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# Trump makes a forward-looking speech as he accepts GOP nomination

## THE DAY 4 OF THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION MARKED THE CLIMAX AND CONCLUSION OF A MASSIVE PEP RALLY THAT DREW THOUSANDS OF CONSERVATIVE ACTIVISTS



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump gives his acceptance speech on Day 4 of the Republican National Convention (RNC), at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S., on July 18, 2024. -Photo credit / Reuters

MILWAUKEE, WI (TIP): A defiant and bandaged Donald Trump accepted the GOP presidential nomination on July 18 at the Republican National Convention in a speech that largely ignored his most divisive plans and focused instead on uniting his party and the nation just five days after an assassination attempt that could have ended his life, an AP report says.

The 78-year-old former President, known best for his bombast and aggressive rhetoric, offered a softer and more personal message that draws on his brush with death.

"The discord and division in our society must be healed. We just heal it quickly. As Americans, we are bound together by a single fate and a shared destiny. We rise together.

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## New York City Mayor Eric Adams Inaugurates AAPI's 1st Ever World Health Congress



New York City Mayor Eric Adams cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the AAPI World Health Congress in New York on July 18, 2024. To his right is Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar

JULY 18, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York City Mayor Eric Adams inaugurated the first ever World Health Congress of Physicians, a Maga Convention of physicians of Indian Origin with the cutting of the Ribbon and a powerful and

memorable inaugural address at the Marriott Marquis on Times Square in New York City on July 18th, 2024.

In his brief inaugural address, Adams lauded the contributions of Indian American physicians across the United

**CONTD ON PAGE 36**

## INDIAN CONSULATE IN SEATTLE OPENS VISA APPLICATION CENTER



Consul General of India at Seattle Prakash Gupta, Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harell and State Rep Vandan Slatter at the inauguration of the India Consular Center in Seattle on July 12, 2024

JULY 13, 2024

SEATTLE (TIP): The Indian Consulate in Seattle inaugurated its new visa application center on Friday, July 12. The facility will offer full visa and passport services to the greater Seattle

area. Local leaders, including Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, Port Commissioner Sam Cho, and

**CONTD ON PAGE 12**



## Vinay Mohan Kwatra nominated as India's next Ambassador to the US

JULY 17, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India has nominated retired diplomat Vinay Kwatra as its next ambassador to the United States. The Ministry of External Affairs has not commented on the appointment, but an announcement is anticipated soon after the necessary formalities in the US are completed. The appointment comes just months before the US elections.

**CONTD ON PAGE 36**

Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the recently retired Foreign Secretary, has been named as India's next Ambassador to the US



Andy Singh

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## COMMENT

America at a Crossroads: Navigating  
Polarization and Presidential ChoicesBY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

America stands at a crucial juncture, marked by significant political polarization and an impending presidential election that has many citizens expressing disillusionment with their choices. Over 60% of Americans identify as either Democrats or Republicans, while more than 30% remain independent, aligning loosely with either party. Despite the diversity within each party, certain demographic trends are evident, particularly within the Republican Party, which predominantly consists of White Christians. This composition does not negate the presence of other races and faiths within the party but highlights a noticeable demographic trend. In contrast, the Democratic Party boasts greater racial, religious, and cultural diversity.

Independent voters, making up more than 30% of the electorate, play a pivotal role in determining election outcomes. Their votes are less influenced by party loyalty and more swayed by the candidates' programs and visions. As such, these voters hold the key to the final outcome of presidential elections. In recent weeks, sentiments from both

common citizens and opinion makers have echoed a profound dissatisfaction with the current presidential candidates. The criticism leveled against them is sharp and revealing.

One candidate is criticized for evasiveness, dishonesty, and a questionable record of personal and professional conduct. The other candidate faces scrutiny for perceived infirmity, which some argue impairs his ability to communicate effectively. Both have served as one-term presidents, and the general public sentiment leans towards a desire for better choices. Many Americans lament the apparent decline in the caliber of presidential candidates, reminiscing about the days when figures like Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman, Thomas Jefferson, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama graced the political stage.

Despite their perceived inadequacies, both candidates are fervently pursuing the presidency of the United States, a position of immense global significance. Many Americans wish they had the power to disqualify both candidates, seeking instead leaders who truly embody the values and capabilities required for such a critical role. Given that disqualification is not a feasible option, another scenario comes

into play, particularly concerning the current Democratic candidate, Joe Biden.

Joe Biden, the incumbent president, faces increasing calls to withdraw from the race. His recent bout with COVID-19 has kept him in isolation and away from campaigning, further fueling concerns about his health and ability to serve another term. By stepping down, Biden could secure his legacy as a dedicated lawmaker who served the nation admirably for 50 years, first as a senator and then as president. Such a move would not only endear him to the Democratic Party and its supporters but also bolster the chances of a Democrat succeeding him in the presidency.

Donald Trump, the Republican contender, is not universally beloved within his own party and certainly not favored by many independent voters. A Biden withdrawal could potentially pave the way for a more viable Democratic candidate, thereby diminishing Trump's chances of reclaiming the presidency. This scenario hinges on Biden recognizing the broader implications of his candidacy for the Democratic Party and the nation. Americans hope Biden has not yet been afflicted with senility so as not to see what lies ahead for him, for Democratic Party and for America, the Greatest Nation on the Earth.

## GUEST COMMENT

Vance candidacy: Trump's surprise  
pick may energize campaign

Senator James David Vance of Ohio was once an acerbic Donald Trump critic, calling him an idiot, a potential Hitler and 'cultural heroin'. Trump's pick for his running mate for the US presidential election in November has metamorphosed into his most ardent defender. The connection seems to be born of personal affinity and not just cold political calculation. Soon after the attempt to assassinate Trump, Vance said the moral responsibility lay with President Joe Biden, since the central premise of his campaign is that Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. Vance, a first-time Senator, is 39. His candidacy for Vice-President is likely to provide a

youthful counterpoint to both presidential candidates. The Trump camp will be hoping that it brings fresh energy to the Republican campaign. A close friend of Trump's eldest son, Vance is being seen as his potential heir, the one most likely to carry his ideological legacy beyond a potential second term.

A Marine Corps veteran, an alumnus of Yale Law School, a successful venture capitalist - Vance is a man of many parts. He is a leading light of the New Right, a populist conservatism that rejects many traditional Republican views. For Trump, Vance's background - he described a childhood consumed by poverty and abuse in his

best-selling 2016 memoir *Hillbilly Elegy* - gives him a genuine connection to the White working-class voters, especially those in the Rust Belt battleground states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Vance is also uniquely positioned to attract Silicon Valley donors.

Former Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy, Vance's classmate at Yale, said this could be the single-most formidable political ticket of his lifetime. Another Yale graduate, Vance's wife Usha Chilukuri, the daughter of Indian immigrants, would agree.

(Tribune, India)



# Dr. Hari and Kirti Shukla host a community reception to Indian Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan



Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan in his address requested the Indian American community leaders present to take care of the Indian origin students in the US

Seen in the picture, from L to R: Assemblyman David Weprin, Mrs. Monalisa Pradhan, Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Dr. Hari Shukla and Mrs. Kirti Shukla

JULY 10, 2024

**JAMAICA, NY (TIP):** Eminent Pediatrician Dr. Hari Shukla and his social activist wife Kirti hosted on July 10 a community reception to the Indian Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and Mrs. Pradhan.

New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblyman David Weprin, old friends of Shuklas



Consul General Pradhan was presented a robe of honor by the Shuklas

were guests of honor. The invited guests included community organization leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Consul General Pradhan touched upon various issues, from the working of the Consulate and consular services to the India-US relationship at various levels, emphasizing repeatedly the contribution of the Indian American Diaspora.

"Whether you look at our political relationship, our strategic partnership, people to people contact, cultural relationships; it's all primarily driven by the Indian American community", Mr. Pradhan said.

Dr. Hari Shukla spoke about his pioneering research on insertion of life line catheter in sick children. He



Senator Stavisky presented a robe of honor to Dr. Shukla on behalf of the community

said he created a mathematical equation for insertion of life line catheter in sick infants in 1986. Currently 65% of all hospitals in USA use this formula while taking care of sick infants. He gave a power point presentation.

In fact, Dr. Shukla was recently honored by the New York Senate for his work with the Liberty Award, which, according to Senator Stavisky, is conferred on people who have rendered meritorious services or have made remarkable achievements.

Senator Stavisky and Assemblyman Weprin also spoke on the occasion and related their close affinity and friendly relationship with the Indian American community.

Earlier, guests introduced themselves.



Mr. & Mrs. Pradhan, Senator Stavisky, Assemblyman Weprin, Hari and Kirti Shukla with guests

## Global Tech Outage Grounds Flights and Hits Businesses

**AIRLINES, BANKS AND BROADCASTERS WERE AMONG THE COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD REPORTING DISRUPTIONS, CITING TECHNICAL ISSUES.**

JULY 19, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):**

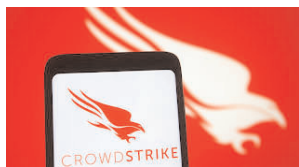
CrowdStrike, the cybersecurity firm that services numerous industries, was down across parts of the world on Friday morning, halting news broadcasts and grounding flights.

At least three major U.S. airlines, American, United and Delta, grounded all flights, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

In Australia, the New South Wales Police Force said on social media that it was aware of a system outage.

Problems persisted at Sydney Airport, one Australia's largest and busiest transportation hubs, just as the weekend was getting underway for many.

"A global technical outage has impacted some airplane operations and terminal



services," the airport said on social media. "Flights are currently arriving and departing, however there may be some delays throughout the evening."

The airport said it had activated its contingency plan and deployed additional staff to the terminals.

Representatives for CrowdStrike did not respond to a request for comment on Friday.

The round of severe disruptions on Friday comes after Frontier Airlines briefly grounded flights on Thursday evening because of a major outage in Microsoft networks. Some low-cost carriers like Allegiant Air and Sun Country Airlines were also affected.

Microsoft said the problem had affected multiple systems for customers in the central United States.

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## PUNJAB-ORIGIN MAN AMANJOT SINGH PANNU NOMINATED TO SENATE BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT



The government of the province of Alberta, Canada, has nominated Amanjot Singh Pannu as a senator of the University of Calgary.

**JULY 15, 2024**

**CALGARY, CANADA (TIP):** THE government of the province of Alberta, Canada, has nominated Amanjot Singh Pannu, a prominent Punjabi Canadian and media professional, as a senator of the University of Calgary.

The university is eighth largest in Canada and the nomination has been made by the Minister for Technical Education of Alberta, Rajan Sawhney. Pannu's tenure began on July 1 for a period of three years. Of the total 62 different members, Pannu is the second turban-wearing and third senator of Punjabi origin in the University of Calgary senate.

Pannu is currently the Director of Operations of Canada's Shadow Minister of Finance Jasraj Singh Halan. He has also been working in Calgary's Punjabi media sector and is a popular name in the Canadian-Punjabi community. His background is from village Sarfkot in Tehsil Dera Baba Nanak of Gurdaspur district.

In response to his nomination, Pannu said he will emphasize on establishing better coordination of the university with the local community and focus on representing the public interests of Calgary by coordinating with the universities of Punjab. The University of Calgary has about 36,000 students studying in it.

# Sikh community inaugurates wall mural in Perth

## MURAL ALSO RECOGNIZES THE NOONGAR, THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA

**JULY 16, 2024**

**PERTH (TIP):** The Sikh community in Western Australia's Perth has inaugurated a wall mural depicting the Sikh identity.

'Unveiling of 1st ever Sikh Mural at Gurdwara Sahib Canning Vale,' the Indian Consulate in Perth posted on X about the event on Tuesday, July 16.

The Consulate went on to praise Sikh Association of Western Australia (SAWA) and said, 'Well done SAWA for presenting Sikh heritage and culture to wider Western Australia multicultural society'.

The SAWA have got the mural made. Its Facebook page described the mural as "a unique and bold statement of a long history, welcome and belonging of the Sikhs in Western Australia".

The symbols emerge out from the wall at the Gurdwara in Perth. "They represent the past, present and future of Sikhs in Western Australia as well as values all woven together with the fabric of the Sikh Dastaar (turban) and



The Sikh Association of Western Australia (SAWA) have got the mural made.

Choonni (headscarf). Flowing fabric is a constant element of the Sikh community - a requirement to enter the Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) is to wear a head covering".

The blue and orange are the colors of Sikhi, it said adding the flow is also reminiscent of the five rivers of Punjab. The central circle is a steel Kara worn by most Sikhs as a reminder to do good and be in a constant relationship with the eternal.

On it is written the statement said in daily prayer by Sikhs - 'Sarbat Da Bhala' - a wish that all people and all creation receive the blessings of goodness.

The Mural also recognizes the aboriginal, the original, people of Australia. It depicts three hands in the colors of the Aboriginal flag acknowledging the land of the Noongar people of this land. (Source: TIP)

## Indian national among 5 killed in shooting at Oman mosque

**TAGLINE: A STATE-RUN NEWS AGENCY SAID THREE ATTACKERS WERE KILLED, AND REPORTED 28 WOUNDED OF "DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES"**



The shooting occurred on the eve of Ashoura, a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, that gave birth to their faith.

Photo: X/ @WarWatches

news agency said three attackers were killed. It reported 28 wounded of "different nationalities".

The shooting occurred on the eve of Ashoura, a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, that gave birth to their faith. The day falls in the Islamic month of Muharram, one of the holiest months for Shiite Muslims.

Such violence is unusual in the sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula. The US Embassy warned its citizens to "stay away from the area".

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement it "strongly condemns the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib" mosque.

A separate statement by Pakistan's information office said the government was "heartened that the government of Oman has neutralized the attackers" and that Pakistan has offered assistance in "bringing to justice those responsible for this heinous crime in this holy month of Muharram".

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

## 2 Indian nationals arrested for 'enslaving' 33 countrymen at farms in Italy's Verona province

**TAGLINE: THE SUSPECTS OWN TWO AGRICULTURAL SECTOR COMPANIES WITH NO EMPLOYEES ON THE BOOKS**

**JULY 14, 2024**

**ROME (TIP):** Two Indian nationals have been arrested for allegedly enslaving 33 farm laborers, all from India, in Italy's Verona province, according to a media report, weeks after the country was shocked by the tragic death of a Sikh farm worker who bled to death.

Finance police also seized assets worth 4,75,000 euros from the suspects, who own two agricultural sector companies with no employees on the books and are allegedly total tax evaders, ANSA news agency reported on Saturday.

The two alleged gang masters were arrested on Saturday, July 13, and are under investigation for crimes, including enslavement and labor exploitation, the Italian news agency said.

The issue of modern forms of slavery in Italy recently came to the fore of media attention following the case of 31-year-old Sikh farm laborer Satnam Singh, who bled to death after being abandoned by his employer after a strawberry wrapping machine severed his arm in Lazio, near Rome, last month.

Singh, who was an Indian national, died due to "copious bleeding", the ANSA news agency earlier reported.

On June 26, India asked Italy to take prompt action against those responsible for Singh's death.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said last month that Singh, one of thousands of Indian immigrants who work in the fields in the country, was the victim of "inhuman acts".

"These are inhumane acts that do not belong to the Italian people. I hope that this barbarity will be punished harshly," she said following a Cabinet meeting.

Gang mastering and the often violent exploitation of migrant farm laborers is a chronic problem in Italy, especially in the south of the country.

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



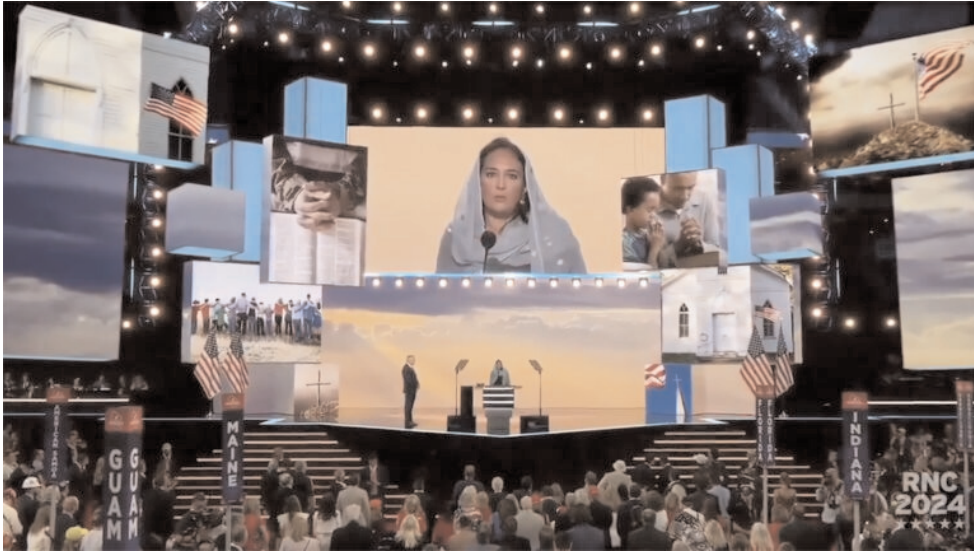
2 Indian nationals arrested for 'enslaving' 33 countrymen at farms in Italy's Verona province

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# Indian American lawyer Harmeet Dhillon offered 'ardaas' at Republican National Convention



Harmeet Kaur Dhillon offers a Sikh prayer at the Republican National Convention, Monday, July 15, 2024, in Milwaukee, Wis. -Video screen grab

**JULY 16, 2024**

**MILWAUKEE, WIS (TIP):** Republican Party leader and Civil Rights Attorney Harmeet Kaur Dhillon offered 'ardaas' (Sikh prayer) at the Republican National Convention in the presence of the party's Presidential nominee Donald Trump, days after an attempt on the latter's life.

A video posted on social media platform X by the California Republican Party,

showed Dhillon discussing the recent attack on former President Trump.

In the convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at the Fiserv Forum, she said, "These last 48 hours have been some of the most intense, yet more prayerful of our lives, the heinous attack on President Trump and his supporters made all of us pause and seek answers in comfort".

"I come from a family of Sikh

immigrants, and I'm honored to share with you, my fellow Republicans and guests tonight, a prayer from my faith and tradition practiced by over 25 million worldwide," she said.

"We recite the Ardaas prayer before any new endeavor, giving thanks to God and asking for his protection and help to uphold the values of humility, truth, courage, service, and justice for all," she added.

"Dear Waheguru, our one true God, we thank you for creating America as a unique heaven on this Earth, where all people are free to worship according to their faith. We seek your blessings and guidance for our beloved country. Please bless our people with wisdom as they vote for the upcoming election and please bless with humility, honesty, skill and integrity all those who conduct the election," she said after offering 'ardaas'.

She thanked God for protecting Trump's life and mentioned the leader's "tireless and uplifting spirit".

Dhillon has also served as the vice chairwoman of the California Republican Party and co-chairs the Women for Trump organization.

(Source: IANS)

## SEATTLE POLICE COP WHO LAUGHED AFTER INDIAN STUDENT JAAHNAVI KANDULA'S DEATH FIRED



Seattle Police Cop who laughed after Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula's death has been fired. Kandula (in the foreground) was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle.

**JULY 18, 2024**

**SEATTLE (TIP):** A Seattle police officer, whose insensitive comments and laughter following the death of an Indian student had caused outrage, has been fired.

Jaahnavi Kandula, 23, was struck by a police vehicle driven by Seattle Police Officer Kevin Dave as she was crossing a street on January 23. Dave was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmh) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle.

In bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and remarked that "Uh, I think she went up on the hood, hit the windshield, and then when he hit the brakes, flew off the car..But she is dead." After making these comments, Auderer "laughed hard for four seconds," the Disciplinary Action Report said.

Interim Chief Sue Rahr at the Seattle Police Department said in an internal email that the hurt Auderer's words have inflicted on Kandula's family "cannot be erased. The actions this individual police officer have brought shame on the Seattle Police Department and our entire profession, making the job of every police officer more difficult".

Rahr said as the leader of the organization, it is her duty to uphold the high standards necessary to maintain public trust. "For me to allow the officer to remain on our force would only bring further dishonor to the entire department. For that reason, I am going to terminate his employment," she said in the internal email seen by PTI.

(Source: PTI)

## Indian American CEO Praveen Tipirneni led Eli Lilly Acquires Morphic Therapeutic for \$3.2 billion



Dr. Praveen Tipirneni

**JULY 9, 2024**

**INDIANAPOLIS (TIP):** In a landmark deal poised to reshape the landscape of chronic disease treatment, pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly and Company has announced its acquisition of Morphic Therapeutic Inc.

The acquisition, valued at approximately \$3.2 billion, is set to bolster Eli Lilly's portfolio with groundbreaking oral integrin therapies, specifically targeting inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and other serious chronic conditions.

Morphic, headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts, has garnered attention for its innovative approach to integrin therapies. The company's lead program, MORF-057, is a selective oral small molecule inhibitor of alpha 4 beta 7 integrin, currently in Phase 2 trials for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. This promising therapy aims to improve patient outcomes and expand treatment options for those suffering from IBD, offering a potential shift towards earlier intervention and combination therapies.

At the helm of Morphic Therapeutic is its Indian American CEO Dr. Praveen Tipirneni, a distinguished figure in the biopharmaceutical sector. "Oral therapies could open up new possibilities for earlier intervention in diseases like ulcerative colitis, and also provide the potential for combination therapy to help patients with more severe disease," said Dr. Daniel Skovronsky, Chief Scientific Officer of Lilly and President of Lilly Research Laboratories. "We are eager to welcome Morphic colleagues to Lilly as this strategic transaction reinforces our commitment to developing new therapies in the field of gastroenterology, where Lilly has made significant investments to deliver first-in-class molecules for the benefit of patients."

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

## Indian American executive Monish Patolawala leaving 3M to join ADM as Executive VP & CFO



Monish Patolawala

**JULY 10, 2024**

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Indian American executive Monish Patolawala is leaving 3M to join Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), an American multinational food processing and commodities trading corporation, as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, from August 1.

Patolawala brings to ADM more than 25 years of experience overseeing global finance and technology teams across leading industrial and healthcare companies, most recently including 3M, according to a company announcement Wednesday.

As EVP and CFO of ADM, Patolawala will be responsible for overseeing Global Finance and Accounting, Global Business Services, Global Technology and Enterprise Strategy.

Chair of the Board and CEO Juan Luciano said, "We are thrilled to have an executive of Monish's caliber joining ADM as we focus our enterprise on productivity, innovation and delivering with excellence. Monish has extensive experience and an impressive track record leading global, sophisticated finance and technology organizations and delivering strong results. With more than 25 years overseeing innovation and sustainability-focused teams across leading industrial and healthcare companies, we are confident that Monish is a strong fit for ADM's continually evolving organization. Today's announcement is the culmination of the Board's thorough and thoughtful process to identify a proven leader to oversee our finance team as we execute with excellence across our strategic and operational priorities." Patolawala said, "It is an honor to join ADM as CFO at an important point in the Company's trajectory."

