yuvraj became the first batter to score 36 runs in an over when he faced England's Stuart Broad and hit the pacer for six



ICC

**FASTEST HUNDREDS (BY BALLS)**  
MEN'S T20 INTERNATIONALS

1.		<b>SAHIL CHAUHAN</b> V CYPRUS, 2024	<b>27</b>
2.		<b>NICOL LOFTIE-EATON</b> V NEPAL, 2024	<b>33</b>
3.		<b>KUSHAL MALLA</b> V MONGOLIA, 2023	<b>34</b>
4.		<b>DAVID MILLER</b> V BANGLADESH, 2017	<b>35</b>
=		<b>ROHIT SHARMA</b> V SRI LANKA, 2017	<b>35</b>
=		<b>SUDESH WICKRAMASEKARA</b> V TURKEY, 2019	<b>35</b>



aramco

**PLAYER OF THE MATCH**

**NICHOLAS POORAN**

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP WEST INDIES & USA 2024

maximums in one over. Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh are the other two Indian batters.

During his 98-run innings, Pooran smoked eight sixes, taking his tally to 128 in the T20I format and past West Indies great Chris Gayle's total of 124.

West Indies put to bat first made its intentions obvious by going for big shots. However, opener Brandon King struggled to get the start and fell prey to left Omarzai after scoring 7 runs off 6 balls. From there, Pooran and Johnson Charles played their shots to put the Caribbeans in command.

Pooran's brutal assault of 98 runs propelled West Indies to 218/5, its highest first-innings total in the ongoing marquee event and also its highest total in the T20 World Cups.

After a day's rest, the next round of the T20 World Cup - Super 8 - will start Wednesday morning with the USA taking on South Africa. In the evening, West Indies will play the defending champions England. The two sides have a prolific cricketing history, with the Men in Maroon ensuring a dominant display at home against England in recent years.

Eight teams that have made it to Super 8 have been divided into two groups. Group A: India, Australia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh Group B: USA, England, West Indies, South Africa.

Fawwaz Baksh, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Tournament Director said:

"We are getting down to the business end of the tournament and fans can look forward to an exciting Super 8 stage. It is also great to see the two hosts, West Indies and USA qualify for the Super 8, and especially the USA, which is competing in an ICC Men's T20 World Cup for the first time. With other tournament favorites such as India, Australia, England and South Africa also in the mix, together with the impressive Afghanistan and Bangladesh teams, the next couple of weeks promises to be a cricketing spectacle."

Four of the Super 8 qualifiers have won the World Cup previously, India, England, West Indies and Australia. Super 8 matches will be played across four West Indies venues: Antigua and Barbuda (four), Barbados (three), Saint Lucia (three) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (two). Each team will play every other team in its group once, with the top two sides in each group qualifying for the semi-finals, to be played in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana on 26 and 27 June, respectively.

*(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)*

**CONTD FROM PAGE 3**

The half-hourly color countdowns were a favorite as people enthusiastically threw colored powder in the air with the accompaniment of energetic music. Later in the afternoon, DJ Karma rocked the crowd for hours.

True to its slogan, "When everyone is colorful, no one is special," the festival brought people together from all walks of life, ethnicities, and cultures to freely mingle and celebrate. The performances included dance and musical performances ranging from traditional to various contemporary genres presented by artists belonging to a wide range of schools and genres.

In partnership with the Health and Recreational departments of Jersey City, students of JC schools were allowed free entry to the color walk as part of the Healthier JC and Opioid Prevention initiatives for which Surati is working to create more health and fitness events this summer.

Founder and Artistic Director of Surati for Performing Arts, Rimli Roy said, "14 years ago, we started Holi as a small gathering indoors at a restaurant in Journal Square. Thanks to the support we have received over the years from sponsors, donors, and the community, the festival has grown significantly to become a destination event on the New Jersey-Hudson County-Jersey City & Hoboken waterfront."

Dignitaries who attended the event included Gina Hulings - Director of Hudson County Cultural Affairs, William O'Dea - Hudson County Commissioner, Joyce Watterman - Jersey City Council President, James Solomon - Jersey City Councilman for Ward E, and former Governor of NJ - James McGreevey.

Holi Hai 2024 was sponsored by the Exchange Place Alliance, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, The Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Jersey City Cultural Affairs, and Curry-On Restaurant.

Surati's 2024 programming is supported in part by the Jersey City Arts and Culture Trust Fund, The Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, NJ Arts & Culture Renewal Fund, NJ Tourism (visit NJ), The National Endowment for the Arts and by generous donors.

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Office: 201-360-1553

**ABOUT SURATI HOLI HAI:**

The mission of Surati Holi Hai is to bring together the diverse communities of Hudson County and beyond through a festival celebration of performances, arts, culture, educational events, and family-friendly programming. Holi - the most popular festival of colors originated in India as a celebration of spring, brotherhood, and unity. Though Holi has its roots in traditional Indian mythology, the very essence of it eliminates differences and negativities. Surati celebrates Holi as a strictly secular and "inclus ve" festival, encouraging participation from all cultures and ethnicities. Surati spreads the message of love and peace through Holi with its slogan "When everyone is colorful, no one is different".