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



# Hofstra University and JGU University Make Partnership Official

JULY 17, 2024

UNIONDALE, NY (TIP): Hofstra University senior administrators welcomed a delegation of visitors from O.P. Jindal Global (JGU) University, the #1 ranked private university in India, to campus to formalize a partnership between the institutions, leading to a variety of new academic initiatives for students and faculty.

Over the past six months, Hofstra University and JGU have discussed visiting faculty programs, research opportunities, and a summer student exchange to begin in 2025.

At the conclusion of the July 16, 2024, meeting on Hofstra's campus, Hofstra Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Charles G. Riordan, PhD, and JGU Vice Chancellor C. Raj Kumar, SJD, made the agreement official by signing a



Hofstra Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Charles G. Riordan, PhD, and JGU Vice Chancellor C. Raj Kumar, SJD, made the agreement between their universities official by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Provost Riordan said, "Hofstra is committed to educating culturally

competent, global citizens who are prepared to lead. Our partnership with JGU, the premier private university in India, will accelerate student learning through bidirectional study abroad programs and research via faculty collaborations. The commonality of our core values portends a productive partnership, which we formally launch today."

Vice Chancellor Kumar agreed the partnership would benefit Hofstra and JGU students and faculty.

"Hofstra and JGU are kindred spirits. Hofstra University is a very inspiring institution with a long legacy of promoting higher education, excellence, and, most importantly, providing access and inclusion," he said. "We are looking forward to the student exchanges, dual degree programs, and short-term study abroad programs."

## Meet Eugene Resnick, Deputy Communications Director, MTA



Eugene Resnick, Deputy Communications Director and Spokesperson at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

JULY 18, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Eugene Resnick, Deputy Communications Director and Spokesperson at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) hopes to establish and strengthen a connection between people and the MTA.

The MTA includes New York City Transit subway, bus, Access-A-Ride, Long Island Railroad, and Metro-North Railroad, as well as MTA Bridges and Tunnels and MTA Construction & Development.

## Thousands Gather from the Tristate Area for Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj's Special Meditation Event in New Brunswick, NJ

JULY 17, 2024

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP): After an eight-year wait, world-renowned Spiritual Master, best-selling author and global humanitarian, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj returned to New Jersey, spreading joy, spiritual wisdom, and love.

The three-day special meditation event at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick attracted thousands of participants from the Tristate area and from across the world.

During the enlightening sessions, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji, head of Science of Spirituality, a nonprofit, nondenominational, spiritual organization, talked about how we can attain lasting peace and joy, individually, as a community, and globally. On Friday, July 5, his public talk was entitled "Peace and Joy Await You Within."

Commencing the program, three civic leaders from the state paid tribute to Sant Rajinder Singh Ji, presenting proclamations in his honor. In attendance were the honorable Dr. Brad Cohen, Mayor of the township of East Brunswick and also a practicing physician, Commissioner Emeritus and former New Jersey Assemblyman Mr. Upendra Chivukula who represented Assemblyman Sterley Stanley of East Brunswick, and Dianne Roman, Director of Human Services of the city of Perth Amboy, representing the Honorable Helmin Caba, Mayor of Perth Amboy.

Mayor Brad Cohen applauded Sant Rajinder Singh's tireless efforts and presented him a proclamation, commending the spiritual Master's contributions to helping individuals grow spiritually and find their sense of purpose. Mr. Upendra Chivukula presented Maharaj Ji with a joint



Mayor Brad Cohen of East Brunswick presenting a Proclamation to Sant Rajinder Singh Ji



Commissioner Emeritus Upendra Chivukula presenting a Proclamation on behalf of Assemblyman Stanley



The gathering

resolution from the state of New Jersey honoring his "selfless commitment to furthering the nobles of human values and aspirations" and for establishing "a model worthy of emulation" by all who strive to serve humanity. On behalf of the city of Perth Amboy, home of the SOS Center in New Jersey, Dianne Roman thanked Science of Spirituality for being a trusted and reliable member of its community, and for its partnership in serving the residents of Perth Amboy and providing invaluable opportunities

for them to grow spiritually. She presented a proclamation from the Honorable Mayor Helmin Caba applauding Sant Rajinder Singh's vision and efforts to help "humankind transcend racial, national, cultural, and religious differences through a shared vision of oneness, hope, and peace."

During his talk, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji described how each of us has an effect on the world around us.

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



# Meet Usha Chilukuri Vance, Indian-origin wife of Donald Trump's Vice-President pick

**A LITIGATOR AT A NATIONAL FIRM, USHA VANCE IS THE DAUGHTER OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS AND HAS AN IMPRESSIVE ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

JULY 16, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Usha Chilukuri Vance, the wife of JD Vance, whom Donald Trump declared as his running mate in the upcoming US presidential elections on Monday, July 15, brings a wealth of credentials and a deep connection to Indian values and culture.

A litigator at a national firm, Usha Vance is the daughter of Indian immigrants and has an impressive academic background. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from Yale University and a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, according to the New York Times.

Born Usha Chilukuri, she has carved out a distinguished career in the legal field, having clerked for Supreme Court Justices John Roberts and Brett Kavanaugh before Kavanaugh's nomination to the Court.

Raised in a suburb of San Diego, California, with a strong emphasis on education and hard work, Usha's academic achievements include serving as Managing Editor of the Yale Journal of Law & Technology and Executive Development Editor of The Yale Law Journal, according to a biography from Munger, Tolles & Olson law firm.

After four years of intense extracurricular activity at Yale, she continued her studies as a Gates fellow at Cambridge, where she engaged with left-wing and



Usha and JD Vance first met at Yale Law School and were married in Kentucky in 2014, with a Hindu priest presiding over a separate ceremony, according to the New York Times. -Photo credit / ANI

liberal groups. She was a registered Democrat in 2014.

Usha and JD Vance first met at Yale Law School and were married in Kentucky in 2014, with a Hindu priest presiding over a separate ceremony, according to the New York Times. The couple has three children together.

Usha Vance has played a subtle yet significant role in her husband's success. She assisted Vance in organizing

his thoughts on the social decline in rural white America, which inspired his best-selling memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy*, which was adapted into a film directed by Ron Howard in 2020.

In the past, she has made some rare appearances with Vance as he sought the Ohio Senate seat.

As the US presidential elections draw near, former US President Donald Trump made his pick for Vice President, selecting JD Vance as his running mate on Monday, July 15. Trump confirmed Vance's candidature through a post on social media.

Speaking to ANI, a US-based global real estate investment advisor and a well-known entrepreneur, AI Mason said, "Usha Vance is a highly accomplished attorney and daughter of Indian immigrants -- and her husband brings youth and diversity to the Trump ticket." "She knows the Indian culture and all about India. She can be a big help to her husband in navigating great ties between USA and India," the entrepreneur, who is also a friend of the Trump family, said.

Meanwhile, in an interview earlier with Fox & Friends, Usha Chilukuri Vance and her Senator husband talked about the two having different faiths, and what are their views on the speculations of him becoming a pick for the Vice President of the US.

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

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# VIOLENCE HAS BECOME A PART OF US POLITY



BY MANOJ JOSHI

## POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON EX-PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL BE HUGE

**"The reality is that violence has become a part of American political life. The courts have not helped by loosening controls on the availability and ownership of guns. An attempt to ban assault weapons like the Colt AR-15 that was used to target Trump lasted just 10 years and faced repeated challenges in court. Currently, certain states ban such weapons through their own legislation; Pennsylvania, where the incident occurred, is not among them. It is largely with such weapons that mass shootings are carried out; in July, there has already been one other shooting, leading to five deaths. In 2023, there were 604 shootings, leaving 754 people dead and nearly 2,500 injured. To say that the US Supreme Court has been unhelpful here would be an understatement."**

The political consequences of the assassination attempt on former US President Donald Trump will be huge and they will benefit him immensely. Of great import is Trump's instinctive and combative response to the attack. As he was encircled by Secret Service agents, with blood streaking down his face, he raised his right fist, shouting "Fight. Fight. Fight".

Images of a bloodied and angry Trump with a fist clenched, and an American flag fluttering behind him, have gone viral and will become iconic in the campaign. The presidential contest had already been plunged into turmoil just two weeks ago when Joe Biden's performance in the presidential debate raised questions about his ability to run an effective campaign.

It has been Trump's signature approach to put himself across as a martyr and victim of persecution on account of the legal cases against him. Now, his close shave with death will add to the notion of martyrdom.

By seizing the news cycle, the Trump assassination attempt could have the inadvertent effect of stilling the campaign for the removal of Biden as the Democratic nominee following the debate debacle. The Trump campaign would like nothing better than that.

The shooting will complicate the Biden campaign. In the past week, the President said he would now focus directly on Trump and his view was that he remained the best candidate to beat him. Indeed, his rhetoric that "it's time to put Trump in a bullseye" is now being retailed by some Republicans as a call to violence against their candidate. JD Vance, a potential vice-presidential candidate for the Republicans, posted that this was not an isolated incident but the inevitable consequence of the Democratic rhetoric that Trump was "an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs".

The reality is that violence has become a part of



It has been Donald Trump's signature approach to put himself across as a martyr and victim of persecution on account of the legal cases against him. -Video grab

American political life. The courts have not helped by loosening controls on the availability and ownership of guns. An attempt to ban assault weapons like the Colt AR-15 that was used to target Trump lasted just 10 years and faced repeated challenges in court. Currently, certain states ban such weapons through their own legislation; Pennsylvania, where the incident occurred, is not among them. It is largely with such weapons that mass shootings are carried out; in July, there has already been one other shooting, leading to five deaths. In 2023, there were 604 shootings, leaving 754 people dead and nearly 2,500 injured. To say that the US Supreme Court has been unhelpful here would be an understatement.

In recent years, violence has dogged the US election process since the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot, when Trump's supporters sought to overturn the result of the election that was won by Biden. Nine people died in the mayhem before the insurrection was suppressed and for which Trump faces charges.

The current American polity is deeply divided. A Pew Research Centre poll has found that nearly two-thirds in each party believe that those in the other are immoral, dishonest and close-minded.

That Trump's rhetoric is incendiary is no secret. In an interview in March, he declared that there would be a 'bloodbath' if he lost in November; later at a rally, he repeated: "Now if I don't get elected... it's going to be a bloodbath for the country." In March 2023, he had warned of "potential death and destruction" if he was charged by the Manhattan district attorney for the case in which he was later convicted. There are numerous instances of his threats that "there will be riots in the streets", "bedlam in the country" if he was wronged. His followers have spoken of violence against migrants, foreigners and people of non-White races. Indeed, after his May conviction on 34 felony counts, pro-Trump websites were flooded with calls for riots, revolution and violent retribution.

There has been a political pattern in the violence of recent years. In 2017, Steve Scalise, Republican House Majority Whip, was shot at during a baseball game by an anti-Republican gunman, who was shot dead. In 2018, a Florida man mailed pipe bombs to critics of then President Trump. Among those targeted were Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris. Two years later, six persons were convicted of a plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and make her stand 'trial' for treason before the 2020 elections. In 2022, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi was targeted; her husband was seriously injured in an attack. The far-right assailant had planned to take Pelosi hostage.

In these circumstances, the average American is bound to be disheartened and dispirited. The way they see it is that the extreme wings of both parties are holding sway, leaving little room for the bipartisanship that characterized American polity in the past.

In the coming days and weeks, we will see the unfolding of the consequences of recent events - the Biden debate fiasco and, layered upon it, the assassination attempt on Trump. While most right-thinking people will be hoping that the shock impact of the attack will bring a certain calmness in its wake, there is no guarantee of it. A Pandora's box has been priced open by social media and already the evils of disinformation, hyperbole, extremism, racism, polarization and distrust are swirling about cyberspace, with the Russians and Chinese adding their bit.

A great deal depends on how Trump handles the situation. He could choose to use the assassination attempt to attack the Democrats and deepen divisions or take the high road and seek to heal the partisan rifts. But grievance and retribution have long been Trump themes, and though his immediate response has been cool and sober, all bets are off on which direction he could take in the coming days.

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



# BUDGET MUST AIM FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



BY SUSHMA  
RAMACHANDRAN

**POLICYMAKERS WOULD DO WELL TO MAINTAIN THE STEEP RISE IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

**"The new government, thus, has an enormous task ahead as it prepares the Budget, even though GDP growth has reached moderately high levels over the past two years. It needs to ensure that growth is inclusive so that all segments of society can reap the benefits. The recent elections have shown that aspirations are rising all over the country. Social welfare policies are clearly welcome in the short term, but they must make way for sustainable development in the long run."**

The first Budget of the new government is being prepared in the backdrop of continuing tensions in the geopolitical arena. The Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict show no signs of abating. The domestic economy may be growing in a sustained manner at around 8 per cent, but the outlook may alter, depending on the stability of the external environment. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman must be hoping that global oil prices would remain subdued and that Western economies emerge from recessionary trends that have affected export growth. Keeping international ocean lanes free from strife will also be critical to avoiding an undue rise in costs of inbound or outbound trade. Clearly, the external headwinds have the potential of playing spoilsport with the India growth story. It is, therefore, essential that the Budget keep the focus on strengthening key sectors like infrastructure and services while supporting agriculture and the rural economy in equal measure.

Social welfare policies are clearly welcome in the short term, but they must make way for sustainable development in the long run.

On the infrastructure front, policymakers would do well to maintain the steep rise in capital expenditure recorded over the past few years. The 2024-25 Interim Budget scaled down the earlier 30 per cent rise in capex to about 16.9 per cent, but a higher increase is warranted, given the vast infrastructure gap in the country. Though this may not create a huge number of skilled jobs



Job creation is bound to be high on the government's agenda

-Photo credit / PTI

immediately, it will undoubtedly have a long-term impact on employment creation. The fact that the Reserve Bank of India has transferred Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the Central Government exchequer gives it considerable cushion to continue in this direction during the current fiscal as well.

The Budget will also need to move towards creating an easier climate for private investment, which has been lagging behind the public sector. While policies already in place - such as the production-linked incentive schemes - will give a boost to manufacturing, procedures need to be further streamlined. The regulatory environment has certainly come a long way since the 1991 economic reforms. But comparisons with the past are no longer relevant. Comparisons now need to be made with other emerging economies. Countries like Vietnam and Indonesia are offering simpler and easier investment regimes, an attraction for multinationals to set up base there. India, in contrast, is not looking so appealing.

Domestic investors have to contend with higher capital and logistics costs. Yet, the main hurdle for both domestic and foreign investors remains the plethora of clearances needed to set up new projects. These issues are now largely at the level of the states or even local municipalities. Bringing the ease of doing business down to this level needs to be part of next-generation reforms.

An indication that this is already being considered lies in the economic statement issued with the 2024-25 Interim Budget in February. It referred to improving governance at the block, district and village levels. A one-time

loan to states, amounting to Rs 75,000 crore, was also offered for growth and development-oriented reforms. The focus areas were identified as health, education, skilling and land acquisition.

The only snag in this plan is that not all states will cooperate despite the availability of loans to carry out reforms. BJP-ruled states are bound to comply with directives from the Centre, but the same response may not be forthcoming from other states. The aim of kickstarting next-generation reforms may, thus, be only partially successful. At the same time, some states, especially in the southern region, already seem to have streamlined regulatory processes. The result is that investors are making a beeline for them. For instance, tech giants like Apple and Microsoft are locating new projects primarily in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Policies adopted by these states need to be studied and replicated in others.

In this context, budgetary provisions need to be made for the critical segment of education and skilling. While job creation is bound to be high on the government agenda, the fact is that many sectors are facing a shortage of skilled personnel. There is also a mismatch between the type of education and the specific skills needed by industry. Long-term policy prescriptions should be formulated to resolve this issue but, in the short run, the upcoming Budget can provide adequate allocations for skilling institutes.

In addition, education needs to be given greater attention. This is a country with excellent higher education institutes like the IITs and IIMs, but primary and secondary education are in a dismal state. Here, too, the Centre and

the states need to work together to ensure that our large, youthful population is well equipped to enter the workforce.

The Finance Ministry also needs to give more support to services like travel and tourism, both in terms of their contribution to the GDP as well as employment creation. The hospitality industry is seeking infrastructure status for hotels to enable it to access better financing options and attract more investment. This sector is rebounding strongly from the Covid-induced collapse, but some targeted support would expand employment opportunities.

As for the agricultural policy, there is an urgent need to establish agro-linked industries in rural areas. Along with incentives to set them up, systems are needed to be established so that farmers can access retail markets in a more direct way. The creation of more income generation avenues as well as basic infrastructure in rural areas must be taken up on an urgent basis. Otherwise, the urban-rural divide will continue to widen in the coming years.

The new government, thus, has an enormous task ahead as it prepares the Budget, even though GDP growth has reached moderately high levels over the past two years. It needs to ensure that growth is inclusive so that all segments of society can reap the benefits. The recent elections have shown that aspirations are rising all over the country. Social welfare policies are clearly welcome in the short term, but they must make way for sustainable development in the long run.

*(The author is a Senior  
Financial Journalist)*



# Subtle seizure of Russian assets by West limits diplomatic solution



BY AMARJIT BHULLAR

**THE SEIZURE OF RUSSIAN ASSETS WILL MAKE THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTION SYSTEM SUBSERVIENT TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CURRENTS.**

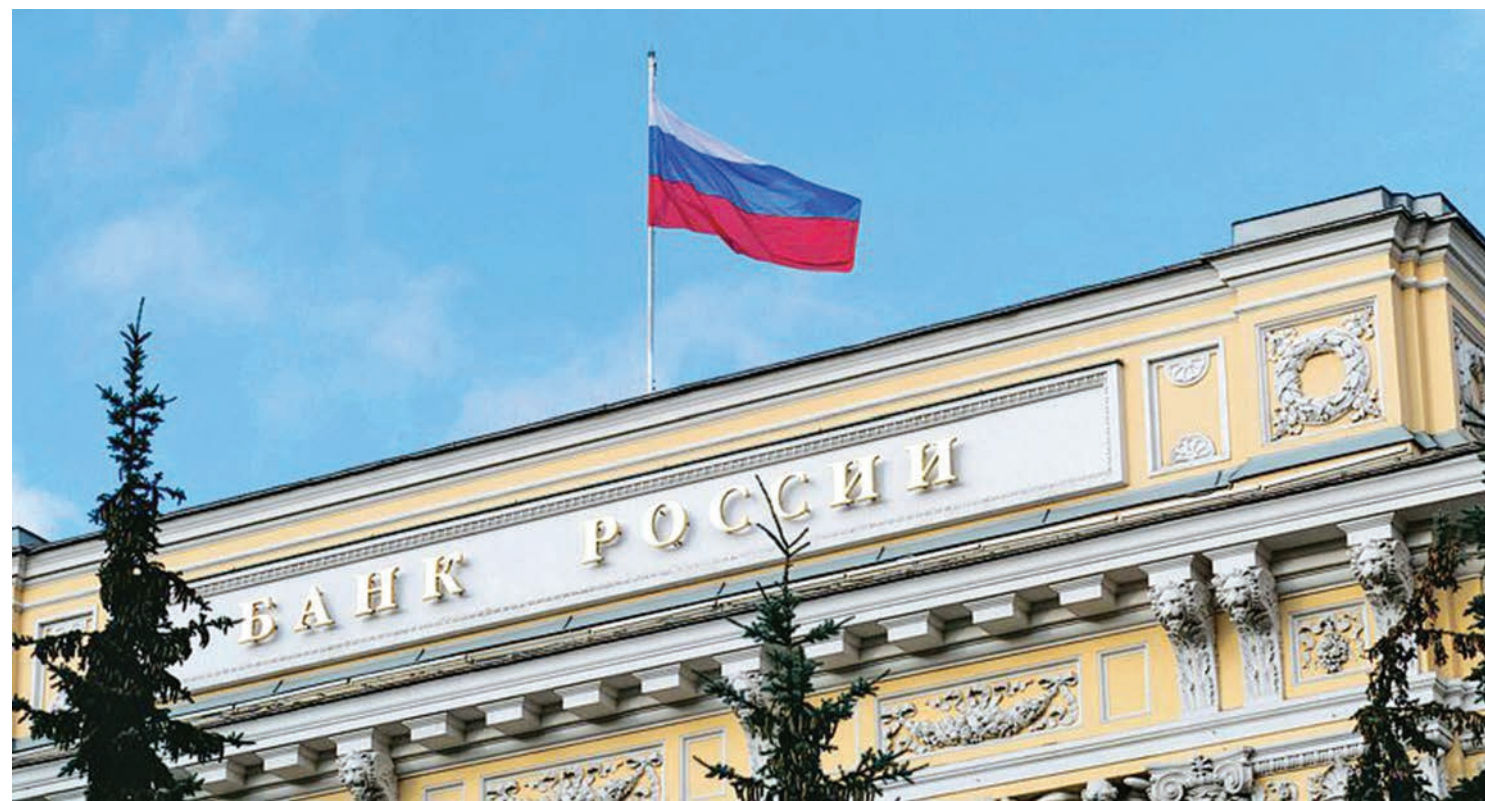
**"The seizure of the Russian assets will make the international financial transaction system untrustworthy and subservient to global political currents. Russia is already holding Western countries responsible for initiating and prolonging the war. Adding another dimension to the war will expand it to a new level, limiting the possibility of a diplomatic solution."**

The Western bloc, including more than two dozen countries, is fighting a proxy war against Russia by providing weaponry and strategic, financial and logistical support to Ukraine. It has also attempted to destabilize Russia's financial situation through economic, financial and trade sanctions. In March 2022, the European Union (EU), Japan and the Group of Seven (G7) froze some 300 billion euros (\$323 billion) of Russian central bank assets to retaliate against Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Now, they have initiated a new battle by subtly seizing frozen Russian assets. The US and other G7 countries have agreed to provide Ukraine with a \$50-billion loan to help it acquire weapons and begin rebuilding damaged infrastructure. The loan will be repaid in about 30 years, using the interest earned on frozen Russian assets.

The rationale for utilizing the interest income earned from Russian assets is based on the international legal doctrine of reprisals. However, this doctrine is truly applicable when a state inflicts harm on another, and the injured and specially affected party can undertake proportional counter-measures against the offender. Ukraine, being directly involved in the war, rightly exercised this right and seized about \$880 million in Russian-owned property and businesses within its borders in May 2022. Surprisingly, this doctrine is also being applied by the parties that are not directly affected by the Russian invasion in Ukraine. It weakens the rules-based order that Western governments claim to be defending all the time.

This measure had been taken under duress as Western leaders are fearing difficulties in future funding to Ukraine and seeking alternative solutions.



The move will not affect Russia economically in a significant way

Photo for representation only / istock

The G7 nations and their allies are convinced that the Western aid to Ukraine is morally, legally and strategically urgent. But the foreign aid to fund the Ukraine war has remained politically entangled for a long time in both the EU and American politics. The EU leaders met a few times in 2023 to secure additional funding for Ukraine. In December 2023, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban vetoed the proposal of 50-billion euro (\$54 billion) aid to Ukraine. Since then, the EU has been attempting to bring Hungary in line with this issue. In February this year, Hungary finally agreed to the proposal after a coordinated, behind-the-scenes pressure created by other member countries. Hungary holds the rotating presidency of the Council of EU this year and Viktor Orban may create hurdles in future funding to Ukraine.

The US also faced a political challenge for further funding as House Republicans insisted on new border security policies that President Biden was unwilling to support, creating a political stalemate. Biden's proposal to provide \$61.5 billion to Ukraine was passed in April after months of hard-right resistance.

Ukraine faces significant threats to its ability to continue its fight and is now losing ground. The US has vehemently proposed the one-time seizure of the total Russian assets parked in the EU and the US to finance the war. But most of the frozen Russian assets are in the Brussels-based depository Euroclear and other European financial institutions. However, the European allies did not agree to this and chose an alternative

approach that they suppose is milder. But it is essentially an indirect seizure.

Undoubtedly, this measure will lock Russian assets for 30 years. But it will not affect Russia economically in a significant way. Russia has had a substantial current account as well as trade surplus in the last three years that has helped it to replenish a substantial portion of the frozen assets. Sacrificing the interest on the assets parked outside will have insignificant additional effects. But it will have a profound impact on the global financial system and diplomacy.

Biden did release the frozen Iranian assets in exchange for five US hostages in September last year. Likewise, the unlocked Russia's frozen assets could have been potentially utilized as a bargaining tool during negotiations to end the war. But that negotiating leverage is almost gone now. Even if the frozen assets are used as a bargaining chip, Russia will demand back the interest earned from the frozen assets, and who will pay that? Even if Russia gets \$300 billion after 30 years, its present value is just \$50 billion (as calculated by using the economics tool 'time value of money' assuming 6 per cent discount rate and annual compounding).

In 2023, Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Yuliya Kovaliv, while hailing the proposed legislation for seizing foreign assets, in a message to the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice's annual conference in Ottawa, wrote, "You need to remember, most of these assets are corrupt assets, are assets of Russian oligarchs that got their huge fortune by being close to the Putin regime, by using the taxpayers' money

for their personal interests or the interests of their companies."

The US and its allies agreed with this narrative and acted in a veiled manner to acquire Russian companies' assets (along with state assets), holding them responsible for Putin's actions. Similarly, Russia can acquire public and private property belonging to its opponent states and their citizens as a countermeasure.

The US and its allies are trying to end the war by exerting economic pressure on Russia. The policy is to destabilize Russia through economic and financial sanctions along with the continuous arming of Ukraine, virtually giving a go-away to diplomacy to contain the war. Economist Jeffrey Sachs puts it like this: "There has been a complete collapse of the diplomacy between US and Russia - instead of focusing on the policy, Biden focuses on personal vis-à-vis President Vladimir Putin. Recently, he referred to President Putin as 'a crazy SOB.'" In the press conference following the NATO summit in Washington, Biden described Putin "a murderous madman on the march".

The seizure of the Russian assets will make the international financial transaction system untrustworthy and subservient to global political currents. Russia is already holding Western countries responsible for initiating and prolonging the war. Adding another dimension to the war will expand it to a new level, limiting the possibility of a diplomatic solution.

*(The author is Ex-Professor,  
University of Northern British  
Columbia)*



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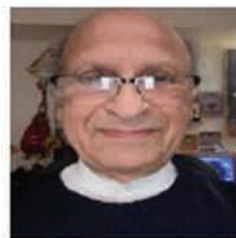


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# Indian Consulate in Seattle opens visa application center



Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harell signs the Visitor's Book



Mayor Bruce Harrell expressed admiration for the Indian community in Seattle, praising their contributions in enriching the bonds between India and the USA.



Consul General Prakash Gupta addressing the diaspora community at the inauguration of India Consular Centre in Seattle



Dignitaries with guests and consular staff

the Ministry of External Affairs.

These centers are designed to streamline the visa process for Indian nationals and provide support for other consular needs.

Prakash Gupta, Consul General of India in Seattle, said, "The opening of the Indian consulate in Seattle reflects the government of India's commitment to deepening relations with the Pacific Northwest states." "These new centers in Seattle and Bellevue are designed to provide a more convenient experience for all consular applicants preparing for travel to India," Gupta said.

The Seattle Center will be equipped with world-class facilities aimed at providing an easily accessible and a superior application experience for customers and will make the application process more convenient for travelers. These services are expected to benefit the nearly half million-strong Indian diaspora community in the consular jurisdiction of the Indian Consulate in Seattle which include nine Pacific Northwestern states -- Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming.

Amit Kumar Sharma, Head - Americas, VFS Global, said, "VFS Global shares a long-standing relationship with the Government of India since 2008 and we are excited to expand our partnership further. The new center in Seattle and Bellevue, United States of America will play a crucial role in effectively catering to the growing demand for visa and consular services to India. We are confident that these visa application centers will enhance customer experience by making the visa application process even more smooth, thereby helping us serve the travelers and Indian diaspora better."



Dignitaries at the inauguration of India Consular Centre in Seattle from left to right: CGI India Seattle Prakash Gupta, Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harell, State Rep Vandana Slatter, Shubhashish Ganguly, Western Regional Head- VFS Global, and Sam Cho, Port Commissioner, Port of Seattle

**CONTD FROM PAGE 1**

State Rep. Vandana Slatter, were among those who attended the event.

Mayor Harrell presented the first Indian passport and visa to eager applicants, marking a special moment for the community.

Mayor expressed admiration for the Indian community in Seattle, praising their contributions in enriching the bonds between India and the USA.

In addition to the Seattle location, a drop-off facility is now open at Bellevue making it easier for Eastsiders to access these services.

Both the Seattle and Bellevue Indian Visa Application Centers (IVAC) are operated by VFS Global -- the outsourced visa services partner of

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# Biden expected to make major announcement about his re-election bid: media reports

JULY 19, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** US President Joe Biden is expected to make a major announcement on his re-election bid, with several senior Democratic leaders suggesting that he leave the race following his disastrous debate performance, a failed assassination attempt on his rival Donald Trump, his poor health, and falling poll numbers, according to media reports.

"Several people close to President Biden said on Thursday, July 18, that they believe he has begun to accept the idea that he may not be able to win in November and may have to drop out of the race, bowing to the growing demands of many anxious members of his party," The New York Times reported.

Biden, 81, is spending time at his Delaware residence in isolation after he was tested positive for COVID-19. Media reports said that top leaders of the Democratic party, including former president Barack Obama, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, have asked him to leave the presidential race, in the absence of which the party risks



Biden may drop out of Presidential race, media reports say. -File photo

losing the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"People close to top Democrats said Thursday that it now appeared it was a matter of when-not if-Biden bows out of the presidential race. In the past day or so, former President Barack Obama has told friends who have called him that Biden's path to victory is narrow, according to people familiar with the calls," The NYT report said.

The Washington Post reported Thursday night that Pelosi has stepped up her behind-the-scenes role in working to persuade the president to bow out of campaign. Obama has said that he has a very slight chance of winning the race.

According to The Hill, Vice President Kamala Harris has started looking for options for her running mate. The three being talked about right now are Senator Mark Kelly, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper.

Most of the media reports said that Biden's announcement on his re-election bid might come after the conclusion of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

"One of the people close to him warned that the president had not yet made up his mind to leave the race after three weeks of insisting that almost nothing would drive him out. But another said that 'reality is setting in', and that it would not be a surprise if Mr. Biden made an announcement soon endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as his replacement," The NYT reported. (Source : PTI)

## Trump's running mate J D Vance promises to fight for working-class Americans in VP acceptance speech



J D Vance promised to fight for working-class Americans, as he made his debut at the Republican National Convention

File photo

JULY 18, 2024

**MILWAUKEE (TIP):** US

Republican vice presidential nominee J D Vance praised former president Donald Trump and promised to fight for working-class Americans "cast aside and forgotten" by the Democrats, as he made his debut at the Republican National Convention.

Vance, 39, formally accepted the Republican vice-presidential nomination on the third day of the convention on Wednesday, making him among the youngest Americans to ever fill that role.

Introducing himself to millions of Americans, the Ohio Senator channeled his humble roots in the Midwest as he assailed politicians like President Joe Biden.

Trump and his running mate Vance will challenge President Biden and his Vice-President Kamala Harris from the Democratic Party in the November 5 presidential election.

Vance said for the last eight years, President Trump has given everything he has to fight for the people of our country.

Trump didn't need politics, but the country needed him, he said.

"Prior to running for president, he was one of the most successful businessmen in the world. He had everything anyone could ever want in life. And yet, instead of choosing the easy path, he chose to endure abuse, slander, and persecution," he said.

The author of the best-selling memoir Hillbilly Elegy, about his impoverished family, said "America's ruling class" had destroyed communities like his hometown with trade agreements and foreign wars.

"From Iraq to Afghanistan, from the financial crisis to the Great Recession, from open borders to stagnating wages, the people who govern this country have failed and failed again," he said.

Trump represents America's last best hope to restore what - if lost - may never be found again, he said.

"I pledge to every American, no matter your party, I will give everything I have," Vance said. "To serve you and to make this country a place where every dream you have for yourself, your family and your country will be possible once again."

He accused "career politicians" like President Biden, 81, of destroying communities like his with ill-fated trade policies and foreign wars.

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

## Trudeau visits Dosanjh's sold-out concert, says "Canada's a great country where a guy from Punjab can make history and sell out stadiums"



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau visits Diljit Dosanjh ahead of his sold-out Toronto concert. Video grabs



Singer Harshdeep Kaur wrote, "Legend."

One of the users wrote, "@diljitdosanjh thank you for representing each one of us on this level."

Impressed by Diljit Dosanjh's presence in the country, the Canadian PM took to X handle and shared pictures from his visit to the venue where the singer performed live.

He captioned the post, which read, "Stopped by the Rogers Centre to wish @diljitdosanjh good luck before his show. Canada is a great country -- one where a guy from Punjab can make history and sell out stadiums. Diversity isn't just our strength. It's a superpower."

JULY 15, 2024

**TORONTO (TIP):** Punjabi actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh had a special guest during the rehearsals of his concert as Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dropped at his "sold-out" show in Rogers Centre, a stadium in Downtown Toronto, Ontario.

In a video, Diljit is seen greeting PM Trudeau with folded hands.

Sharing the video, the singer wrote, "Diversity is Canada's strength. Prime Minister @justinptrudeau came to check out history in the making: we sold out the Rogers Centre!"

As soon as the video was shared, fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section.



Thousands gathered for special meditation event with Sant Rajinder Singh

## Thousands Gather from Across GTA for Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj's Special Meditation Event in Toronto

JULY 10, 2024

**TORONTO, ON (TIP):** After nearly a decade-long wait, world-renowned Spiritual Master, best-selling author and global humanitarian, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj returned to Toronto, spreading joy, spiritual wisdom, and love. The two-day special meditation event at Delta Hotels Toronto Airport attracted thousands of participants from Greater Toronto Area and from across the world.

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



# Government lists 6 new Bills for Parliament's Monsoon Session

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Six new Bills, including the one to amend the disaster management law, will be presented during the Monsoon Session of Parliament beginning next week.

Besides the Finance Bill, the government has also listed the Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, to replace the Aircraft Act of 1934 to provide enabling provisions for ease of doing business in the civil aviation sector.

The list of Bills was published in the Parliament bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha secretariat on Thursday evening.

The Monsoon Session begins on July 22 and will continue till August 12.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Union Budget on Tuesday, July 23.

Other Bills listed for introduction and passage during the session are The Boilers Bill to replace the pre-independence era law, the Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill and the Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also constituted the Business Advisory Committee (BAC), which decides the parliamentary agenda.



The committee chaired by the Speaker has Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC), P P Chaudhary (BJP), Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu (TDP), Nishikant Dubey (BJP), Gaurav Gogoi (Congress), Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP), Dileshwar Kamait (JD-U),

Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP), Dayanidhi Maran (DMK), Baijayant Panda (BJP), Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT), Kodikunnil Suresh (Congress), Anurag Thakur (BJP) and Lalji Verma (SP) as members.

## Here's the list of six bills

- Finance Bill
- Disaster Management Bill
- Boilers Bill
- Bhartiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill
- Coffee (Promotion and Development) Bill
- Rubber (Promotion and Development) Bill

Ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha secretariat has reminded lawmakers about a number of customs and conventions, pointing out that "reference to officers of either House in debates is improper" and that "rulings given by the Chair should not be criticised directly or indirectly inside or outside the House".

A bulletin issued by the Table Office of the Rajya Sabha on Monday has mentioned a total of 28 conventions and etiquette that are usually practised in Parliament. Even as none of the conventions mentioned is unknown or new, the bulletin assumes importance as the Upper House has often faced major violations of these well-established norms during protests.

## Chandigarh-Dibrugarh train derails, 3 dead

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Three persons, including a passenger from Chandigarh, were killed and over 30 injured when the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed on Thursday, July 18, afternoon between Motiganj and Jhilahi railway stations in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh.



A rescue operation underway after coaches of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express derailed in Gonda on Thursday. Photo: ANI

Railway officials said the loco pilot heard an explosion shortly before the derailment. The footage of a passenger's interview recorded by a news agency and posted by the Indian Railways on its WhatsApp group for mediapersons showed the passenger talking about a mild explosion he heard before his coach shook violently.

UP Relief Commissioner GS Naveen Kumar confirmed the three casualties. The deceased have been identified as Rahul (36), a resident of Sector 26 in Chandigarh, and Saroj Kumar Singh (31) of Araria in Bihar. The third body is yet to be identified. Four persons were seriously injured. Three of them are being treated at the Gonda District Hospital and one in Lucknow. The railways has announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the next of the kin of the dead, Rs 2.5 lakh for the grievously injured and Rs 50,000 for minor injuries. Besides the customary probe by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, another high-level inquiry has been ordered by the railways. There is, however, no clarity as yet on the individual or the team that will carry out the parallel probe. The train had 24 coaches, of which eight, including some air-conditioned cars, went off-track. Visuals showed more than one coach flipped over and lying adjacent to the tracks. Following the accident, six trains were cancelled and 22 diverted.

Source: TNS

## Govt takes stock amid 3 gunfights in J&K in one day

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The surge in terror strikes in Jammu & Kashmir in recent weeks was discussed at a meeting of the crucial Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on a day when three separate gunfights broke out in the restive Union territory, according to people aware of the matter.

Two army personnel were injured in the Doda district of Jammu after terrorists opened fire on a search party on early Thursday morning, two days after four army personnel were killed in the same region. This was the seventh attack in Doda in little over a month.

Around 190 kms away, forces foiled an infiltration bid in Jammu's Rajouri district after noticing "suspicious movement" along the Line of Control (LoC). In north Kashmir's Kupwara, the army shot dead two terrorists and thwarted a separate infiltration attempt on the same day, renewing worries about the increased movement of extremists in the area.

The rising terror attacks was among the issues discussed by CCS, which deals with issues concerning law and order and national security, the people cited above said.

Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, finance



minister Nirmala Sitharaman and external affairs minister S Jaishankar are also part of the top panel. According to people aware of the developments, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the ministry of home affairs (MHA) were "closely monitoring the ground situation" in J&K.

Last month, Modi chaired a meeting on the security situation in J&K and asked the security forces to deploy the "full spectrum" of counterterror capabilities to deal with the recent spike in terror attacks.

As the country's political and defence brass took stock of the security apparatus, security personnel continued to battle terrorists in J&K. In Doda, a group of terrorists -- who according to an intelligence official were likely to be the same men who killed four personnel on July 15 night -- targeted a search party in Kastigarh.

Source: HT



## 'Anti-Muslim': Oppn slams UP's order on displaying names of eatery owners

An order by the Muzaffarnagar district police in Uttar Pradesh asking eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of owners to avoid any "confusion" has been criticised by opposition parties as "communally motivated and directed against Muslim traders".

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera called the order "state-sponsored bigotry". AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi compared it with apartheid and "Judenboykott", the boycott of Jewish businesses in Hitler's Germany.

"Preparations of Sawan month have started in the district. About 240 km of Kanwar Yatra route falls in the district. All the eateries, including hotels, dhabas and carts, on the route have been asked to display the names of their proprietors or those working on these shops," Muzaffarnagar police chief Abhishek Singh had said.

The motive, the police officer claimed, was to ensure there should be no confusion among kanwariyas and no law and order situation arose. "All are following this voluntarily," he said.

The order followed a statement issued by Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) secretary general Bajrang Bagra on July 9 claiming that Muslims were selling puja items at various Hindu pilgrimage sites by "concealing their identity". The VHP had urged all state governments to take effective steps to prevent Muslims from running such shops "so that the faith of Hindus was not hurt".

In a post on X, Khera said, "Not just political parties, all right-thinking people and the media must rise against this state-sponsored bigotry. We cannot allow the Bharatiya Janata Party to push the country back into dark ages." *Source: TNS*

## Give details of centre-wise NEET-UG result by Saturday: Supreme Court to NTA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

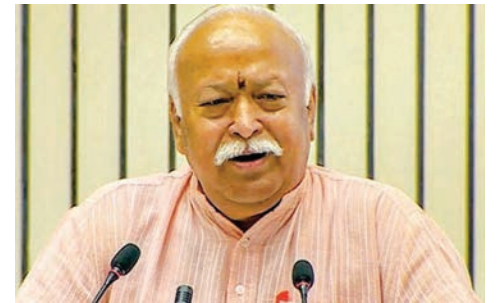
The Supreme Court on Thursday, July 18, directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to declare city and centre-wise result of NEET-UG 2024 after masking the identity of candidates by Saturday noon. "We direct the NTA to publish the marks obtained by students in the NEET-UG 2024 without disclosing their identity. The result should be declared city and centre-wise by 12 noon on July 20 and shall be uploaded on the website of the NTA," a Bench, led by CJI DY Chandrachud, said.

The order came after senior counsel Narender Hooda submitted on behalf of petitioners that in the absence of detailed result, the petitioners were handicapped in pointing out discrepancies in the exam and that publishing the entire result on the NTA website would bring about transparency regarding centre-wise marks obtained by the candidates. The Bench, which also included Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra, rejected Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's repeated requests that apart from the identity of candidates, the names of cities and centres should also be masked. Citing a Bihar Police report, Hooda asserted the paper was leaked a day before and it could be widespread. The Bench said, "The probe report of the Economic Offences Unit and material collected by the Bihar Police before the investigation was taken over by the CBI shall be filed with the court master by 5 pm on July 20."

As the hearing on petitions seeking cancellation of the NEET-UG 2024 remained inconclusive, the Bench deferred the matter to July 22. On the basis of a technical analysis of the NEET-UG 2024 data carried out by experts from IIT Madras, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that there was no indication of mass malpractice or local set of candidates being benefitted.

Hooda said unless the petitioners were given access to the city-wise and centre-wise result of the exam, they would be unable to contest and contradict claims made by the Centre.

On the issue of the CBI status report on the probe, the CJI said, "The CBI probe is on. If what the CBI has told us is revealed, it will affect the investigation and people will become wise." *Source: TNS*



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

## Agni missile: Cong on Bhagwat's 'man wants to be superman, devtaa, bhagwaan' remark

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks in Jharkhand on July 18 that human ambition knows no limits drew an "Agni missile" reference from the Congress.

Speaking at an event organised by an NGO Vikas Bharti in poll bound Jharkhand's Gumla today, Bhagwat said "Is there ever an end to progress? Development is such a thing that once we attain it, we realise that we can go further. Once we reach our target we realise there is more to go... Man then wants to be a superman... in movies they show Superman who has extraordinary powers. So a human wants to attain such powers and he does not stop there. He then wants to become a Dev. But Devtas say Bhagwan is larger than us, so he wants to become Bhagwan," Bhagwat said.

Reacting to Bhagwat's comments that came amid signs of BJP and RSS tensions, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, in a jibe at PM Narendra Modi, said, "I am sure the self-anointed non-biological PM has got news of this latest Agni Missile, fired by Nagpur from Jharkhand and aimed at Lok Kalyan Marg."

## Indefinite refusal of bail is unacceptable: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Thursday, July 18, held that regardless of the stringency of penal statutes, indefinite refusal of bail is unacceptable, as it underscored the paramount importance of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution that safeguards the right to life and liberty and enshrines the right to a speedy trial.

"In the case of interpretation of a penal statute, howsoever stringent it may be, a constitutional court has to lean in favour of constitutionalism and the rule of law of which liberty is an intrinsic part. In a particular case, a constitutional court may decline to grant bail. But it would be very wrong to say that under a particular statute, bail cannot be granted. It would run counter to the very grain of our constitutional jurisprudence," said a bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan.

Highlighting that the right to life and

personal liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is "overarching and sacrosanct", the bench noted that a constitutional court cannot be restrained from granting bail to an accused on account of restrictive statutory provisions in a penal statute if it finds that the right of the accused under Article 21 has been infringed.

The court's ruling came as it granted bail to Sheikh Javed Iqbal, who had been languishing in jail for nine years on charges of possessing counterfeit currency after getting booked under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Notably, section 43D(5) of UAPA sets a high bar for granting bail, making it challenging for the accused to secure release. The provision stipulates that an accused person shall not be granted bail if the court, after perusing the case diary or the charge sheet, is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the

accusations against such person are prima facie true.

Referring to a body of Supreme Court judgments, the top court particularly relied on the 2012 verdict in the KA Najeer case, which similarly addressed the issue of prolonged detention without trial. In the 2012 verdict, the top court held that Section 43D(5) of the UAPA does not affect the ability of the constitutional courts to grant bail on grounds of violation of fundamental rights, adding that long incarceration with the unlikelihood of the trial being completed in the near future is a good ground to grant bail.

"If the alleged offence is a serious one, it is all the more necessary for the prosecution to ensure that the trial is concluded expeditiously. When a trial gets prolonged, it is not open to the prosecution to oppose bail of the accused-undertrial on the ground that the charges are very serious. Bail cannot be denied only on the ground

that the charges are very serious though there is no end in sight for the trial to conclude," held the court on July 18.

This decision reinforces the principle that, regardless of the stringency of penal statutes, indefinite refusal of bail is unacceptable.

The bench emphasised the fundamental importance of liberty and the necessity of a speedy trial while ordering the release of Iqbal who has been incarcerated in a jail in Uttar Pradesh since February 23, 2015. By an order on April 4, the Allahabad high court refused bail to Iqbal, noting that "the charges levelled against him are grave and a serious threat to the society and to the extent that it may topple the economy of the country." It also highlighted that Iqbal is a citizen of Nepal and that he has no permanent address in India, making it impossible for the prosecution to get his presence during the trial if he were to be released on bail. *Source: HT*



# India in history this Week

## JUNE 19 TO JULY 25

### 19 JULY



1827 The revolutionary Mangal Pandey was born in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

1969 The Government of India took the decision in 1969 to nationalize 14 major banks of the country.



2005 Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed the US Congress.

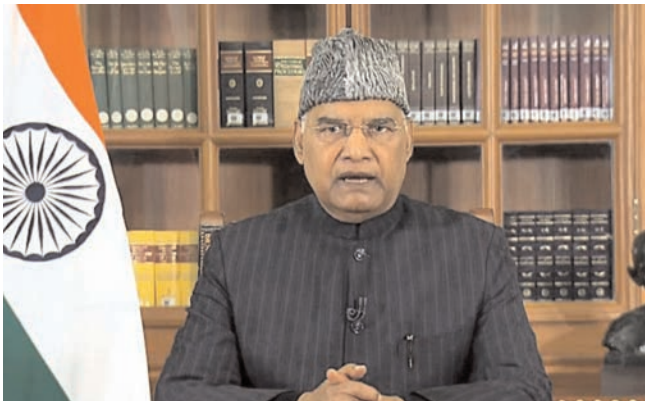
1975 The bones of Indian revolutionary Udham Singh were brought from London to New Delhi in 1974.