Holi Hai Website

**ABOUT SURATI FOR PERFORMING ARTS AND MISSION:**

Award-winning nonprofit Surati for Performing Arts' mission is to create and present performing arts and cultural experiences that globalize themes rooted in Indian culture, that convey the universal message of equality, inclusion, and unity in diversity, through staged productions, arts-in-education, cultural festivals, educational and interactive workshops. Surati strives for artistic excellence and works with quality artists, administrators, and technicians who are culturally and ethnically diverse and brings its programming to the under-served communities as well. Surati has recently been recommended for funding by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Surati for Performing Arts Website

**ABOUT RIMLI ROY**

Born and brought up in Kolkata, Rimli Roy is the Founder and Artistic Director of Surati for Performing Arts and is a recipient of the 2024 Individual Artist Fellowship award from the NJ State Council in the Arts. As an artiste - dancer, choreographer, actor, producer, and director, she is trained in three distinctly different Indian classical dance forms-Odissi, Bharatnatyam, and Manipuri and has been working for over three decades to take arts to the community.

Rimli and the Surati team have performed at the United Nations, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and Kennedy Center of the Arts and have been featured in Vogue, CNN, and NBC to name a few.

**CONTD FROM PAGE 4****Sixteen Indian Americans among Business Insider's 'The Seed 100'**

**NITESH BANTA, CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, B12, NEW YORK CITY**

B12, the professional services firm that Banta cofounded in 2016, is his third venture as a serial entrepreneur. He previously co-founded the car-sharing app Getaround, and the student-focused venture firm Rough Draft Ventures, which is backed by General Catalyst.

As an angel investor, Banta said he's energized by the emergence of new tools and smaller startup teams boosted by AI. "There has never been a more exciting to be in technology," he told Business Insider. "The rapid rise of AI intersecting with new technologies and markets makes today a special time to build."

**ANKUR JAIN, FOUNDER AND PARTNER, EMERGENT VENTURES, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

Jain, the founder of Emergent Ventures, owes a string of successful investments to his own tech chops. The longtime Cisco engineer and product manager has been scouring the world for promising startups in artificial intelligence long before the category took to the stratosphere.

He founded Emergent in 2016. Since then, Jain has enjoyed several exits, with portfolio companies selling to enterprise giants like Databricks, Nutanix, SailPoint, and VMware.

**ABHISHEK SHARMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEXUS VENTURE PARTNERS, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA:**

An engineer by training who studied at the Indian Institute of Technology, Sharma cofounded the startup HelloIntern.com. He earlier did a stint at eBay and worked as an associate at the consulting firm Booz & Company. Since 2015, he's been with the VC firm Nexus Venture Partners, which focuses on enterprise SaaS startups in the US and digital companies in India. He has led some of the firm's deals with companies like Clover Health, and the sales intelligence platform Apollo.io.

**VIVEK GARIPALLI, INVESTOR, WORMHOLE CAPITAL, NEW YORK CITY**

Garipalli, a newcomer to the Seed 100, makes the majority of his investments in healthcare. He previously cofounded and led the health-insurance-tech company Clover Health, which went public in a 2020 SPAC deal that valued the company at \$3.7 billion.

He's currently the executive chair of Clover Health's board of directors and remains its largest shareholder. Before that, he co-founded the health system CarePoint Health and the revenue-services company Ensemble Health. Garipalli said, "Making startup bets through Wormhole Capital, the investment arm of his family office, allows him to focus on working with standout founders."

**AJAY AGARWAL, PARTNER, BAIN CAPITAL VENTURES, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Agarwal puts money and support behind founders solving hard problems in the physical world or for old-line industries. Over two decades at Bain, he led investments in companies like Kiva Systems and ShipBob.



He founded his first startup as a sophomore at Stanford and worked at Trilogy Software, where he ran products and sales for eight years until it reached \$300 million in annual recurring revenue.

**CONTD FROM PAGE 5****Indian-origin former Air Canada airline manager wanted in Canada's largest gold heist to surrender himself**

Lawyer Lafontaine said Panesar retained him as soon as he learned he was wanted on charges in Canada, according to the report.

The lawyer then contacted police and the Crown prosecutor to tell them Panesar planned to return voluntarily to Canada in the next few weeks.

"He is anxious to have an opportunity to demonstrate his absolute innocence," Lafontaine was quoted as saying. He added that Panesar is "tidying up his affairs abroad in preparation for his return to Canada".

The lawyer did not disclose Panesar's locations, citing safety concerns.

On May 6, investigators arrested and charged Indian-origin Archit Grover at the airport in Toronto as he flew in from India, according to the police. The police issued a Canada-wide warrant against his arrest earlier in connection with the theft.

In April, two persons of Indian origin - Parmpal Sidhu, 54, and Amit Jalota, 40 - both from Ontario, were arrested in connection with the case along with Ammad Chaudhary, 43, Ali Raza, 37, and Prasath Paramalingam, 35.

Peel Regional Police has said it is "following all investigative leads" to find the remaining suspects.

The stolen cargo contained 6,600 bars of .9999 pure gold, weighing 400 kg, valued at over 20 million dollars and Canadian dollars 2.5 million worth in foreign currency.

In an earlier statement, the police said that investigators seized one kg of gold worth approximately Canadian dollars 89,000, believed to be from the theft, smelting equipment, and approximately 434,000 dollars in Canadian currency.



ओ३म्  
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