1938 Indian physics scientist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar was born on 19 July 1938.

### 20 JULY

1997 Indo-Bangladesh agreement on Teesta river water sharing.

1761 Madhav Rao became the first Peshwa.



2017 Ram Nath Kovind was elected the 14th President of India in 2017.

1965 India's famous revolutionary Batukeshwar Dutt died on 20 July 1965.

1982 Meera Ben, the daughter of a British military officer, died in 1982 and who promoted Khadi in the

'Indian freedom struggle' influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.

### 21 JULY

1920 Sharada Ma, the wife of Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa passed away.

1947 The Constituent Assembly of India approved the national flag.

1963 Kashi Vidyapeeth got the status of university.

2007 Pratibha Patil became the first woman President of India.

1883 Hall Star Theater, India's first public theater in Kolkata, started in 1883.

1962 India fought a war on the border between China in 1962.



1930 Famous film lyricist Anand Bakshi was born .

### 22 JULY

1933 Nationalist leader Mohan Sen Gupta died.

1918 Indralal Rai, India's first skilled pilot, was killed in a battle with Germany in London during the First World War.

1947 The Constituent Assembly adopted the Tricolor as the national flag of the country.

1981 Apple, India's first geostationary satellite, started functioning.

2012 Pranab Mukherjee elected the 13th President of India.



1999 The Work Plan for Equal Remuneration for Equal Work by the International Labor Organization came into force in 1999.

2009 The longest total solar eclipse of the 29th



century was the solar eclipse of 22 July 2009.

1968 India's famous female physician, social worker and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Muttu Lakshmi Reddy died in 1968.

### 23 JULY



1856 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born.

1906 The revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad was born.

2004 The king of comedy, Mahmood Ali, died.

2016 Famous Chitrakar S. born in India. H. Raza passed away

### 24 JULY



1937 Famous Indian actor Manoj Kumar was born.

2004 Italy decided to start a seven visa call center for Indian tourists.

1932 Ramakrishna Mission Service Establishment was established.

1994 Bodo militants killed 37 Muslims in Assam's busbari.

2000 S. Vijayalakshmi became the first female grandmaster of chess.

1969 The Apollo-11 spacecraft returned to Earth.

1989 Almost all the members of the opposition in the Lok Sabha resigned, which was accepted.

### 25 JULY

1813 The first boat race was held in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1977 Giani Zail Singh was sworn in as the seventh President of India.

1987 Rangaswamy Venkataraman became the eighth President of India.

1992 SD Sharma became the ninth President of India.



# THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDIA DAY PARADE



**SAVE THE DATE**

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

[info@fianyjnct.org](mailto:info@fianyjnct.org) | [www.fianyjnct.org](http://www.fianyjnct.org)



# NJPAC & DODGE FOUNDATION CELEBRATE POETRY AS CATALYST FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY MABEL PAIS

The 20th DODGE POETRY FESTIVAL, which has been headquartered at NJPAC since 2010, will fill downtown Newark with poetry, October 17 to 19. Over the course of 40 years, this event, the country's largest poetry festival, has welcomed more than 150,000 people to readings, performances and more.

This year's reimagined Dodge Poetry Festival will mix spoken word poetry with jazz, hip hop and R&B at readings, performances, outdoor events and more. All are designed to inspire a community mobilizing for racial and social justice, repair, and healing.

A full lineup and event details for the Festival will be announced at the end of July.

## NUYORICAN POETS CAFE

For the Summer Dodge Poetry, on July 20 at 7PM, the historic institution Nuyorican Poets Café (njpac.org/event/nuyorican-poets-cafe-dodge-poetry) brings an all-star lineup of poets -Edwin Torres, Emanuel Xavier and co-founder Lois Griffith - to NJPAC, with Nuyorican Poets Café Executive Director Caridad De La Luz "La Bruja" hosting.

The second part of the event is a slam showcase with



Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Credit: njpac.org

the 2024 Nuyorican Slam Team that opens into an open mic led by Newark arts organization EvoluCulture (evoluculture.com).

## TICKETS

For Tickets, visit [njpac.org/event/nuyorican-poets-cafe-dodge-poetry](http://njpac.org/event/nuyorican-poets-cafe-dodge-poetry).

## THE GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION

Established in 1974, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation envisions a just and equitable New Jersey where people of all races and communities have equitable access to opportunities to thrive. Over its 50-year history, the Dodge Foundation has distributed more than \$500 million in grants and technical support

to New Jersey nonprofits. Today, building on decades of learning, the organization focuses its support on those who are directly addressing the root causes and repair of structural racism and inequity to transform lives in New Jersey.

## NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Phone: 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

## FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)

Twitter: @NJPAC

Instagram: @NJPAC

Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](https://facebook.com/NJPAC)

YouTube: NJPACtv

## FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: [njpac.org/takeastand](http://njpac.org/takeastand)

Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand

Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

# ENJOY A VARIETY OF EVENTS AT THE ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF DALLAS

BY MABEL PAIS

## Featuring

Director KARAN TEJPAL's Feature **STOLEN**

Director AMIT KAUR's Short **CUPPA CHAI**

*And many more*

The ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL of DALLAS, Texas (AFFD) for its annual 23rd edition takes place July 25-28. All screenings will take place at the Angelika Film Center Dallas (5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, #230).

AFFD Executive Director Thomas Schubert, said, "The programming for this year's edition of the film festival goes back to the basics of what AFFD has been delivering to Dallas audiences for more than two decades now: striking dramas, high comedies, action, thrillers, horror, and insightful documentaries for and about Asians and Asian Americans. The Angelika will once again play host to appearances and conversations with our filmmakers and talent, and we will celebrate their work both as we screen their films and through our other special events and parties that truly make the Asian Film Festival of Dallas a can't miss event for DFW film lovers."

## 2024 Asian Film Festival of Dallas Lineup

### OPENING NIGHT

The Movie Emperor

Director: Ning Hao; China; 126m

### CENTERPIECE

Tokyo Cowboy

Director: Marc Marriott; Japan; 118m

### CLOSING NIGHT

Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In

Director: Soi Cheang; Hong Kong; 125m

### SATURDAY SHOWCASE

The Guest

Director: Yeon Je-gwang; South Korea; 76m

### ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

A Childless Village

Director: Reza Jamali; Iran; 81m

### A Long Shot

Director: Gao Peng; China; 117m

### Moscow Mission

Director: Herman Yau; China; 128m

### Ms. Apocalypse

Director: Lim Seon-ae; South Korea; 116m

### Namesake

Director: Yung-Chi Chen; Taiwan; 79m

### Old Fox

Director: Hsiao Ya-Chuan; Taiwan; 111m

### One-Percent Warrior

Director: Yamaguchi Yudai; Japan; 96m

### Post Truth

Director: Chengpeng Dong; China; 112m

### Rose & Samurai 2: Return of the Pirate Queen

Director: Hidenori Inoue; Japan; 174m



Stolen

Credit: asianfilmdallas.com

### Stolen

Director: Karan Tejpal; India; 94m

### The Tenants

Director: Yoon Eun-Kyoung; South Korea; 88m

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

#### Art is Love: Nepal

Directors: Daniel Driensky, Sarah Reyes; United States/Nepal; 71m

#### Ashima

Director: Kenji Tsukamoto; United States; 86m

### SHORT FILMS

#### Benkyodo: The Last Manju Shop in J-Town

Directors: Akira Boch, Tadashi Nakamura; United States; 15m

### Captured

Director: Tomoaki Kaneko; Japan; 12m

### Champion

Director: Kim J.Y. Han; United States; 13m

### Cuppa Chai

Director: Amit

Kaur; United

Kingdom; 10m

### Floor

Director:

Caitlin Boston;

United States;

11m

### Happy

Doomsday

Director: Sol O; Republic of Korea; 13m

### Midori

Director: Dohyun KIM; Republic of Korea; 13m

### Newspapers

Director: Vu Hoang; United States; 14m

### Viral

Director: Al Chang; United States; 11m

### VoiceClub

Director: Taeyoung Kim; Republic of Korea; 25m

**TICKETS** : To purchase badges, tickets and for more information, go to [asianfilmdallas.com](http://asianfilmdallas.com)

**AFFD** : The Asian Film Festival of Dallas (AFFD) is dedicated to celebrating and supporting emerging and established Asian and Asian-American filmmakers and sharing the rich diversity of Asian culture through the medium of cinema. Over the last 20+ years, the festival has provided opportunities for over 400 Asian and Asian-American filmmakers to share their vision, often providing the only venue for their films to be shown in Dallas. The films have also allowed festival goers a chance to experience other lives and cultures without leaving their seats.

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



Cuppa Chai

Credit: asianfilmdallas.com



# COMEDY SUPER STAR STEPHEN COLBERT SITS DOWN WITH VERSATILE ACTOR PAUL GIAMATTI

BY MABEL PAIS

Comedy superstar Stephen Colbert, once again, brings his incisive intellect and whip-smart humor to observations and conversations about current events. He sits down with Paul Giamatti celebrating his award-winning career as one of our most beloved on-screen performers. This unforgettable evening of conversation takes place on stage at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in downtown Newark, NJ on Friday, July 26, 2024 at 8:00 PM.

*This is part of the second annual 'North To Shore' Festival that took place in June and is presented by 'Montclair Film', New Jersey's leading film non-profit.*

## PAUL GIAMATTI

Paul Giamatti is fresh off his last Golden Globe win and Oscar nomination for 'The Holdovers'. One of the most versatile and beloved actors of his generation, Paul Giamatti currently stars in Focus Features' heartwarming period drama, 'The Holdovers', which released in theaters on October 27th, 2023. His moving performance has been met with praise from critics and audiences alike, receiving the Golden Globe® Award for Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical, the Critics Choice Award and the National Board of Review Award for Best Actor, The Palm Springs International Film Festival 'Icon Award'. Giamatti was recently nominated for the SAG, BAFTA and Academy Award® for Best Actor.

Giamatti currently stars in the second season of HBO Europe's hit Spanish-horror series, '30 Coins', as well as in the final season of the Showtime hit, 'Billions', for which he has been nominated for a Broadcast Film Critics Association Award and a Critics Choice Award for Best Actor in a Drama Series over the course of the series.

Outside of acting, Giamatti co-hosts the podcast 'Chinwag' with author and philosopher Stephen Asma from Treefort Media & Touchy Feely Films. Featuring prominent guests from diverse fields, 'Chinwag' is a series of conversations that delve deep into the wilderness of the mind, covering topics spanning from science and philosophy to the occult and literature.

Previous television credits include HBO's 'Too Big to Fail', which earned Giamatti his third SAG Award as well as an Emmy® and a Golden Globe® nomination in 2011. In 2008, Giamatti won Emmy®, SAG, and Golden Globe® awards for Best Actor in a Miniseries for his portrayal of the title character in HBO's seven-part, Emmy Award®-winning miniseries, 'John Adams'.



(left) Stephen Colbert with Paul Giamatti

Credit: njpac.org

Giamatti's selected film credits include the five-time Oscar®-winner 'Saving Private Ryan', Alexander Payne's Academy Award®-winning dramedy 'Sideways', which earned Giamatti Golden Globe® and SAG Award nominations, and the Academy Award®-nominated 'Barney's Version' in 2011, which earned him the Golden Globe® for Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical. In 2006, his performance in Ron Howard's 'Cinderella Man' earned him his first SAG Award and a Broadcast Film Critics' Award for Best Supporting Actor, as well as Oscar® and Golden Globe® nominations in the same category.

## STEPHEN COLBERT

Stephen Colbert, from Emmy-winning shows to sold-out tours and NY Times bestsellers, it seems like he's done it all and done it well.

Colbert hosts the Emmy and Peabody Award winning, #1 show in late night

'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.' He is also the Executive Producer and Writer of the show. From 2005 to 2014, he hosted 'The Colbert Report' on Comedy Central, following his seven years as a correspondent on 'The Daily Show.'

In 2021, Colbert's Spartina Industries banner set a three-year first-look deal to develop television and streaming content for CBS Studios. Spartina's most recent project is CBS's newest late-night show, 'After Midnight,' starring Taylor Tomlinson, which premiered in January of 2024. Spartina's first project was the sports-comedy special 'Pickled,' a celebrity pickleball tournament benefiting Comic Relief for CBS Primetime.

Colbert previously served as Executive Producer on the Comedy Central series, 'Stephen Colbert Presents Tooning Out The News,' 'Hell of a Week with Charlamagne tha God,' and SHOWTIME's 'Our Cartoon President.' He is also an Executive

Producer of 'Derek DelGaudio's In & Of Itself,' streaming on Hulu.

Colbert has also authored five books, the most recent of which, 'Whose Boat Is This Boat?', reached #1 on the New York Times Bestseller List. All proceeds from the book benefited the victims of Hurricane Florence and Michael, and most recently, COVID-19 relief.

Raised in South Carolina, he currently resides in New Jersey with his wife, Evie. His birthday is May 13. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @StephenAtHome.

## TICKETS

*Tickets for Paul Giamatti with Stephen Colbert are available at njpac.org and ticketmaster.com or at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark or by calling 1-888-GO-NJPAC (1-888-466-5722).*

**More information is available at [montclairfilm.org](http://montclairfilm.org).**

***If you have purchased tickets to the June 29th conversation, those tickets are still valid for the new date on July 26, 2024. For questions, call 1-888-MY-NJPAC.***

## NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL

This special evening is presented as part of the 2024 'North To Shore' Festival held in June 2024, featuring all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into three extraordinary weekends of performances, screenings, parties and conversations in three of the state's most iconic cities. Hosted by Asbury Park, Atlantic City and Newark, the 'North to Shore' Festival brings together events at more than 100 venues for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence, aligned with Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision of a celebration worthy of the Garden State's long legacy of innovation in the arts, film and technology.

## MONTCLAIR FILM

*For more information about Montclair Film, visit [MontclairFilm.org](http://MontclairFilm.org).*

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## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is among the largest performing arts centers in the United States. It is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. As New Jersey's Town Square, NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the State's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts.

NJPAC has attracted more than 10.5 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, reached almost two million children and families through its education and community programs, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit [njpac.org](http://njpac.org) for more information.

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





## Amitabh Bachchan confirms son Abhishek Bachchan will star with Shah Rukh Khan in King

Amitabh Bachchan has confirmed that Abhishek Bachchan's next project will be with Shah Rukh Khan, in the film King. Abhishek will play the antagonist in the film, directed by Sujoy Ghosh. It will star Shah Rukh's daughter Suhana Khan.

Amitabh took to his X (previously Twitter) account to share a fan who posted an exclusive report that Abhishek will be playing a negative role in Shah Rukh Khan's King. The fan page wrote, "Those Who have seen Abhishek Sir's in Breathe into the Shadows, Raavan and BB, Will know what level of Performance as a negative role he can give. Never ever doubt him. @juniorbachchan"

Meanwhile, Amitabh wrote in the caption, "all the best Abhishek .. It is TIME !!!"

The first report of Abhishek's casting in King was shared by Peeping Moon on Monday. It added that Abhishek will "play a sophisticated villain facing off against Shah Rukh's mafia persona." The film will be produced by Pathaan director Siddharth Anand. Abhishek and Shah Rukh had previously worked in Farah Khan's Happy New Year.

The source also added, "Abhishek is an actor whose full potential has yet to be fully realized. He has the ability to astonish audiences when given complex roles. King presents him in an out-and-out negative role for the first time in such a large-scale commercial movie, and he is sure to make a significant impact with his performance. The Jr. Bachchan was surprised when he was offered this role but accepted it immediately, intrigued by the depth of his character. It's a special role, and Siddharth Anand has grand plans to present Abhishek in a manner audiences have never seen before."

Suhana will be playing a young girl coming to terms with a life-altering situation. The film will also mark her theatrical debut. She made her acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's coming-of-age period film The Archies on Netflix India last year.

## No 'good news', for now enjoy 'Bad Newz': Vicky Kaushal on Katrina's pregnancy rumors

Actor Vicky Kaushal has dismissed media reports about wife Katrina Kaif's pregnancy as "speculation", saying they will happily announce whenever they have "good news".

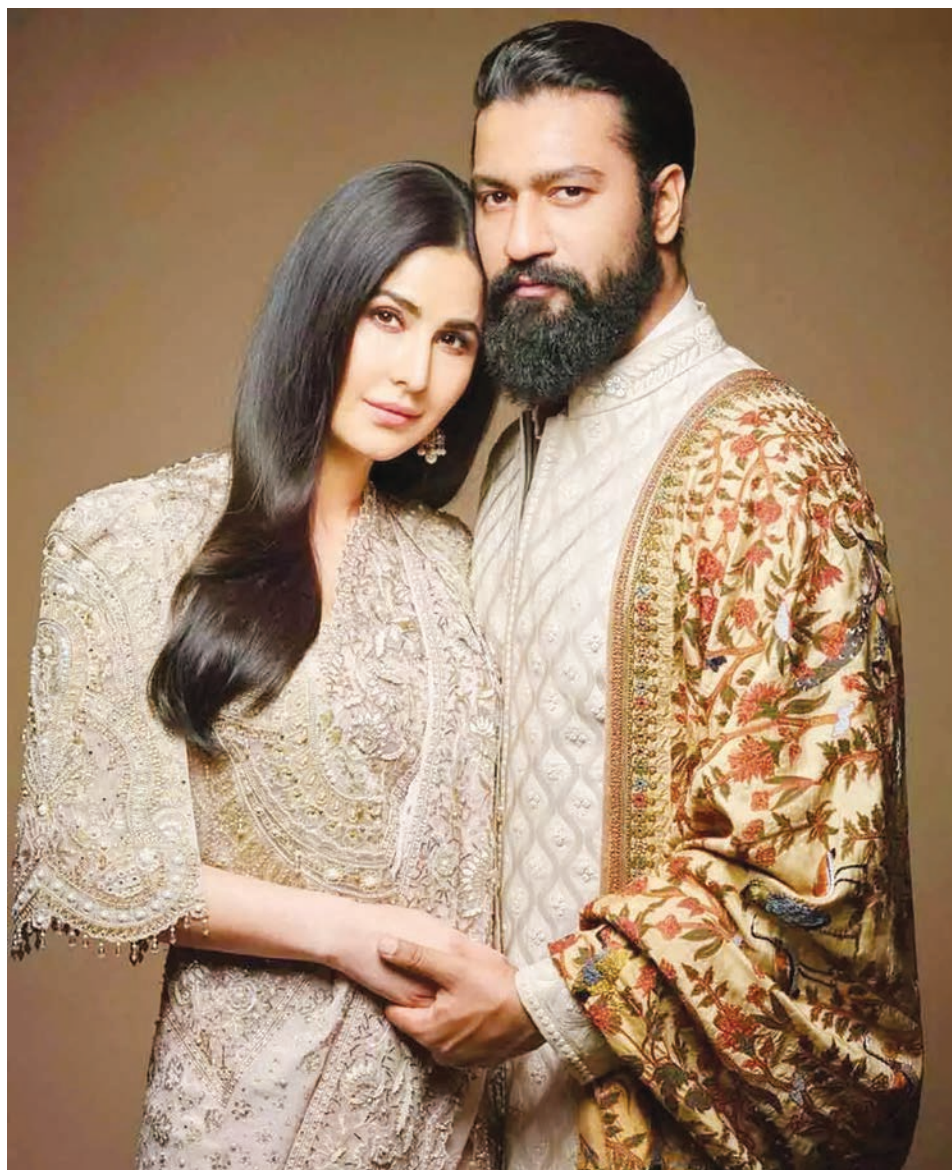
Kaushal, who is currently promoting his upcoming comedy "Bad Newz", was in the city to promote the movie ahead of its Friday release. The film also stars Tripti Dimri and Amy Virk.

"As far as the good news that you spoke about is concerned, we will be very happy to share it with you when we have it. But till then, there is no truth to that, there is only speculation which is coming from the media. So please, enjoy 'Bad Newz' for now, we will share with you when there is time for good news," Kaushal said at a promotional event here.

When the host requested the media to not ask personal questions, the actor quipped, "There is a very good line in the picture, which is 'Don't get personal'." Pregnancy rumours gained prominence when a picture of the couple walking on the streets of London became viral on social media with many fans speculating that Kaif was sporting a baby bump.

"Bad Newz" revolves around a woman (Dimri) who is carrying twins, but with different fathers, played by Kaushal and Virk. Directed by Anand Tiwari, "Bad Newz" has been produced by Amritpal Singh Bindra, Apoorva Mehta and Karan Johar. The film is slated to release on July 19.

Source: PTI



## Shraddha Kapoor shares new poster of 'Stree 2' featuring Stree's braid

Actress Shraddha Kapoor, who is eagerly awaiting the release of her upcoming horror-comedy movie 'Stree 2', shared a new poster of the film on July 16.

The poster features a hand holding a braid in a firm grip, a significant element in the film's narrative.

In the first part of the film, which was released in 2018, Shraddha's character dropped hints about her identity by using the braid of Stree (the ghost) on herself, intriguing viewers and leaving them wondering if she was a ghost.

The actress also shared that the trailer of the film will be released in two days.

Shraddha wrote in the caption, 'Ek badi suchna - O Stree aa rahi hai in just 2 din. #Stree2 Trailer in 2 days! The legend returns this Independence Day, August 15, 2024.'

'Aatank jab Chanderi par chhaya, tab sabko ek hi nara yaad aaya, O Stree Raksha Karnal'

'Stree', which was directed by debutant Amar Kaushik, also starred Rajkumar Rao, Flora Saini, Pankaj Tripathi, Aparshakti Khurana and Abhishek Banerjee.

The plot is based on the urban legend Nale Ba ('Come Tomorrow') of Karnataka.

Rajkumar, who played a tailor in 'Stree', learned to sew as part of the preparation for his role.

Source: IANS







## Kim Kardashian draws ire for using Lord Ganesha idol as 'prop' for photo

One of the key reasons the wedding of Anant Ambani, son of billionaire Mukesh Ambani, and Radhika Merchant, daughter of Encore Healthcare's CEO Viren Merchant, garnered global attention was the presence of American media personality and socialite Kim Kardashian. Kim, accompanied by her sister Khloé Kardashian, arrived in Mumbai and participated in the wedding ceremony on Friday and the 'Shubh Aashirvaad' ceremony on Saturday before returning to the US.

While the Kardashian sisters turned heads last week in custom-made outfits by renowned Indian designer Manish Malhotra, Kim made headlines this week by posting a picture of herself with a Lord Ganesha idol. On Monday, Kim took to Instagram to share a couple of fresh photos from Anant and Radhika's wedding festivities. In the pictures, she is seen wearing a white and golden Manish Malhotra lehenga and choli.

However, netizens quickly noticed that one of the photos showed her posing with an idol of the Hindu deity Ganesha. She soon started receiving flak from social media users for using the idol as a "prop," prompting her to take down the image. Nevertheless, the picture went viral on Reddit and has been a hot topic since then.

"Nita Aunty, educate your guests," noted the user who posted the picture on a popular subreddit. "That isn't helping her gain any favors from the Indian audience that she is after," another Redditor wrote.

## Natalie Portman reveals how Rihanna helped her after divorce from Benjamin Millepied

Natalie Portman will forever be a Rihanna fan! During an appearance on the Monday, July 15, episode of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Portman, 43 — who finalized her divorce from her husband Benjamin Millepied, 47, in February — spoke about meeting the "Umbrella" hitmaker, 36, at Paris Fashion Week in January.

In a sweet interaction shared by Bustle on Instagram at the time, Rihanna called Portman "one of the hottest bitches in Hollywood."

Speaking to Fallon, the May December star insisted, "I think every woman going through a divorce should get to have Rihanna say to her that she's a bad bitch." Fallon then got to his feet and gave Portman some loud applause, before showing a clip of the fashion week interaction.

"It was exactly what I needed," Portman added.

"That's a big deal," Fallon commented, as the Black Swan star replied, "It was a formative moment in my life."

In the video shared earlier this year taken outside of the Dior Haute Couture show in the French capital, Portman told Rihanna, "I love you," as the singer reciprocated: "I am a f--ing fan."

Portman insisted, "I'm gonna faint. I'm gonna black out," as the two continued to praise one another.

The Oscar winner added, "I love you and I listen to your music all the time... you're just such a queen. Thank you."

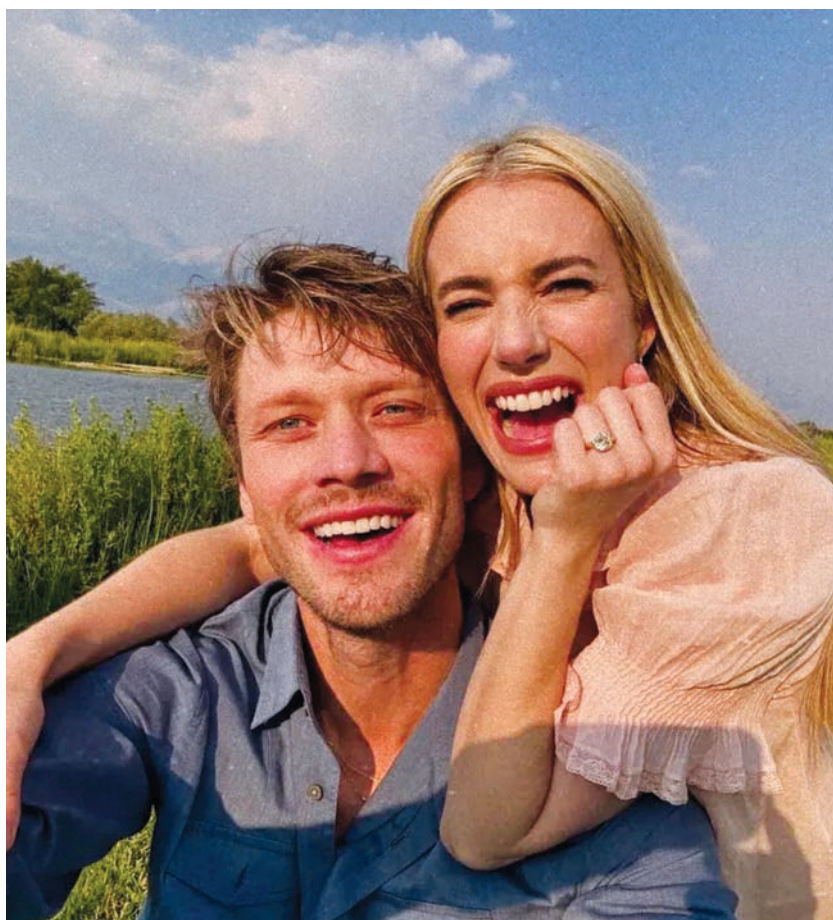
Portman shared a photo on Instagram of the pair hugging at the time. "Still not over this... ?? @badgalriri," she captioned the post.

Portman's latest comments come after PEOPLE exclusively confirmed in March that she and her husband of 11 years, Millepied, had officially divorced after quietly separating eight months prior.

Portman filed last July and the divorce was finalized in February in France, where she and Millepied, whom she married in 2012, had been living with their children; son Aleph, 13, and daughter Amalia, 7.



## Emma Roberts announces engagement to Cody John



Emma Roberts is soon to be dressed in white as she announced her engagement to actor Cody John on July 16. Roberts announced her engagement via an Instagram post with a picture of her along with John. The announcement comes as a surprise as the actor has always tried to keep a low profile about her romantic relationships. The couple is soon going to be married but there is no update about a wedding date or venue.

Roberts shared an excited picture of herself with her fiancé John on Instagram where she could be seen casually flaunting the engagement ring on her finger. The post was captioned, "putting this here before my mom tells everyone," followed by a heart emoji. The caption was about an incident that happened earlier this year with mom Kelly Cunningham, as reported by People Magazine.

In early February, Kelly shared a picture of Robert's 3-year-old son which he shares with ex-Garrett Hedlund, Rhodes without consulting with her first. Later, the American Horror Story star shared a story where she wrote, "When your mom posts your son's face without asking but you love them both so whatever," as she reshared photos of Rhodes.

Roberts and John who is also an actor and has featured in Hulu's Wu-Tang: An American Saga and The CW's In the Dark have kept their love life mostly private.



## URSULA VON DER LEYEN RE-ELECTED TO A SECOND 5-YEAR TERM AS EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

STRASBOURG (TIP): Lawmakers at the European Parliament on July 18 re-elected Ursula von der Leyen to a second 5-year term as president of the European Union's executive commission.

The re-election ensures leadership continuity for the 27-nation bloc as it wrestles with crises ranging from the war in Ukraine to climate change, migration and housing shortages.

A majority in the 720-seat legislature voted for the German Christian Democrat after a speech in which she pledged to be a strong leader for Europe in a time of crisis and polarization.

"I will never let the extreme polarization of our societies become accepted. I will never accept that demagogues and extremists destroy our European way of life. And I stand here today ready to lead the fight with all the Democratic forces in this house," von der Leyen had said.

In a speech that sought to shore up support from across the political spectrum, von der Leyen pledged to strengthen the EU economy, its police and border agencies, tackle migration and pursue policies tackling climate change while also helping farmers who have staged protests against what they call stifling EU bureaucracy and environmental rules.

She also took a swipe at Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his recent visit to Russia shortly after his country took over the rotating six-month EU presidency.

"This so-called peace mission was nothing but an appeasement mission," von der Leyen said as she vowed that Europe would remain shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine.

One radical right lawmaker, Diana Iovanovici-Sosoaca of Romania, was escorted out of the parliament's chamber for heckling a speaker during the debate following von der Leyen's speech. Iovanovici-Sosoaca briefly wore what appeared to be a muzzle and held up religious icons before being led out of the room.

Over the past five years, von der Leyen has steered the bloc through a series of crises, including Britain's exit from the EU, the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She has also pushed a Green Deal aiming to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

As the debate ended, she told lawmakers: "I hope to have your trust and confidence for the next years. Long live Europe."

Von der Leyen's election came as newly elected U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer was welcoming some 45 heads of government to discuss migration, energy security and the threat from Russia as he seeks to restore relations between the U.K. and its European neighbors. (AP)

# A police officer has been wounded in a knife attack in Paris. The attacker was killed by police

PARIS (TIP): A police officer was wounded in a knife attack in Paris on July 18 in the high-end Champs-Élysées neighborhood and the assailant was shot and died of his injuries, authorities said, just days before the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics.

Paris police chief Laurent Nunez said the attack did not appear linked to the Olympics and no terrorist motive was suspected.

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin posted on X that the attack happened in the 8th arrondissement of Paris while police were "responding to a call from officers securing a store." Security agents at the flagship Louis Vuitton store on the Champs-Élysées contacted police after noticing "suspicious behavior" by a man outside the store, according to a police official.

Speaking in front of the Louis Vuitton store after the stabbing, Paris police chief Laurent Nunez said the assailant "pulled out a knife and threatened them (the officers), tried to stab them multiple times and succeeded in stabbing."

He defended the police response as "totally proportionate. They were facing an assailant who was threatening their lives."

The suspect died of his injuries after being shot, the Paris prosecutor's office said. An investigation was opened into attempted murder of a police officer, the prosecutor's office said. The police officer was hospitalized but not in life-threatening condition.

The area was thronging with tourists



and Parisians when the attack happened around the corner from the Louis Vuitton boutique. Some took photos as police cordoned off the area, while others continued their dining in nearby sidewalk cafes.

Associated Press journalists saw police reinforcements rushing in after the stabbing. At a luxury hotel nearby, guests arriving in a taxi had to pass under police tape to enter their hotel, as a porter wheeled their baggage under the cordon.

The Louis Vuitton store often has long lines outside and is among the biggest draws on an avenue packed with luxury boutiques. Louis Vuitton parent company LVMH did not comment on what happened.

Thursday's knife attack comes just days after a man stabbed and wounded a

French soldier patrolling Paris on Monday outside the Gare de l'Est train station in eastern Paris. The man was taken to a psychiatric hospital, according to French prosecutors.

France is under its highest security alert before the start of the Paris Games on July 26. Paris police imposed strict new security measures in the center of town starting Thursday to prepare for the exceptional opening ceremony, which will be held in the open all along the Seine River instead of in a closed stadium.

Darmanin is staying on in a caretaker role at the interior ministry until a new government is formed in the wake of a legislative election earlier this month. (AP)

# Fire at shopping mall in southwest China kills 16 people

BEIJING (TIP): At least 16 people were killed after a fire broke out at a shopping mall in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The incident occurred on July 17 around 6 pm at the 14-story building, located in a high-tech zone in the city of Zigong, Sichuan province, according to Chinese state media.

Dramatic images and videos showed a huge column of black smoke billowing from the building.

Several people were also seen gathered on a balcony. The rescue operation was completed on Thursday.

Around 75 people who were trapped inside the building were evacuated, the local fire department said.

A total of 16 people have been killed, and the rest were evacuated from the building, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.



According to the preliminary investigations, the fire was caused by construction work, the report added.

China's Ministry of Emergency Management and National Fire and Rescue Administration said it has

dispatched a working team to investigate the incident.

Fire experts from across the country will also be sent to participate in the accident investigation, the Ministry said.

China continues to witness major fire accidents despite the directives from President Xi Jinping to implement strict preventive measures for provincial governments.

Officials say the number of fire accidents in public places like hotels and restaurants was due to faulty electrical and gas pipelines.

Thirty-nine people were killed when a fire broke out in a commercial building in the Chinese province of Jiangxi in January this year.

Fifteen people were killed in a fire at a residential building in Nanjing city in the following month. (PTI)



# Paris mayor dips into the Seine River to showcase its improved cleanliness before Olympic events

**PARIS (TIP):** After months of anticipation, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo took a dip in the long-polluted Seine River on July 17, fulfilling a promise to show the river was clean enough to host open swimming competitions during the 2024 Olympics — and the opening ceremony on the river nine days away.

Clad in a wetsuit and goggles, Hidalgo plunged into the river near the imposing-looking City Hall, her office, and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Paris 2024 chief Tony Estanguet and the top government official for the Paris region, Marc Guillaume, joined her, along with swimmers from local swimming clubs.

"The Seine is exquisite," said Hidalgo from the water. After emerging, she continued to rave, "The water is very, very good. A little cool, but not so bad." She also said today was "a dream" and a "testimony that we have achieved a lot of work," referencing the city's "swimming plan" that was launched in 2015.

They swam down the river for about 100 meters, switching between crawl and breaststroke.

"After twenty years of doing sports in the river, I find it admirable that we are trying to clean it up," said Estanguet, who has three Olympic gold medals in canoeing.

It's part of a broader effort to showcase the river's improved cleanliness ahead of the Summer Games which will kick off July 26 with a lavish open-air ceremony that includes an athletes' parade on boats on the Seine. Daily water quality tests in early June indicated unsafe levels of E. coli bacteria, followed by recent improvements.



Swimming in the Seine has been banned for over a century. Since 2015, organizers have invested \$1.5 billion to prepare the Seine for the Olympics and to ensure Parisians have a cleaner river after the Games. The plan included constructing a giant underground water storage basin in central Paris, renovating sewer infrastructure, and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

Originally planned for June, Hidalgo's swim was postponed due to snap parliamentary elections in France. On the initial date, the hashtag "jechiedanslaSeine" ("I'm pooping in the Seine") trended on social media as some threatened to protest the Olympics by defecating upstream.

That didn't deter Hidalgo, who carefully entered the river Wednesday

using a ladder on an artificial pond, set up for the event. Seven security boats were deployed for the occasion.

They swam down the river for about 100 meters, switching between crawl and breaststroke.

The upper banks were crowded with curious spectators.

"I wouldn't have missed that for anything in the world," said Lucie Coquereau, who woke up early to get the best view of Hidalgo's up from the Pont de Sully bridge that oversees the swimming site.

Enzo Gallet, a competitive swimmer who has taken part in France's national open-water championship, was among athletes invited to test the Seine alongside the Paris mayor. (AP)

## FAR-RIGHT ISRAELI MINISTER VISITS SENSITIVE JERUSALEM HOLY SITE, IMPERILING GAZA CEASE-FIRE TALKS

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israel's far-right national security minister visited Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on July 18 morning, threatening to disrupt Gaza cease-fire talks.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, an ultranationalist settler leader, said he had gone up to the contested Jerusalem hilltop compound of Al Aqsa Mosque to pray for the return of the hostages "but without a reckless deal."

Ben-Gvir said he was pressuring Netanyahu not to give in to international pressure and to continue with the military campaign in Gaza.

The move threatens to disrupt sensitive talks aimed at reaching a cease-fire in the 9-month-old Israel-Hamas war. Israeli negotiators landed in Cairo on Wednesday to continue talks.

Ben-Gvir's visit also came just days before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leaves for a trip to the United States, where he will address Congress. Ben-Gvir last visited the site in May, to protest countries unilaterally recognizing Palestinian statehood.

Jews and Muslims both claim the Jerusalem hilltop compound, which is considered the holiest site for Jews.

Palestinians consider the mosque a national symbol and view such visits as provocative, though Ben-Gvir has frequently visited the site, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, during tense periods. Tensions over the compound have fueled past rounds of violence. (AP)

## Bedwetting, nightmares, shaking; War in Gaza takes a mental health toll, especially on children

**DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP):** Nabila Hamada gave birth to twin boys in Gaza early in the war, in a hospital reeking of decaying bodies and full of displaced people. When Israeli forces threatened the hospital, she and her husband fled with only one of the babies, as medical staff said the other was too weak to leave. Soon after, Israeli forces raided the hospital, Gaza's largest, and she never saw the boy again.

The trauma of losing one twin left the 40-year-old Hamada so scared of losing the other that she became frozen and ill-equipped to deal with the daily burden of survival.

"I'm unable to take care of my other, older children or give them the love they need," she said. She is among hundreds of thousands of Palestinians struggling with mental health after nine months of war. (AP)

## Russia downed 33 Ukrainian drones in Crimea, 10 naval drones

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russia downed 33 Ukrainian aerial drones overnight over Crimea and 10 naval drones that were heading for the peninsula, Moscow's defence ministry said on July 18.

"Air defence systems on duty destroyed and intercepted 33 aerial drones over... Crimea," the ministry said in a Telegram post, adding that forces "in the Black Sea destroyed 10 naval drones that were heading towards the Crimean peninsula".

Sevastopol governor Mikhail Razvozhayev said earlier on Thursday that loud noises heard in the Crimean city were linked to the Russian army retaliating "against an attempted attack by a surface drone".

Late last month, Moscow accused Ukraine of carrying out a deadly strike in Crimea using US missiles, killing at least four people, including two children, and injuring more than 150, according to the local authorities installed by Russia.

Two drones were also neutralised overnight in the Bryansk region of western Russia, according to the Russian defence ministry.

"There were no casualties or damage," local governor Alexander Bogomaz said on Telegram Thursday.

Ukraine has stepped up its attacks on Russian territory this year, targeting both energy sites that it says supply the Russian army, as well as towns and villages just across the border and in Crimea. (AFP)

## Uncertainty is the winner and incumbents the losers so far in a year of high-stakes global elections

**LONDON (TIP):** Discontented, economically squeezed voters have turned against sitting governments on both right and left during many of the dozens of elections held this year, as global power blocs shift and political certainties crumble.

From India to South Africa to Britain, voters dealt blows to long-governing parties. Elections to the European Parliament showed growing support for the continent's far right, while France's centrist president scrambled to fend off a similar surge at home.

If there's a global trend, Eurasia Group president Ian Bremmer said at a summit in Canada in June, it's that "people are tired of the incumbents."

More than 40 countries have held elections already this year. More uncertainty awaits — nations home to over half the world's population are going to the polls in 2024. The world is already anxiously turning to November's presidential election in the US, where an acrimonious campaign was dealt a shocking blow by an assassination attempt against Republican nominee and former president, Donald Trump.

Aftershocks from the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, and spiking prices for food and fuel have left dissatisfied voters eager for change. (AP)



## BANGLADESH STUDENTS REJECT PM'S OLIVE BRANCH AFTER DEADLY PROTESTS

**DHAKA (TIP):** Bangladesh students vowed on July 18 to continue nationwide protests against civil service hiring rules, rebuffing an olive branch from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who pledged justice for seven killed in the demonstrations.

Hasina's government has ordered schools and universities to close indefinitely and stepped up efforts to contain weeks of rallies demanding equal access to public sector jobs.

Riot police have fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds while protesters and students allied to the premier's ruling Awami League have battled on the streets with bricks and bamboo rods.

Hasina condemned the "murder" of protesters in a televised address to the nation and vowed that those responsible will be punished regardless of their political affiliation.

But Students Against Discrimination, the main group behind this month's rallies, said her words were insincere and urged supporters to press on.

"It did not reflect the murders and mayhem carried out by her party activists," Asif Mahmud, one of the coordinators of the protests, told AFP.

The group called on Bangladeshis to observe a nationwide shutdown on July 18, by keeping shops closed and staying at home ahead of fresh protests planned for later in the day.

The call was widely observed in the capital Dhaka, with barely any vehicles seen on the city's usually traffic-choked roads.

Dhaka residents reported widespread mobile internet outages on Thursday, two days after internet providers cut off access to Facebook - the protest campaign's key organising tool.

Police on July 18 announced the death of a seventh protester the previous evening, conceding that police weaponry had killed the 18-year-old.

"He was hit by rubber bullets," police inspector Bacchu Mia told AFP. "He was brought to the hospital but died before he was admitted."

More than 500 others were injured in clashes around the country on Wednesday, while six people were killed on Tuesday. Hasina's speech did not assign responsibility for the deaths, but descriptions from hospital authorities and students given to AFP earlier suggest at least some of the victims died when police used supposedly non-lethal weapons on demonstrations.

Rights group Amnesty International said video evidence from clashes this week showed that Bangladeshi security forces had used unlawful force. (AFP)

# Nepal PM Oli to seek vote of confidence on July 21: Report

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal's newly appointed Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli will take a vote of confidence in Parliament on July 21, as required by the Constitution, a media report quoted the chief whip of his party as saying on July 17.

The 72-year-old veteran leader was sworn in on Monday as the Himalayan nation's prime minister for the fourth time.

Prime Minister Oli decided to take a vote of confidence on Sunday, MyRepublica news portal reported, quoting Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) Chief Whip Mahesh Bertaula.

According to Nepal's Constitution, Oli needs to secure a vote of confidence from Parliament within 30 days of appointment, which he is likely to secure easily, as the minimum number to form a government in the 275-strong House of Representatives (HoR) is just 138.

The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister on Sunday by President



Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with the Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties.

Oli succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda,' who lost the vote of confidence in the HoR last week, leading to the formation of the new government.

The CPN-UML Chairman now leads

the new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.

Nepal has faced frequent political turmoil as the country has seen 14 governments in the past 16 years after the introduction of the Republican system.

Within hours of Oli's swearing-in, three advocates -- Deepak Adhikari, Khagendra Prasad Chapagain and Shailendra Kumar Gupta -- filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court of Nepal challenging his appointment arguing that it was unconstitutional and sought its annulment.

The advocates argued that the president should call for forming a new government under Article 76 (3) if a government formed as per Article 76 (2) fails the floor test in the House of Representatives.

The apex court has set July 21 as the date for a preliminary hearing in the case -- the same day Oli will take the floor test in the Parliament. (PTI)

## 40 dead as heavy rains pound eastern Afghanistan, destroying houses and cutting power

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Heavy rains in eastern Afghanistan have killed at least 40 people and injured nearly 350 others, Taliban officials said July 17.

Among the dead in Monday's storm were five members of the same family when the roof of their house collapsed in Surkh Rod district, according to provincial spokesperson Sediqullah Quraishi. Four other family members were injured.

Sharafat Zaman Amar, a spokesperson for the Public Health Ministry, said the 347 injured people had been brought for treatment to the regional hospital in Nangarhar from Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, and nearby districts.

About 400 houses and 60 electricity poles were destroyed across Nangarhar, Quraishi said. Power was cut in many areas and there were limited communications in Jalalabad city, he said. The damage was still being assessed.

Abdul Wali, 43, said much of the damage occurred within an hour. "The winds were so strong that they blew everything into the air. That was followed by heavy rain," he said. His 4-year-old daughter received minor injuries, he said.

Aid organizations rushed supplies and mobile teams. (PTI)

## Pakistan, IMF agree on new \$7 bn aid package



economic issues.

"Building on the economic stability achieved under the 2023 Stand-by Arrangement (SBA), IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on a 37-month Extended Fund Facility Arrangement (EFF) of about USD 7 billion," the global lender said in an overnight statement, confirming the much-awaited deal subject to the approval by the IMF's Executive Board.

The Washington-based lender further said the new programme aims to support the authorities' efforts to cement macroeconomic stability and create conditions for stronger, more inclusive, and resilient growth in the cash-strapped country.

"This includes steps to strengthen fiscal and monetary policy and reforms to broaden the tax base, improve State Owned Enterprises' (SOE) management, strengthen competition, secure a level playing field for investment, enhance human capital, and scale up social protection through increased generosity and coverage in the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)," it read.

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan and the IMF have agreed on a \$7 billion aid package spread over more than three years to help the cash-strapped country deal with its chronic

## Pakistan government to ban jailed ex-PM Imran Khan's party, says information minister



**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The Pakistan government will ban jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party for its alleged involvement in anti-state activities, it was announced on July 17.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced that the federal government has decided to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), alleging that the former ruling party was involved in anti-state activities, The News International reported.

Khan, 71, has been lodged at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on account of multiple cases against him.

Tarar said that clear evidence was available to impose restrictions on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and the government would initiate proceedings against the party.

The government's decision comes on the heels of relief given to the PTI by the Supreme Court in the reserved seats case as well as to Khan in the illegal marriage case. (PTI)



# Sikh History This Week

JUNE 19 TO JULY 25

19th July



1708 Guru Gobind Singh Ji arrived at Nandedh (Hazur Sahib) with his Sikh soldiers and set up his camp there near the Mughal camp. Here he met Banda Bairagi who became his devout disciple. The Guru was treacherously attacked by some Pathan agents of the Governor of Sarhind or the Mughal emperor. ABICHAL NAGAR – situated near Nandedh city in South India, on the banks of river Godawari, is the famous place where Guru Gobind Singh left his earthly body on Katak Sudi 5, sunmat 1765.



1982 The police arrested two Sikhs from a bus and later they were killed (on July 19 and July 23 respectively) in fake encounters. These two were Amarjeet Singh of Daheru village and Baljeet Singh of Sultanpur (Kapurthala). The later was shaved after being murdered by the police.

20th July



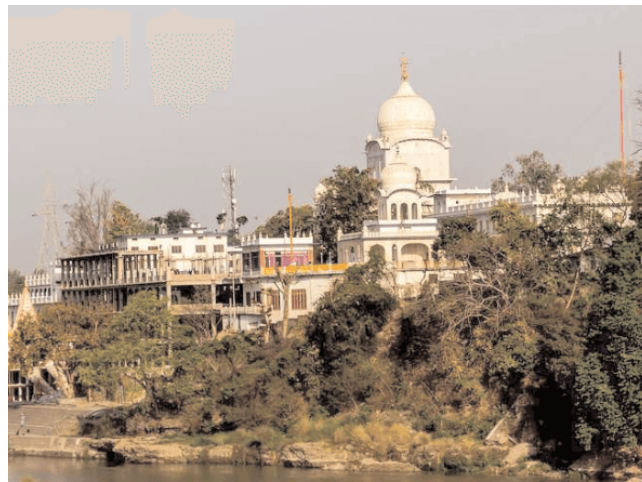
1935 Muslims took control of Shaheed Ganj, Lahore.  
1950 Akali Dal Executives asks its legislatures to form a separate group in the Assembly.

21st July

1915 Sardar Chanan Singh and Gadhari Sikhs were hanged until death in Lahore.  
1925 The police and army of Nabha State lifted the seize of Gurudwara Gangsar and Tibhi Sahib Jaito in 1925. Additionally, all Akalis imprisoned in connection with this movement were also released. This concluded the successful completion of Jaito Morcha. Hence a special Jatha of a few hundred valiant Akali

Satyagrahies replaced the police and army forces and initiated Akhand Path of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

22nd July



1685 Foundation stone of Paonta Fort laid by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

1923 Subedar Amar Singh of Dhaliwal, a military pensioner and a member of the SGPC was arrested.

1984 Santa Singh, Jathaedar Budha Dal, expelled from Khalsa Panth.

1984 Regional Conference in Toronto.

Regional conference was held at Toronto. The attack on the Golden Temple by the Indian army struck teh Sikh world like a thunderbolt. All shades of Canadian Sikhs came together at the desecration of teh supreme emblem of their faith. Because of the shoartge of time, the Sikh institution's executives decided to take the Canadian Sikhs into immediate confidence on the kind of action required. This was done by holding regional conferences at Kamloops and Toronto. The Kamloops conference was attended by representatives of all Sikh Societies from Western. While the Toronto Conference was attended by the socities of the eastern region. The Calgary Sikh Society, which was not on good terms with the federation, provided unqualified support for any action the Federation recommended.

23rd July

1627: Baba Atal Rai, son of Sri Guru Hargobind Ji, left for heavenly abode. Highest tower was erected in his memory near the Harminder complex at Amritsar. ATAL RAI – son of Guru Hargobind Sahib, was born to Matta MahaDevi, in sunmat 1676 at Amritsar. [Please NOTE that according to Suraj Prakash, Atal Rai's mother is Matta Nanaki Ji]. Atal Rai left this earth at his birth place on SawanBadhi 10, sunmat 1685. This place is marked with a six story mandir whose foundation was initially laid by Sikhs in sunmat 1835. Subsequently Sardar Jodh Singh Ramgarihia constructed a few stories in sunmat 1841. This building is still incomplete. Yet it provides food and shelters to all travellers, courtesy the residents of Amritsar. This concept is well capture by the famous phrase

1707: Guru Gobind Singh and Bahadur Shah meet in Red Fort, Delhi.

1914: Kamagata Maru was compelled to leave Canadian waters without being granted entry. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the begining of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of



preventing immigration from india and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.

1985: A meeting was held between Rajiv and Longowal. Although it was Longowal who represented the Akalis, it was Barnala and Balwant who were the real negotiators. The meeting was simply a formality — everything had been agreed upon beforehand between Rajiv and Barnala-Balwant. An agreement was reached by the parties. This so-called “agreement” included the transfer of Chndigarh to the Punjab and a referral of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution to a Commission.

24th July

1954 Baba Gurdit Singh, leader of Koma-Gata Maru passed away.



1985 A written agreement took place between the President of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Harchand Singh Longowal and the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. This agreement is known as the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. On January 25, 1986, Chandigarh was to be transferred to Punjab. Even this was deffered under the plea that Fazilka and Abohar, etc. were to be transferred to Haryana province. A farce in the form of the Mathew Commission and the alleged referndum/linguistic survey was held in the area on January 14, 1986. Under such a pretext, the transfer of Chandigarh was refused. This was the end of the historical accord.

25th July

1710 Bahadur Shah ordered Pheroj Khan, Muyarif Khan, and Shikar Khan to arrest Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.

1982 Akali Dal adopted Bhindrawala's agitation.



# Benefits of oiling hair daily

According to experts, hair oil serves a range of purposes beyond simply making the hair softer and smoother. Its benefits extend to strengthening the roots, preventing hair fall, delaying the appearance of grey hair, and maintaining a healthy scalp.

Says renowned hair expert Jawed Habib, "Hair oil safeguards your locks. Why else would we have oil-based conditioners and hair treatments?" The scalp, he explains, does not require oil. "The term 'hair oil' itself implies that it is intended solely for the hair, not the scalp. Some argue that the scalp also needs oil for optimal health, but I respectfully disagree. Scientifically speaking, the scalp has its natural oil production, which adequately maintains its well-being. Therefore, hair oil should be restricted to hair alone. If you must, then apply it to the scalp only during massage to provide lubrication, as massaging a dry scalp can lead to hair breakage."

Agrees Namita Pandharipande, R&D- Personal Care, Netsurf Communications Pvt. Ltd. "Throughout generations, different oils have been known for their remarkable properties that include hydration, protection, and possessing antibacterial qualities. Among these, herbal oils derived from coconut, shea butter, and olive effectively help prevent hair thinning and alleviate dry scalp concerns. These nourishing oils moisturise the hair and promote hair growth, resulting in healthier, more vibrant hair."

Here are more reasons why you should apply hair oil.

## Detangle

Nobody enjoys dealing with tangled and unruly hair. Applying hair oil can help you eliminate this problem. "Hair oil acts as a lubricant, making it easier to detangle your hair and providing a polished appearance by smoothing the outer layer of each strand," says Habib.

## Protection

Whether you expose your hair to harsh chemicals, pollution, sun, or heat styling tools, hair oils come to the rescue, guarding against potential damage. "Hair oils, especially herbal oils, act as a protective barrier against factors that harm the hair," says Pandharipande.



## Crowning glory

A good hair oil adds a natural sheen to your hair, making it appear more lustrous and vibrant. However, Habib advises against leaving hair oil overnight. "It's not safe to do so," he says. "I always suggest applying oil a few minutes before shampooing your hair. Additionally, I recommend ensuring that your hair is not dry when you apply the oil. To achieve this, wet your hair lightly before applying the hair oil."

## Nourishment

Experts agree that when you apply hair oil and leave it for a while it revitalises your locks, making them healthier and stronger.

## Hydration

Every part of our body needs hydration, and our hair is no exception. Regular oiling is a simple yet effective way to promote overall hair health and maintain its natural moisture balance. "Applying hair oil plays an important role in preserving the moisture content of the hair, effectively combating issues such as dryness, frizz, and breakage," says Habib. The oil forms a protective barrier that seals in the moisture, preventing it from escaping. This helps keep the hair strands nourished, soft, and supple. Additionally, the lubricating properties of hair oil contribute to detangling and reducing hair damage during combing or styling.

Source: Moneycontrol

# Ways to remove blackheads from nose

## Green tea

Green tea is a great antioxidant that can help reduce oil production in your skin. Mix green tea leaves with water and massage the leaves into your skin for about 30 seconds. Rinse off and apply a moisturizer afterward.

## Tea tree oil

It is another natural way to stop the growth of bacteria and can be found in many products, including soaps and creams. Apply tea tree oil directly to affected blackheads to prevent bacterial growth.

## Salt/sugar scrubs

Helps exfoliate the skin and remove dead skin cells on the skin's



surface. After massaging the scrub on your face, wash it off with water and apply a moisturizer.

## Baking soda

Just like salt and sugar scrubs can help exfoliate the skin and remove dirt, oil, and dead skin cells.

Mix baking soda with water and massage it into any affected areas. Rinse off with warm water and use a moisturizer when done.

## Azelaic acid

It can be found in topical creams and works by killing bacteria on your skin. This over-the-counter treatment can also reduce inflammation and keep the pores clean.

## Salicylic acid

It is an ingredient found in many cleansers, lotions, and creams. When it's applied to the skin, it helps shed dead cells which can prevent pores and follicles from clogging.

## FOOD CORNER

# Dhansak Mutton



## Ingredients

- ½ kg mutton
- 1 1/2 cup tur dal preferably wet ½ an hour before cooking
- 2 small brinjals cut into 4 pieces each
- Few mint leaves, coriander leaves and curry leaves
- 1 big tomato diced nicely
- ½ tsp haldi powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhanajeera powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dhansak masala powder
- ½ tsp garam masala
- Salt to taste
- 1 or 2 green chillies slit into 2
- 1 tsp ginger garlic paste
- 1 tsp oil or ghee

## Method

Wash the dal and mutton. take oil or ghee in the cooker put curry leaves, mint leaves and Ginger garlic paste and slit green chillies last add nicely diced tomatoes and fry over sim for Few moments then add mutton and cook till the mutton is nicely covered in the masalas and Then add all the dry masalas let the mutton roast for sometime now add the dal and 1 glass Full of water and put the cooker lid on. Cook for ½ an hour. Open and add finely chopped Coriander leaves.

# Brown rice

## Ingredients

- 2 cups rice, 2 tbsp jaggery, 2 onions nicely chopped into thin thin slices, 2 pieces of cardamoms, 2pcs cinnamon, 1 bay leaf, 3 or 4 whole peppers, 2 pepper corns, 1 piece star aniseed, ¼ tsp jeera and salt to taste, Ghee for frying

## Method

Wash the rice and keep it aside. Fry onions in ghee till brown along with all the dry Masalas then put the jaggery and fry over low gas and put the washed rice add salt to taste and last add water. Cook till done.





# Your weak sense of smell may be a precursor to heart failure: Experts

The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily robbed many of us of our olfactory senses. We scarfed down tasteless food, hoping that spices and herbs would someday come alive on our tongues again. While some recovered, many continue to live with weakened smell and taste.

A recent study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association observed that “olfactory impairment, a common sensory deficit in older adults, may be a novel marker or potential contributor to congestive heart failure.”

Indianexpress.com spoke to clinical experts to understand if a weakened sense of smell really indicates heart problems and what can be done to avoid such a fate.

“Indeed, a diminished sense of smell may be an early sign of heart failure. It was observed that the loss of the sense of smell might be connected to the initial process of neurodegenerative disorders and common diseases such as cardiovascular pathologies,” said Dr Chirag D, consultant – interventional cardiology, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru.

## Why does this happen?

“The link between weak smelling abilities and heart failure is related to the health of blood vessels. The ability to detect odours mostly depends on the normal flow of blood through the olfactory bulb and other areas responsible for perception. Prolonged inflammation and neurodegenerative processes affect both cardiac systems and olfactory pathways simultaneously,” said Chirag.

Dr Divakar Bhat, consultant – CTVS surgery at Aster RV Hospital, concurred. According to him, in individuals with extremely weak hearts, blood supply is reduced to all body parts, including the olfactory nerve region, which is the only sensory nerve conveying the sense of smell. This may lead to a diminished sense of smell.

“Other causes of a weakened sense of smell include nasal issues, brain conditions affecting the olfactory



nerve, or COVID-19. It is not related to heart function,” he said.

## What constitutes a weak sense of smell?

“Standardised tests such as UPSIT (University of Pennsylvania Smell Identification Test) or Sniffin’ Sticks test can measure hyposmia or reduced sense of smell. These assessments evaluate one’s capability to recognise, pick out, or differentiate various smells. If a person scores below average on these tests, it means that he/she has a smell disorder,” said Chirag.

According to him, individuals more prone to having a weak sense of smell include the elderly, those with neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s), people with chronic sinus issues or nasal blockages, and those with certain genetic conditions.

Lifestyle factors such as smoking, exposure to environmental toxins, and poor cardiovascular health can also contribute to olfactory dysfunction.

Source: *The Indian Express*



## COVID-19 found to accelerate symptoms of type 1 diabetes in children in early stage

Contracting COVID-19 may accelerate the onset of visible symptoms of type 1 diabetes in children, an autoimmune condition, according to a study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers found that children infected with the virus and in the early stages of type 1 diabetes without displaying symptoms, progressed more rapidly to a clinical onset of the autoimmune disorder.

Symptoms of type 1 diabetes can include unusual thirst and hunger, along with frequent urination, fatigue and blurred vision. Treatment typically involves insulin therapy, requiring regular injections through the day.

In an autoimmune disorder, the body’s immune system attacks the healthy cells and organs, instead of protecting it against foreign disease-causing agents.

Previous studies have found elevated levels of islet autoantibodies in children infected with COVID-19. Produced when insulin-producing cells in the pancreas are damaged, these autoantibodies from one’s blood samples can help in diagnosing type 1 diabetes.

In this study, the researchers, including those from the Institute of Diabetes Research, Helmholtz Munich, Germany, found that children already having islet autoantibodies (early stages of type 1 diabetes) developed diagnosable symptoms of the condition at a faster rate after a COVID-19 infection, compared to those not infected.

From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 until 2023, children participating in the Fr1da study (for type 1 diabetes) were tested for antibodies produced in response to COVID-19, along with islet autoantibodies. The researchers thus had ‘valuable data’ on the association between the SARS-CoV-2 virus and type 1 diabetes.

They showed that cases of type 1 diabetes diagnoses among children in early stages of the disease increased at a higher rate during the pandemic, compared to that pre-pandemic.

Source: *PTI*

## New AI model to speed up heart scans, save time, boost treatment

Researchers have developed a very innovative method for analysing MRI heart scans with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) technology which could save valuable time and resources and improve patient care.

The teams from the Universities of East Anglia (UEA), Sheffield, and Leeds have created a model that uses AI to examine heart MRI scans in a view known as the four-chamber plane.

“This model determines the size and function of the heart’s chambers and demonstrates outcomes comparable to those done by doctors but unimaginably faster,” said Pankaj Garg, from the University of East Anglia’s Norwich Medical School



He noted that a standard MRI process takes 45 minutes, but the new model takes “a matter of

seconds”, leading to an overall betterment of this field.

The retrospective observational study consisted of data from 814 patients. Further, scans and data from another 101 patients were also sampled.

While the previous studies focused on only the two main chambers of the heart, the new study focuses on all four.

The team said this would lead to faster, more accurate diagnoses and help patients.

They also stressed the need for future studies to focus on larger groups of patients from different hospitals, with different types of MRI scanners, and other common diseases seen in medical practice to verify the accuracy.

Source: *IANs*

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## Meteorites from Mars help scientists understand the red planet's interior

Of the more than 74,000 known meteorites – rocks that fall to Earth from asteroids or planets colliding together – only 385 or so stones came from the planet Mars.

It's not that hard for scientists to work out that these meteorites come from Mars. Various landers and rovers have been exploring Mars' surface for decades. Some of the early missions – the Viking landers – had the equipment to measure the composition of the planet's atmosphere. Scientists have shown that you can see this unique Martian atmospheric composition reflected in some of these meteorites.

Mars also has unique oxygen. Everything on Earth, including humans and the air we breathe, is made up of a specific composition of the three isotopes of the element oxygen: oxygen-16, oxygen-17 and oxygen-18. But Mars has an entirely different composition – it's like a geochemical fingerprint for being Martian.

The Martian meteorites found on Earth give geologists like me hints about the makeup of the red planet and its history of volcanic activity. They allow us to study Mars without sending a spacecraft 140 million miles away.

### A planet of paradoxes

These Martian meteorites formed from once red-hot magma within Mars. Once these volcanic rocks cooled and crystallised, radioactive elements within them started to decay, acting as a radiometric clock that enables scientists to tell when they formed.

From these radiometric ages, we know that some Martian meteorites are as little as 175 million years old, which is – geologically speaking – quite young. Conversely, some of the Martian meteorites are older, and formed close to the time Mars itself formed.

These Martian meteorites tell a story of a planet that has been volcanically active throughout its entire history. In fact, there's potential for Martian volcanoes to erupt even today, though scientists have never seen such an eruption.

Source: PTI

# Cave discovered on Moon could be home for humans

Scientists have for the first time discovered a cave on the Moon. At least 100m deep, it could be an ideal place for humans to build a permanent base, they say.

It is just one in probably hundreds of caves hidden in an “underground, undiscovered world”, according to the researchers.

Countries are racing to establish a permanent human presence on the Moon, but they will need to protect astronauts from radiation, extreme temperatures, and space weather.

Helen Sharman, the first British astronaut to travel to space, told BBC News that the newly-discovered cave looked like a good place for a base, and suggested humans could potentially be living in lunar pits in 20-30 years.

But, she said, this cave is so deep that astronauts might need to abseil in and use “jet packs or a lift” to get out.

Lorenzo Bruzzone and Leonardo Carrer at the University of Trento in Italy found the cave by using radar to penetrate the opening of a pit on a rocky plain called the Mare Tranquillitatis. It is visible to the naked eye from Earth, and is also where Apollo 11 landed in 1969.

The cave has a skylight on the Moon's surface, leading down to vertical and overhanging walls, and a sloping floor that might extend further underground.

It was made millions or billions of years ago when lava flowed on the Moon, creating a tunnel through the rock.

The closest equivalent on Earth would be the volcanic caves in Lanzarote, Spain, Prof Carrer explains, adding that the researchers visited those caves as part of their work.

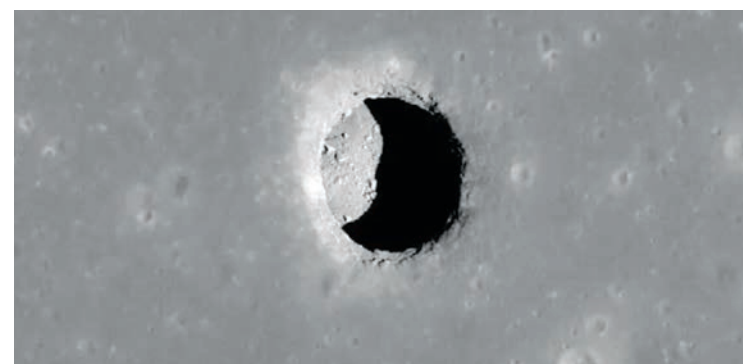
“It's really exciting. When you make these discoveries and you look at these images, you realise you're the first person in the history of humanity to see it,” Prof Carrer said.

Once Prof Bruzzone and Prof Carrer understood how big the cave was, they realised it could be a good spot for a lunar base.

“After all, life on Earth began in caves, so it makes sense that humans could live inside them on the Moon,” says Prof Carrer.

The cave has yet to be fully explored, but the researchers hope that ground-penetrating radar, cameras or even robots could be used to map it.

Scientists first realised there were probably caves on the



Scientists had speculated that ‘lunar pits’ like this could be cave entrances - now they have proof.

Moon around 50 years ago. Then in 2010 a camera on a mission called the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter took pictures of pits that scientists thought could be cave entrances.

But researchers did not know how deep the caves might be, or if they would have collapsed.

Prof Bruzzone and Prof Carrer's work has now answered that question, although there is much more to be done to understand the full scale of the cave.

“We have very good images of the surface - up to 25cm of resolution - we can see the Apollo landing sites - but we know nothing about what lies below the surface. There are huge opportunities for discovery,” Francesco Sauro, Coordinator of the Topical Team Planetary Caves of the European Space Agency, told BBC News. The research may also help us explore caves on Mars in the future, he says.

That could open the door to finding evidence of life on Mars, because if it did exist, it would almost certainly have been inside caves protected from the elements on the planet's surface.

The Moon cave might be useful to humans, but the scientists also stress that it could help answer fundamental questions about the history of the Moon, and even our solar system.

The rocks inside the cave will not be as damaged or eroded by space weather, so they can provide an extensive geological record going back billions of years.

Source: BBC

## Google deal for ‘hot market’ cyber firm Wiz would bolster cloud security

If Alphabet's Google is successful in its effort to buy cloud security company Wiz, it would bolster its cloud security offerings for large organisations, a hotspot for hackers, and help it take on cloud rivals Amazon and Microsoft, experts said.

Alphabet is in advanced talks to acquire Wiz, a person familiar with the matter said on Sunday, in an up to \$23 billion deal that would be Google's most expensive acquisition and provide it with cybersecurity products that defend against ransomware gangs wreaking havoc on large enterprises.

“There is a hot market for cloud security,” said Jerome Seguera, a senior intelligence analyst at the cybersecurity firm MalwareBytes, adding that Wiz gives customers “great visibility into their assets in a straightforward way.”

Wiz offers tools that allow organisations to scan their entire infrastructure and specific software for threats.



Google has been steadily expanding its cybersecurity offerings in recent years. Two years ago it bought the popular cyber firm Mandiant for \$5.4 billion.

“I think they are trying to compete with Microsoft and to a smaller extent AWS (Amazon Web Services),” said Marc Bleicher, chief technology officer of the security firm Surefire Cyber.

“Wiz is one of only a few who address a big chunk of the cloud security market in one platform,” Bleicher said.

Wiz was founded in 2020 at the height of

the coronavirus pandemic, primed to benefit from the move towards remote work and the shift by organisations to cloud environments from desktops. Most large organisations have also shifted to storing their data on the cloud over the years, but that has come with security risks – especially as companies expand and become more complex.

Its founders, former Israeli army intelligence members, earlier founded another cloud security firm named Adallom that Microsoft bought for \$320 million in 2015.

Headquartered in New York, the company has grown rapidly since then. Only two months ago, at the RSA cybersecurity conference in San Francisco, Wiz said it was valued at \$12 billion. It now expects annual organic revenue of \$1 billion in 2025 and has raised nearly \$2 billion in venture capital investment in total, said a person familiar with the Google deal talks, declining to be named.

Source: Reuters



## ADB retains India's growth forecast at 7%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has maintained India's GDP growth forecast at 7 per cent for the current financial year, citing that a rebound in agriculture is expected given above-normal monsoon projections.

The ADB forecast comes a day after the International Monetary Fund revised upward its GDP growth projections for India to 7 per cent compared to 6.8 per cent projected in April.

The Indian economy is on track to grow by 7 per cent in FY2024 (ending 31 March 2025) and 7.2 per cent in FY2025, as projected in ADO April 2024, said the July edition of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO). The Indian economy logged a growth rate of 8.2 per cent for the financial year ended March 2024.

### IMF upgrades India's economic outlook

The International Monetary Fund is upgrading its economic outlook this year for China, India and Europe while modestly lowering expectations for the United States and Japan. But it says worldwide progress against accelerating prices has been slowed by stickier-than-expected inflation for services, from airline travel to restaurant meals. Overall, the IMF said that it still expects the world economy to grow a lackluster 3.2 per cent this year, unchanged from its previous forecast in April and down a tick from 3.3 per cent growth in 2023. From 2000 through 2019, before the pandemic upended economic activity, global growth had averaged 3.8 per cent a year.

# US firms point to slowing activity and softer labor market, Fed survey shows

NEW YORK (TIP)

U.S. economic activity expanded at a slight to modest pace from late May through early July with firms expecting slower growth ahead as they also reported signs the jobs market continues to soften, in line with the Federal Reserve's recent pivot to more keenly assessing slowing demand for labor to ensure it doesn't wait too long before cutting interest rates.

The U.S. central bank's latest temperature check on the health of the economy also showed that inflation pressures increased at a modest pace with most Fed districts reporting input costs were beginning to stabilize.

"Economic activity maintained a slight to modest pace of growth in a majority of districts this reporting cycle," the Fed said in its survey released on Wednesday, which polled business contacts across the central bank's 12 districts through July 8. While seven Fed districts reported some level of increase in activity, five noted flat or declining activity - three more than in the prior reporting period, the survey noted, as firms forecast a dimming outlook.

"Expectations for the future of the economy were for slower growth over the next six months due to uncertainty around the upcoming election, domestic policy, geopolitical conflict, and inflation," the Fed survey said.

In particular, the upcoming U.S. presidential election in November was increasingly on business contacts' minds, the report showed. The Atlanta Fed said uncertainty about the election outcome appeared to be weighing on investment activity in the renewable energy space, while the Dallas Fed said outlooks from the manufacturing and construction and real estate sectors were clouded by election uncertainty, for example. The Fed's analysis, released roughly every six weeks, comes as Fed Chair Jerome Powell and his colleagues have emphasized that risks on inflation and jobs are now in balance. Earlier on Wednesday two top Fed officials said interest rate cuts are "getting closer," remarks that appear to set the stage for a lowering of borrowing costs in September.

After being stung by higher-than-expected inflation in the



first part of this year, Fed officials have been encouraged by more positive readings in April, May and June. Inflation remains, by the Fed's preferred measure, at 2.6%. The next release of that gauge is due on July 26.

As disinflation has resumed, Fed officials have more strongly spoken about a marked deterioration in the labor market as a reason the central bank would begin to cut its policy rate.

### PAUSING SOME HIRES

Several districts noted softer labor market conditions. A Wisconsin source told the Minneapolis Fed there were "still plenty of job openings," but employers were raising hiring standards and pausing on some hires, the bank reported.

One contractor told the Philadelphia Fed they had received 20 applications for electrical jobs—"the most I have seen in the last 20 years." Fed officials recently have said the labor market has come into better balance thanks to an influx of workers, many of them foreign born, a development also represented in Wednesday's report. The Boston Fed said Cape Cod contacts noted normal levels of availability of foreign-born workers through short-term visa programs, which support the seasonal labor demand in the area. *Source: Reuters*

## Byju's goes under insolvency: What happens to employees?

MUMBAI (TIP)

The parent company of troubled edtech giant Byju's called Think and Learn Pvt Ltd was put into insolvency by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on July 16, due to a plea filed by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after the company failed to pay sponsorship dues worth Rs 158 crore.

Byju's, once one of India's hottest startups, valued at \$22 billion, entered a financial crisis with debts piling up after demand for online education which skyrocketed during the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns, cooled.

The company is now in insolvency and Pankaj Srivastava has been appointed as the interim resolution professional after the entire management headed by founder Byju Raveendran, was legally suspended.

The committee of creditors will now run the company for 330 days during which they can find a buyer for the company. If they are unable to do so



within 330 days, the company will get liquidated.

Around 160-200 former employees of Byju's who were laid off due to falling revenues had complained to the Karnataka labour commissioner that their full settlement was not yet made, according to a Moneycontrol report. The total dues amounted to 4.5 crore.

Employees usually will be able to

recover their dues because dues to employees for 24 months before the liquidation process are the second most important priority for settlements, under section 53(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, with the first one being the resolution professionals themselves. Dues to employees 12 months before the liquidation are the 3rd most important

priority. Creditors come into the picture only after this.

Current and former employees of Byju's have to take note that the company had allegedly not paid their tax deducted at source (TDS) since as early as last year's July, according to the report.

The tax comes fifth in terms of priority as per the IBC. The liability will be on the hands of the suspended management as its their fault, but the government can also claim it from the resolution professional.

The committee of creditors can choose to retain employees or terminate them over the next 330 days. In the case of grounded airline Go First, they retained 2,278 employees, according to the report. But these employees weren't reporting to work due to not getting salaries, which was because funds weren't available.

However, Byju's case is different as it is still making revenues unlike the grounded airline. *Source: HT*



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# Shravan Month: Rituals, significance & spiritual practices

The monsoon season brings more than just cooling rains. It also brings Shravan, a holy month in the Hindu calendar that usually falls in July or August. This time is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is filled with traditions and religious practices.

For Southern and Western states of India, including Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, Shravan will start on August 5, 2024, and end on September 3, 2024.

For Northern states of India, such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Bihar, Shravan will begin on Monday, July 22, 2024, and end on Monday, August 19, 2024.

Shravan is considered one of the most sacred months in the Hindu calendar, marking the fifth month of the lunar year. Named after the Shravan Nakshatra, which is seen on full-moon days, this month is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Devotees offer leaves, flowers, fruits, and water to the Shiva Linga during this time.

This month is rich in festivals and religious events, making it an ideal time for new beginnings. Mondays in Shravan, known as Shravan Somvar, are especially significant. Devotees visit temples, where the Shiva Linga is bathed continuously with holy water and milk, symbolising purification and devotion.

## Importance and Cultural Significance of Shravan

According to legend, Lord Shiva consumed poison during the Samudra Manthan to obtain Amrit (nectar) and save the world. Goddess Parvati intervened by holding his neck, preventing the poison from harming him further, but this caused Lord Shiva additional pain and injuries.

As part of the Sawan tradition, devotees of Lord Shiva fetch holy water from the river Ganga to heal his wounds. Fasts observed on Mondays during Shravan, known as Shravan Shomvar Vrats, are held to honour Lord Shiva and to pray for prosperity, success, and marriage. Since this month is entirely devoted to Lord Shiva, it is considered his favourite month.

## Rudra Abhishek

Rudra Abhishek holds significance as a sacred Hindu ceremony dedicated to honouring Lord Shiva. During this ritual, devotees bathe the Shiva lingam with offerings like water, milk, yoghurt, honey, and ghee. The chanting of mantras accompanies the ceremony, seeking blessings from Lord Shiva, while devotees offer fruits, flowers, and belpatra leaves as symbols of devotion.

The atmosphere is purified with burning dhoop sticks and incense while lighting a pure ghee diya symbolises the presence of divine light and wisdom.

The ritual symbolises devotion, purification, and seeking divine blessings, usually performed in temples by priests or at home with guidance from religious texts. Each offering has a symbolic meaning, representing different aspects of reverence toward Lord Shiva and fostering spiritual growth in the worshipper's life.

## Shravan Fasting

During Shravan Maas, followers usually observe four types of fasts, including Sawan Somwar Vrat, Solah Somwar Vrat, Pradosh Vrat, and Mangala Gauri Vrat.

### Sawan Somwar Vrat

This fast occurs every Monday (Somvar) of the month, typically spanning four Mondays, occasionally five.

### Solah Somwar Vrat

Young girls observe this fast for 16 consecutive Mondays



to seek an ideal husband, starting from the first Monday of the month.

### Pradosh Vrat

Held on the 13th day (Trayodashi tithi) of both Krishna Paksha and Shukla Paksha, devotees consider this day auspicious for worshipping Lord Shiva with a strict fast and puja during the Pradosh Kaal.

### Mangala Gauri Vrat

Observed on Tuesdays during Shravan Maas, this fast aims for a happy married life and the well-being and longevity of one's partner.

### Shani Vrat

On Saturdays during Shravan Maas, followers observe Shani Vrat primarily to appease Lord Shani and seek His blessings.

## Shravan Fast Rules

### Timing

Starts at sunrise and ends at sunset; some fast the entire day.

### Dietary Restrictions

Strictly vegetarian; avoid onions, garlic, non-vegetarian food, grains, and pulses.

### Hydration

Water intake varies; some may opt for complete waterless fasts.

### Religious Practices

Visit Shiva temples and perform special prayers and rituals.

### Breaking the Fast

Breakfast with a simple meal after sunset; start with fruits or light snacks.

**“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**

## Observance

Typically, on Mondays of the Shravan month, it can extend to multiple Mondays or the entire month.

## Benefits Of Shiva Puja In Shravan Month

### Spiritual Growth and Inner Peace

Praying to Lord Shiva during Shravan helps people cleanse their inner selves and grow spiritually, bringing peace and personal development.

### Divine Blessings

Showing devotion to Lord Shiva in Shravan invites his blessings, granting devotees their wishes and divine favors.

### Protection from Negativity

Honoring Lord Shiva during Shravan shields worshippers from obstacles and negative energies, providing divine protection and guidance.

### Overall Well-being

Observing Shiva worship rituals in Shravan promotes overall healing, benefiting devotees' physical, mental, and emotional health.

### Family Harmony

Participating in Shiva worship rituals during Shravan strengthens family ties and promotes harmony, love, and unity within households.

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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.”





**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**



**ARIES** : Ganesha says this week, children at home will be less interested in studies. Due to this, they may spend more of their time watching TV and this may frustrate you and may even lead to a dispute with them. However, during this time, avoid doing anything that may create hatred towards you in the minds of children. For this, it would be better if you spend time with them and try to make them understand. This time will prove to be very good because during this time you can launch some new products. Along with this, you will not shy away from taking some new risks this week, which will benefit you during this period. People pursuing higher education will get help in achieving great success even after a little hard work this week. Because this time is bringing better opportunities for them. In such a situation, take proper advantage of these opportunities and do not let them go.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says this week, that excessive interference from parents or elder siblings in your personal life can cause stress for you. During this period, your attitude towards them will be very bad, due to which your respect at home will also reduce. This week your work efficiency will develop, so that you can think more creatively and take a big decision to improve your business. Your decision will get the support of your family members as well as your employees, which will boost your confidence and you will be seen producing twice as fast. This week, people of your zodiac sign can get relief from all kinds of problems they are facing in the field of education. In such a situation, take advantage of this time and apart from your studies, try to give some time to physical activities also.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says this week you will have money, but it will not be enough for you due to the purchase of any item. Due to this, you may plan to take a loan or loan from any bank or any other institution. This week your family responsibilities will increase, which will cause you mental stress. In such a situation, instead of thinking about adverse situations and being afraid of them, keep trying to prepare yourself for them. If you are thinking of adding a new partner to your business, then this week it will be very important for you to check all the facts thoroughly before making any promise to him and only then take a decision.



**CANCER** : Ganesha says this week you may take an interest in household chores and help other women in the house. This will not only increase respect in the family but will also strengthen your relationships with other members. This entire week at the workplace, you will have to avoid falling in love with someone of the opposite sex. Otherwise, your notoriety as well as your image may be harmed. Therefore, do not do anything which you will regret later. At this time, those students will need to pay more attention to their hard work and be completely sure about their goals in life. Because during this time you will have to struggle the most to not let your ego dominate you. Apart from this, you will be successful in getting appreciation from your parents and teachers by performing better in your class.



**LEO** : Ganesha says this week you are likely to have a major dispute with your spouse or lover. For this, you may feel quite helpless regarding money and you may also have to listen to lectures from your partner regarding your wasteful spending. This week, you will be successful in improving the poor financial condition of your family by resolving every dispute going on in your family life. Due to this, your parents will feel proud of you and at the same time, seeing your intelligence, they will be seen showering their love on you. This week will give mixed results for students. The end of the week will be very good for you and this time will be able to bring you success in both the fields of education and higher education. You just have to keep your focus on your education and avoid getting confused during this time.



**VRIGO** : Ganesha says throughout this week, you will get proper support from your brothers and sisters from time to time and only with their support, you will be able to run your family life smoothly. Therefore, it would be better for you to keep talking to your brother or sister about this. There is a possibility that you may have to face some kind of betrayal from your colleagues at the workplace, which may hamper your career. In such a situation, you are advised to stay away from the company of liars and deceitful people from the beginning of this week. If you were thinking of taking admission in a good and big college away from home, then the prospects are looking a little more favorable at this time. So, for this many students will need to take cooperation from their teachers. However, avoid adopting shortcuts for any reason during this time, otherwise, you may have to repent throughout your life.



**LIBRA** : Ganesha says this week the condition of your financial life cannot be called good, you will have to face many money-related problems throughout this week. During this period, you will also be unable to save, which will increase mental stress. This week you need to be patient while talking to children at home or people who are less experienced than you. Because you may have differences with them, due to which you may lose your patience and use abusive language. In such a situation, there will be a possibility of your image being tarnished in the family. Therefore, now avoid doing anything like this. In such a situation, at this time you will have to come forward and give your blessings to those small people and workers whose hard work is responsible for your success. Because this will give them and you also positive encouragement at this time.



**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says pending financial matters may increase this week and many types of expenses will be on your mind during this time. Due to this, you may feel uncomfortable even without wanting to. Due to this, you will find yourself unable to make many types of decisions. In such a situation, keep yourself calm in every situation and also control your expenses. This week, the poor health of a female member in your family can become the main cause of unrest in the family environment. As a result, your mental stress will also increase, which will hurt various areas of your life. If you were thinking of making any investment, then this week you will have to avoid doing anything like that. Since this is a great time to learn in the workplace, don't wait until now to invest.



**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says this week your friends will make you happy by making some great plans. This plan could be to go out somewhere, where you will get a chance to have fun with your friends again. This week you may get a project in the office that you were already desiring. Therefore, now that you have got the responsibility, your mind will appear happy at this time, whose glow will enhance the beauty of your face. In such a situation, continue your efforts towards taking proper benefits while living this good time. Due to this, you will be seen getting angry at them even without wanting to. This will also increase the possibility of disturbing family peace.



**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says this week will prove to bring better-than-average results. Apart from this, at this time you are also likely to get many excellent opportunities to strengthen your position in society and increase your wealth. If someone in your

family has recently got married, then this week you may get the good news of the arrival of a new guest. Due to this, positivity will be seen in the family environment. Besides, this good news will also prove to be very effective in giving happiness to the elders of the house. Due to this, the atmosphere at home will remain pleasant and your mental stress will also go away. People of this zodiac sign who do business in partnership will get help in recovering from all types of past losses during this period. This time will prove to be very good for your career, due to which you will be seen meeting many big personalities and making proper plans to grow your business.



**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says you will most likely need to save your money this week, as there is a possibility that a creditor may come to your door asking for money from you this week. In such a situation, if you return the money to them, you may be in financial trouble and if you do not return the money, it may affect your reputation. Due to this, you will get love and affection from your parents also. Businesspeople of this zodiac sign may have to face problems due to wrong advice from someone close to them. Therefore, be careful while making any decision and avoid blindly trusting anyone's advice. This week you will need to be most committed towards your goals to achieve success in the field of education.



**PISCES** : Ganesha says this week you will suddenly get money from new sources, which will keep your mind happy. This will not only increase the positivity in your mind but you can also plan to take a gift for the younger members of the family while going home. This week your spouse will help you in maintaining harmony in the family and he will prove to be most helpful to you in this. Your social prestige is likely to increase, as during this week you will be seen involved in many charitable activities, the result of which will help you progress in your career. Because the time is going to be very auspicious for the students and this time will show you the path to immense success in moving forward based 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)*



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 22 TO JULY 28  
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**JULY 22 :** Ganesha says you will be well rewarded for your efforts today. You will spend more on luxuries and comforts to celebrate your achievements uniquely. You will earn more money and make some sensible long-term investments. Together you will develop a deep understanding that will make every moment you spend together memorable. You may be worried and upset about your parents' health. You may soon lose your spiritual gains.

**JULY 23 :** Ganesha says your career graph will be steadily rising. Your income will be more than you anticipated and keep you happy. You may start working on repair or construction projects for yourself or others at the end of the year. Children may be encouraged and share some positive news. Marriage relations for some people are close at the end of the year. Avoid getting embroiled in legal disputes as they will not give the desired results.

**JULY 24 :** Ganesha says you should stay away from controversial topics that may get your family members in trouble. Gain, rent, dividends, or interest through

the sale of fixed assets is certain to be collected. Save as much as possible to meet unforeseen expenses at the end of the year easily. During these years, you will make many useful connections, some of which will also result in cash rewards. You are the best person to manage both your and others' finances and investments.

**JULY 25 :** Ganesha says that you often spend too much of your time and energy fulfilling the needs of others, rather than fulfilling your interests. Although you are honest and creative, you need to learn to control your sometimes angry and reckless behavior. If you make investments now they may give profitable returns. For some, moving, buying a car, or traveling abroad is possible. You may get support from your beloved, both in love and money. Also, this person may sacrifice a lot for your well-being and happiness.

**JULY 26 :** Ganesha says that you are incredibly independent, have great leadership skills, and enjoy making your own decisions, but you need to control your tendency to be jealous,

overambitious, and self-centered at times. Put in more effort to implement the innovative ideas running in your mind. The results may take time to come, but eventually, they may exceed your expectations. You may not be happy with the resolution of a pending legal or property-related matter. Additionally, it would help if you also controlled your spending.

**JULY 27 :** Ganesha says that although you like to live a good, respectable lifestyle and especially love meeting new people, sometimes you need to control your tendency to behave stubbornly, destructively, and vindictively. Having children will be interesting and a source of joy for you. Those who have been struggling to find a life partner so far should be happy as it seems that marriage is the time ahead. Monetary gains and other benefits will be plentiful, but working under excessive stress will be detrimental to your health.

**JULY 28 :** Ganesha says you put in a lot of effort and are honest, but sometimes you are criticized for your tendency to be moody, cunning, and

jealous. Those who are willing to take financial and professional risks may prove very beneficial to you. However brief, a new romance may be tempting. Travel or pilgrimage may bring relaxation and peace. Some interesting changes may be seen in the company you work for. Monetary gains are likely to be a result of several factors. You will also benefit from investing in stocks and bonds.

*Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com) | [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) | +91 81412 34275*

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With a stunning backdrop of the mighty Himalayan ranges, the Valley of Flowers National Park presents an ethereal view and an unforgettable experience for visitors. Spread over an area of 87 sq km in the Chamoli district, the Valley of Flowers National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and forms one of the two core zones (the other being the Nanda Devi National Park) of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve.

The valley is believed to have been discovered in 1931, when three British mountaineers – led by Frank S Smythe – lost their way and chanced upon this spectacular valley. Attracted by the beauty of this place they named it the “Valley of Flowers”.

As the name suggests, Valley of Flowers is a destination where nature blooms in full glory offering a breathtaking experience. Exotic flowers (over 600 species) like orchids, poppies, primulas, marigold, daisies and anemones are an eye-catching spectacle. Sub-alpine forests birch and rhododendron cover parts of the park's area. The trek to the valley offers eye-catching spectacles like cascading waterfalls and wild streams. Situated at an altitude of around 3,600 m above the sea level, the valley is also home to such rare and amazing wildlife species like the gray langur, the flying squirrel, the Himalayan weasel, and black bear, the red fox, the lime butterfly, the snow leopard and Himalayan monal, to name a few.

#### When to visit

The flowers here can be best viewed between the months of May and October, a time when the area turns into a botanical wonderland although maximum abundance of flowers is during July to September.

#### Valley of Flowers National Park

Resting in the Western Himalayas, the Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand is a lively and beautiful national park famous for its meadows of alpine flowers. Combined with Nanda Devi National Park, the two of them together constitute the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve. It was also included in the list of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2005. Initially known as Bhyundar Valley, its name was changed to Valley of Flowers by the British mountaineer Frank S Smythe in the year 1931. Gifted with a diverse range of flora and fauna, this picturesque beauty is one of its kind. Situated high in the lofty Himalayas of the Garhwal region, this enchanting valley is also considered as the place from where Hanuman collected Sanjeevani Buti to cure Lakshmana.

The verdant pastures, beautiful mountains, and running streams attract millions of tourists every year from all over the world. No human settlements are present inside the park and grazing is completely banned. Since it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, many international travellers visit the biosphere reserve. Situated in the transition zone between Eastern and Western Himalayan flora, seven restricted-range bird species are

# Valley of Flowers: Where nature blooms in full glory



prevalent in this part of the Himalayas. The trek to the valley of flowers is indeed a one to remember for it is lined up with wild rose bushes, perfumed wildflowers and wild strawberries. It is a must-visit place for all those who love serenity combined with nature's beauty.

#### Flora and Fauna

The entire valley is covered with flowers of every colour and type which gives a magical quality to the place. It has more than 650 species of flowers present including Blue Poppy, Cobra Lily, and Brahmakamal. The area is also home to several rare and engendered animals. A diverse population of fauna can be found in the valley including Asiatic black bear, blue sheep, brown bear, blue sheep, black and brown bears, and yellow-throated marten. A variety of birds too can be found here including the Himalayan golden eagle, Himalayan snow cock, sparrow, snow pigeon, and Himalayan monal.

The park also contains a high diversity as well as a density of flora and fauna of the west biographic zone with threatened species including Himalayan musk deer, snow leopard and other plant species. Spread over an area of 71,210 hectares, the park has a buffer zone surrounding it measuring 514,857 hectares. Populations of Galliformes and mountain ungulates which are prey to snow leopard and other carnivores are supported in this entire area located in the Western Himalayas Endemic Bird Area.

The trek of Valley of Flowers is bound to give you one of the most beautiful trekking experiences. The trek begins at the Pulna Village or Govindghat after crossing the Alaknanda River across the hanging bridge. You can view the snow-clad peaks between the green and the Rocky Mountains after passing the Pulna village. The 7 km track between Pulna and Bhyundar Village comprises of cold water springs and waterfalls. The area appears pink and dark red due to



the presence of Rhododendrons in the region.

After resting for some time, the trek continues on the right bank of the Laxman Ganga till a log bridge is

encountered. After crossing over to the left bank, the trail becomes steeper. You will reach Ghangharia which is the base camp of treks to Valley of Flowers 2 km from here.



CONTD FROM PAGE 1

**Trump makes a forward-looking...**

Or we fall apart," Trump said. "I am running to be president for all of America, not half of America, because there is no victory in winning for half of America."

He made no direct mention of Democratic rivals, President Joe Biden or Vice President Kamala Harris, referring only generally to their administration. The speech also avoided any direct reference to his more controversial governing plans and favorite topics, including the 2020 election, the "deep state," the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and his plans to deport millions of immigrants in the country illegally.

Trump's forward-looking speech marks the climax and conclusion of a massive four-day Republican pep rally that drew thousands of conservative activists and elected officials to swing-state Wisconsin as voters weigh an election that currently features two deeply unpopular candidates. Sensing political opportunity in the wake of his near-death experience, the often bombastic Republican leader embraced a new tone he hopes will help generate even more momentum in an election that appears to be shifting in his favor.

While Trump offered a gentler tone than usual on Thursday, July 18 night, the crowded speaking program of the convention's final day was also designed to project strength in an implicit rebuke of Biden. It was decidedly more masculine than it has been for much of the week.

Ultimate Fighting Championship President Dana White called Trump "a real American bad ass." Kid Rock performed a song with the chorus, "Fight, fight!" And wrestling icon Hulk Hogan described the former president as "an American hero."

Hogan drew a raucous response when, standing on the main stage, he ripped off his shirt to reveal a red Trump-Vance "Make America Great Again" shirt.

"As an entertainer I try to stay out of politics," Hogan said as he briefly broke character. "I can no longer stay silent."

Like many speakers during the convention, Mr. Carlson also suggested that recent events were divinely inspired and that he wondered "if something bigger is going on."

"I think it changed him," Mr. Carlson said of the shooting, praising Trump for not lashing out in anger afterward.

"He did his best to bring the country together," Mr. Carlson added. "This is the most responsible, unifying behavior from a leader I've ever seen."

Former first lady Melania Trump and Ivanka Trump, the president's elder daughter and former senior adviser, joined Trump in the convention hall ahead of his speech, making their first appearances there. But neither woman was scheduled to speak.

Trump entered the hall about two hours before he was scheduled to speak, wearing a large white bandage on his right ear, as he has all week, to cover a wound he sustained in the Saturday shooting. Some of his supporters were sporting American flag-themed bandages on the convention floor Thursday.

The convention has showcased a Republican Party reshaped by Trump since he shocked the GOP establishment and won over the party's grassroots on his way to the party's 2016 nomination. Rivals Trump has vanquished - including Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis - put aside their past criticisms and gave him their unqualified support.

Even his vice presidential pick, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Trump's choice to carry his movement into the next generation, was once a fierce critic who suggested in a private message since made public that Trump could be "America's Hitler."

Security was a major focus in Milwaukee in the wake of Trump's near-assassination. But after nearly four full days, there were no serious incidents inside the convention hall or the large security perimeter that surrounded it.

The Secret Service, backed by hundreds of law enforcement officers from across the nation, had a large and visible presence. And during Trump's appearances

each night, he was surrounded by a wall of protective agents wherever he went.

Meanwhile, Trump and his campaign have not released information about his injury or the treatment he received.

"The assassin's bullet came within a quarter of an inch of taking my life," Trump says. "Despite such a heinous attack, we unite this evening more determined than ever." (Agencies)

**New York City Mayor Eric Adams...**

States, especially during the Covid pandemic. "When you look at the 1000s of physicians across the country, you walk into any hospital, the emergency rooms, especially during COVID, you were present. You were there, and you sacrificed your own health to make sure of the health of this entire country. Your contributions are so rare."

Recalling his past visit to India, Mayor Adams said, "When I was in India, the home of Gandhi and I saw the steps, his last few steps that he took before the assassin took his life. It is our obligation and responsibility, no matter what field we are in, to ensure that we live out the dreams of Gandhi and we live out the dreams of those steps," Adams said. "As we mark, the image of unity here, throughout the United States of America, we believe in the fundamentals and the foundation for the family. You believe in public service, and you believe in our children, and you are a real partner in doing so," Mayor Adam told Indian American physicians.

"I want to extend a very warm welcome to AAPI delegates from around the world to first ever World Congress of Physicians, being held here from July 18th-22, 2024 in New York City, organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI) at the prestigious Marriott Marquis on Times Square, at the heart of the most popular city in the world," Dr. Anjana Samadder, President of AAPI said in her welcome address.

Sri Brahmurishi SiddhGuru Gurudev, embodying compassion, love, humility, and simplicity, adhering to ancient Indian spiritual practices, while bestowing his blessings on the organizers and the AAPI delegates called the Indian American Physicians "the best" in the world, because "they give their best to the world." He lauded them for their virtues of "learning, earning and returning" that makes them stand out across the globe.

Others who addressed the audience during the inaugural session included, Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment and Innovation, and Jenifer Rajkumar, a lawyer, professor, and government leader who made history as the first South Asian-American woman ever to be elected to a state office in New York, whom Mayor Adams praised for her contributions to the society and urged the community to support her in her efforts to be the first person of Indian origin to run for statewide office in New York.

Some of the key speakers invited to be at the Congress include Dr. Mehmet Oz, American television personality, Physician, Author, and Professor Emeritus of cardiothoracic surgery at Columbia University; Smriti Zubin Irani, an Indian politician and former actress, fashion model, and television producer. She has been Minister of Women and Child Development since 2019, and also Minister of Minority Affairs since 2022; Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya is an Indian politician currently serving as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers of India. He is also a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat; Dr. Jesse Menachem Ehrenfeld, President of the American Medical Association and Professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin; and, Dr. Vivek Hallegere Murthy, a vice admiral in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps who has served as the 19th and 21st Surgeon General of the United States under Presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden.

"We want to welcome you to the AAPI's inaugural World Congress of Physicians in the world's capital city, New York," Dr. Achintya Moulik, Chair of AAPI Convention 2024 said. "We have convened a fantastic group of dedicated organizers to meet the needs of the 2024 convention and are very excited about this year. Please reach out to any one of the representatives from the New

York Tri-State team with questions or comments."

Dr. Sumul Raval, current Secretary of AAPI, "We have an event that is full of fun-filled, research-filled, and learning-filled activities." Outlining other features of the event, Dr. Raval said "There is something for everyone, including the younger generation, the teenagers, and children, making it a family event. "We have amazing food for all the many days - from Moghul catering from New Jersey, and many more activities throughout the five days," Raval said.

According to the organizers, some of the major themes at the convention include Yoga and Meditation practices, a Welcome kit with books & self-care supplies, A Personal Reflexology Session, Take home wellness routine, yoga therapy sessions, a workshop on Spiritual well-being, Book talk with Yoga Gurus, including on the science of Yoga & Lifestyle medicine, and several wellness sessions.

The World Congress has, among many others, sessions on cutting-edge research and CMEs, promoting business relationships, and displaying ethnic items. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the prime focus of our World Health Congress. There will be entertainment features for children, performances by singer Atul Purohit and a comedy show by Kapil Sharma, Live entertainment by Javed Ali and Atif Aslam, Traditional Garba, Bollywood Film Festival, and a fashion show.

AAPI's World Health Congress offers an exciting venue to interact with leading physicians, health professionals, academicians, and scientists of Indian origin. The physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year.

In addition to colorful entertainment, and exquisite authentic Indian cuisine, esteemed health industry leaders, world-renowned speakers, and experts will be sharing their wisdom and expertise in the industry, offering enlightening sessions to the delegates.

Amit Chakrabarty, Vice President of AAPI said, "AAPI's mission has evolved in the past 42 years. "Today, AAPI is strong representing over 120,000 Indian American physicians, 130 local Chapters, who make up 10% of total physicians in the US and nearly 50% of International Medical Graduates, rooted in every corner of the nation, who serve every 7th patient in the US. We are proud of our achievements and our contributions to the healthcare industry and the millions of people we serve."

"The annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events," Dr. Samadder added.

For more details on AAPI and the 1st World Congress, please visit: AAPI World Health Congress and [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org) (Based on a press release issued by Ajay Ghosh, Media Coordinator, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

**Vinay Mohan Kwatra nominated as...**

The position of India's ambassador to the US has been vacant since Taranjit Singh Sandhu completed his tenure in January.

Vinay Mohan Kwatra, born on December 15, 1962, is a retired Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomat with a career spanning nearly 32 years. He recently retired as India's 34th Foreign Secretary, serving from May 2022 until July 14, 2024, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

Kwatra's immediate priority will be to engage with officials who could influence India-related policy in the next US administration, especially as both countries brace for possible changes following the November US elections.

Throughout his career, Kwatra has held various key positions, including serving in China, the US, the Prime Minister's Office as Joint Secretary, and as Minister (Commerce) at the Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. from May 2010 to July 2013. His expertise in policy planning and research and his experience in the Americas Division of the Ministry of External Affairs position him well to navigate the complexities of India-US relations.

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



# History This Week JULY 19 - 25

## JULY 19

July 19-20, 1848 - A women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York. Topics discussed included voting rights, property rights and divorce. The convention marked the beginning of an organized women's rights movement in the U.S.

July 19, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.



Birthday - French impressionist painter Edgar Degas (1834-1917) was born in Paris. Best known for his paintings of dancers in motion.

## JULY 20

July 20, 1715 - The Riot Act took effect in Britain. If a dozen or more persons were disturbing the peace, an authority was required to command silence and read the following, "Our sovereign Lord the King chargeeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the king." Any persons who failed to obey within one hour were to be arrested.

July 20, 1954 - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.



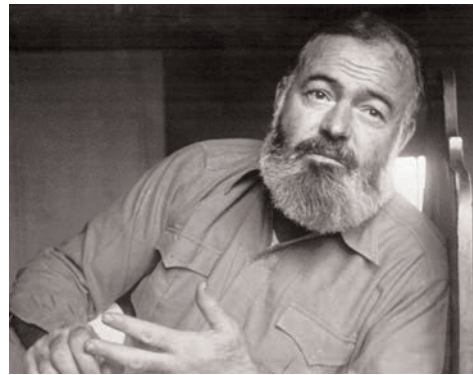
July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently

omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

Birthday - Explorer Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand, July 20, 1919. In 1953, he became first to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world at 29,023 ft.

## JULY 21

July 21, 1898 - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain.



Birthday - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was born in Oak Park, Illinois. His works included; *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940) and *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952). Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1954, he wrote little afterward, became ill and shot himself to death on July 2, 1961.

Birthday - University professor and author Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Best known for stating, "The medium is the message," regarding modern mass communication.

## JULY 22



July 22, 1934 - Bank robber John Dillinger (1902-1934) was shot and killed by FBI agents as he left Chicago's Biograph Movie Theater after watching the film *Manhattan Melodrama* starring Clark Gable and Myrna Loy. Dillinger was the first criminal labeled by the FBI as "Public Enemy No. 1." After spending nine years (1924-1933) in prison, Dillinger went on a deadly crime spree, traveling through the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He was reportedly betrayed by the "Lady in Red."

## JULY 23

July 23, 1952 - Egyptian army officers launched a revolution changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.

## JULY 24

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.



July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.

Birthday - "The Liberator" Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is known as the George Washington of South America for his efforts to liberate six nations: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from the rule of Spain.

Birthday - French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in Villers-Cotterets, France. His works included *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*.



Birthday - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

## JULY 25

July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-

voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.



July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.



July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.



July 25, 1956 - The Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria sank after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.



# Couple in Brazil Planted More Than 2M Trees in 20 Years To Recreate Forest

IN 1998, PHOTOGRAPHER SEBASTIÃO SALGADO AND HIS WIFE LÉLIA EMBARKED ON A REMARKABLE JOURNEY TO REVIVE THE ECOSYSTEM IN A PART OF BRAZIL



BY NIKKI DOBRIN

In 1998, award-winning photographer and photojournalist Sebastião Salgado and his wife, Lélia Deluiz Wanick Salgado, founded Instituto Terra, a federally recognized nature preserve and nonprofit organization, thus embarking on a remarkable journey to revive the ecosystem.

The roots of this endeavor trace back to the mid-1990, shortly after Salgado's return from a photo assignment covering the genocide in Rwanda, and the couple's acquisition of the cattle ranch reportedly purchased by Sebastião Salgado's father in the 1940s.

"The land was as sick as I was - everything was destroyed," Salgado said at a Paris climate change meeting in 2015, according to *The Guardian*. "Only about 0.5% of the land was covered in trees. Then my wife had a fabulous idea to replant this forest. And when we began to do that, then all the insects and birds and fish returned and, thanks to this increase of the trees I, too, was reborn - this was the most important moment."

According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, replanting the farm with trees was Lélia's idea. "There was no hidden agenda," she told the outlet in 2015. "It was so natural, instinctive. The land was so degraded, so



The claim that this couple planted more than 2 million trees over a 20-year period - albeit with help reportedly from local students, hired workers, donations from multinational corporations, plus financial support from the government - holds true.

horrible. What a bad gift! Why not plant?"

Over two decades, the Salgados transformed barren landscapes into thriving forests by planting millions of seedlings, starting with an initial donation of 100,000 seedlings from a local mining company. This monumental effort aimed not only to restore the ecosystem but also to produce plants and trees that would be a natural habitat for native fauna including birds and insects.

The former farmland is now known as Instituto Terra, serving as a hub for environmental education, seedling cultivation and ecological research. Located in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, this 1,750-acre expanse sits about 100 miles inland from the Atlantic coast, nestled within the valley of the Rio Doce.

The biodiverse Atlantic Forest was integral to the Rio Doce Valley's ecosystem, covering both the family cattle farm and surrounding areas.

The transformative impact of the Salgados' efforts is documented in various sources. Earth Observatory, a NASA initiative dedicated to sharing images and stories about the environment, Earth systems and climate research, highlighted the couple's role in reforesting and the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

Numerous sources corroborate the remarkable achievements of the couple, with their story garnering attention from media outlets worldwide, including the *Daily Mail* and *DeMilked*, which chronicled the couple's two-decade

journey to transform the barren ranch into a thriving habitat for wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

Visual evidence of the couple's achievements can be found in a YouTube video showcasing the lush greenery that now blankets the once-devastated landscapes, showcasing the couple's transformative impact on the landscape.

The pioneering efforts of the Salgados' initiative in reclaiming lost forests and combating deforestation not only contribute to environmental conservation but also serve as a source of inspiration for individuals and organizations worldwide to take action.

Snopes has previously reported on environmental issues in Brazil, including a Swedish multimillionaire purchasing around 400,000 acres of Amazonian rainforest, and claims that a logger cut down the world's oldest tree.

(Nikki Dobrin is a Los Angeles-based reporter/editor of *Kiwi* descent from Sydney, Australia. She has written and edited for *People*, *USA Today*, *The Hill*, and many other outlets in the U.S., United Kingdom and Australia. Prior to joining Snopes, Nikki worked for The Walt Disney Company in unscripted, live and alternative content, partnering on such shows and features as the "Academy Awards," "The Kardashians," the "American Music Awards," "Choir" and "Drag Me to Dinner." Nikki loves animals, working out, attending metal shows, and has figuratively itchy feet, so in her spare time she loves collecting passport stamps and frequent flier points)

## 3 Indian nationals among crew detained on Singapore-flagged ship carrying drugs to Brisbane

ACTING ON A TIP-OFF, THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES INTERCEPTED THE CARGO VESSEL IN THE PONGKAR WATERS OF THE KARIMUN DISTRICT

JULY 17, 2024

SINGAPORE (TIP):

Three Indian nationals are among the crew who have been detained by Indonesian authorities on a Singapore-flagged ship for carrying drugs to Brisbane, according to a media report.

Acting on a tip-off, the Indonesian authorities intercepted the cargo vessel, called *Legend Aquarius*, in the Pongkar waters of the Karimun district, about one hour from Singapore by ferry.

It was manned by 10 Indonesian crew members, including the captain.

Three Singapore Permanent Residents of Indian nationalities were also on board. They are allegedly the owners of the drugs and had commissioned the trip, police commissioner-general Marthinus Hukom, head of the Indonesian National Narcotic



3 Indian nationals among crew detained on Singapore-flagged ship carrying drugs to Brisbane

Photo for representational purpose only / iStock

Agency (BNN), told reporters at a press conference in Batam.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said that on Wednesday, it was alerted to the detention of a Singapore-flagged vessel, *Legend Aquarius*, by the Indonesian authorities, according to the *Singapore Daily*.

"MPA is in contact with the vessel owner to ascertain the facts and has advised the company to cooperate with the Indonesian authorities on the investigations," the broadsheet quoted MPA as saying.

At the press conference, Inspector-General Wayan Sugiri, BNN deputy for eradication, said the vessel left Singapore on July 9 for a private port in Johor Bahru.

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

## INDIAN-ORIGIN TECHIE DROWNS IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

JULY 12, 2024

WASHINGTON D. C.

(TIP): Indian techie Siddhant Vitthal Patil, who is presumed dead after drowning in the Glacier National Park in the United States, had texted his mother from the park hours before the tragedy, his family said on Friday, July 12.

"Last Friday, Siddhant called up his mother Priti from the Park and told her that he had been in the Park for three days with six other Indian friends and is enjoying the trip," his maternal uncle Pritesh Chaudhari told media.

Chaudhari, who is based in Pune, said Siddhant (26) also texted his mother two hours before the tragic incident, telling her that he would be returning to San Jose, where he worked with Cadence Design Systems, in another three days.



Siddhant Vitthal Patil, who is presumed dead after drowning in the Glacier National Park in the United States, had texted his mother from the park hours before the tragedy, his family said on Friday, July 12.

Photo for representation only

His friends got his iPhone IMEI numbers from the phone box in his room and gave it to the Park rangers in Montana and other authorities to help in the search work, Chaudhari said. This hasn't yielded results yet, he added.

Both Priti and Siddhant's father Vitthal, who retired from Maharashtra government's irrigation department in May, are in shock and not in a position to speak, Chaudhari said.

"Suresh Sharma from the Indian consulate in Seattle called me after the incident as he had given my number as a contact to the US authorities," Chaudhari said. "I have been in touch with the consulate since Monday," he said.

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





Captains of the eight competing teams, including India's Harmanpreet Kaur, pose with the Asia Cup trophy. Photo: BCCI

## Women's Asia Cup: Fight for Asian dominance

The Women's Asia Cup is set for a blockbuster start when defending champions India take on arch-foes Pakistan in a primetime clash at Dambulla on July 19, with the eight competing teams hoping to firm up their combinations ahead of the T20 World Cup in October.

Harmanpreet Kaur's India are the side to beat going into this iteration of the Asia Cup, having won the competition three out of four times in the T20 version and each of the four times in the 50-overs format.

Additionally, India are also the most successful team in the Women's Asia Cup T20 with 17 wins in 20 matches. They beat Bangladesh in the final of the last edition in 2022.

India's record against Pakistan has also been stellar in the shortest format with 11 wins against three defeats in 14 matches so far and Kaur's team will lean on it in addition to the rich form shown in recent outings to clinch the Group A clash.

While India are coming off a 1-1 draw against South Africa earlier this month with the second of the three T20Is being washed out, Pakistan will be short on game-time as well as confidence since their last outing was in England in May when the hosts blanked them 3-0.

Smriti Mandhana's rich form with the bat will be India's greatest weapon at the top of the order but the biggest gain from recent all-format outings has been the way their bowling has shaped up, with pacers and spinners putting on a combined show.

Source: PTI

## IND-SL CRICKET SERIES

# Suryakumar takes over from Rohit, Shubman named vice-captain

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Big-hitting batter Suryakumar Yadav was on July 18 named captain of the Indian T20 team for this month's three-match series against Sri Lanka, while ODI skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli made themselves available for the 50-overs series against the same team next month.

Shubman Gill has been named vice-captain for both the formats. The team will depart early next week for the tour which will mark the beginning of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's three-year tenure.

Riyan Parag, who scored seven half-centuries in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Delhi speedster Harshit Rana are the two new faces in the ODI squad.

Seasoned all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who retired from T20Is along with Rohit and Kohli after India's World Cup triumph in the Caribbean last month, did not find a place in the ODI squad. Having shouldered the team's pace-bowling responsibility for a prolonged period, lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah was rested on expected lines.

The first T20 International will be held on July 27, followed by games on July 28 and 30. All the ties will be played at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium. The ODIs will be held on August 2, 4 and 7 at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Suryakumar, 33, was chosen as skipper for the T20 series over Hardik Pandya, the designated vice-captain during India's title run in the Americas. Star all-rounder Pandya is three years younger to the Mumbai swashbuckler but was not the



Suryakumar Yadav was named captain of the Indian T20 team for this month's three-match series against Sri Lanka, while ODI skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli made themselves available for the 50-overs series against the same team next month.

preferred choice of both chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Gambhir.

It is learnt that the two had a word with Pandya on this issue on Tuesday and conveyed to him that a long-term option in Suryakumar was being considered. Pandya is expectedly there in the T20 squad and has opted out of ODIs due to personal reasons.

Previously, Suryakumar led India to a 4-1 win over Australia in a T20I series last November and followed it up with a 1-1 draw in South Africa.

Shreyas Iyer, despite losing his national contract for missing domestic cricket, made a comeback to the ODI squad alongside KL Rahul, who performed the dual role of wicketkeeper-batter during the 50-overs World Cup last year at home.

Iyer was captain of this year's IPL champions Kolkata Knight Riders, for

whom Gambhir was the team mentor

## Indian squads for SL tour

### T20I

Suryakumar Yadav (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Riyan Parag, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Siraj

### ODI

Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill (VC), Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar, Arshdeep Singh, Riyan Parag, Axar Patel, Khaleel Ahmed, Harshit Rana.

Source: PTI

# PARIS 2024: Indian sports ministry clears 117-member contingent

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India will be represented by 117 athletes at this month's Paris Olympics after the Sports Ministry cleared the final contingent that also features 140 support staff and officials, of which 72 have been approved at "cost to the government" to meet the "requirements" of the travelling sportspersons. The Games will run from July 26 to August 11.

The contingent is on expected lines with London Olympics bronze medal winning former shooter Gagan Narang as the chef-de-mission. Narang is also a vice-president in the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

"The permissible limit for stay of

support personnel in the Games Village against accreditation as per norms of the Paris Organising Committee for the 2024 Olympic Games is 67 including 11 IOA Contingent Officials, which includes five Medical Team Members," stated a letter from the Ministry to IOA president PT Usha, explaining the ratio of support staff allowed as per the size of the contingent.

"For catering to the requirements of the athletes, additional coaches and other support staff numbering 72 have been approved at cost to the Government and arrangements for

their stay have been made in Hotels/in locations outside the Games Village," it added. Athletics will make for the biggest group in the contingent with 29 names (11 women and 18 men), followed by shooting (21) and hockey (19). The shooting contingent consists of 11 women and 10 men

Table tennis will be represented by eight players, while badminton (7) will feature seven competitors, including two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu.

Wrestling, archery and boxing will have six representatives each, followed

by golf (4), tennis (3), swimming (2), sailing (2) and one each for equestrian, judo, rowing and weightlifting.

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu is the lone weightlifter in the contingent and will compete in women's 49kg category.

In Tokyo Olympics, India was represented by a 119-member contingent, and the country logged its best-ever performance of seven medals, including the historic javelin throw gold by Neeraj Chopra. Chopra will be there in Paris to defend his medal.

In a bid to avoid doping embarrassment in Paris, the government has asked the IOA and concerned federations to take appropriate measures.

Source: PTI







## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

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**Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins**



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

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