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President meets with Democratic governors for 'candid' talks as he seeks to reassure his party and the public

GOVERNORS ADMIT WORRIES BUT RALLY BEHIND BIDEN : 'WE HAVE HIS BACK'



New York Governor Kathy Hochul with Governor Wes Moore of Maryland and Tim Walz of Minnesota speaks with the media on July 3 in Washington, D.C.

JULY 3, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of leading Democratic governors offered words of support for Joe Biden on Wednesday as pressure mounted on the president to leave the race.

The governors, including Tim Walz of Minnesota, Wes Moore of Maryland, Gavin Newsom of California and Kathy Hochul of New York, held a closed-door meeting with Biden in Washington as he sought to reassure his party - and the public - that he is up to the job after a shaky debate performance.

Biden met for more than an hour at the White House in person and virtually with more than 20 governors from his party. The governors told reporters afterward that the conversation was

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UK's Labour to win big: YouGov forecasts 431 seats to Labour against 102 to Conservatives



Labour Party leader Keir Starmer attends a Labour general election campaign event at Caledonia Gladiators Stadium in East Kilbride, Scotland, Britain, on July 3.

JULY 3, 2024

LONDON (TIP): In sharp contrast to rise of the right in most European countries, UK is all set to have a Labour

Party government. Britain's opposition Labour Party is on track to win the largest majority of any party in modern

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India's T20 world champs arrive in Delhi to a tumultuous welcome

Fans brave rain to welcome the heroes

JULY 4, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team returned to the country here on Thursday aboard a specially-arranged charter flight with scores of fans lining up outside the airport to welcome the players despite a steady drizzle and heavy security deployment that kept them at a distance from their heroes.

Hundreds of supporters, holding placards congratulating their favorites and waving the national flag, braved the weather to welcome the victorious side, which defeated South Africa by seven runs in the final in Bridgetown on Saturday last week.

"We have waited for this moment for the past 13 years. The team has made us



Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma holding the championship trophy arrive at Delhi airport on July 4

Photo credit : Mukesh Aggwaral/ Tribune

proud by winning the World Cup," a fan, who claimed to have been waiting since 4:30am in the morning said, referring to

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BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani admitted to hospital again



Lal Krishna Advani Credit : PTI

JULY 3, 2024

NEW DELHI (TIP): BJP stalwart and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani has been admitted to Apollo Hospital in New Delhi after his health deteriorated. The senior saffron party leader was shifted to emergency at Apollo Hospital situated at Mathura Road. This comes days after the 96-year-old Advani was discharged

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COMMENT

An Uncertain Future for
America : On Presidential ElectionBY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

On this 4th of July, as the United States celebrates its 248th Independence Day, the nation finds itself at a crossroads, faced with an uncertain political future. The recent presidential debate highlighted the stark inadequacies of both candidates vying for the highest office in the land. One candidate struggled to articulate his points clearly and effectively, leaving many to question his capability to lead. The other candidate, in an attempt to evade direct questions, digressed from the issues at hand and seemed more intent on hoodwinking the American people rather than providing substantive answers.

This situation has left Americans with a profound dilemma: which of these two seemingly incompetent candidates should they entrust with the future of their country? The committed cadres of both major parties are unlikely to shift their loyalties, leaving the decision largely in the hands of independent voters, who traditionally play a decisive role in such closely contested elections.

According to Pew Research, about two-thirds of registered voters identify with a political party, with the electorate roughly split between Republicans (32%) and Democrats (33%). The remaining third identify as independents or something else, though most of these voters lean toward one of the two major parties. This significant proportion of independents is poised to determine the outcome of the election, given the nearly equal split among the committed partisans.

President Biden's performance in the

first preferential debate was widely seen as dismal and disappointing. This poor showing is likely to alienate many independent voters, who may disapprove of Biden's capabilities. However, this disapproval does not automatically translate into support for the Republican candidate, Donald Trump. Many independents have not forgotten Trump's unethical conduct during his previous tenure, and his extreme views on various issues remain unpalatable to a significant segment of the electorate, particularly liberal voters.

Faced with this choice, it appears that many independent voters might choose to abstain from voting altogether, finding neither candidate worthy of their support. This potential voter apathy presents a serious challenge to both campaigns, particularly for the Democrats if Biden remains their nominee.

Should Biden decide to withdraw from the race, the introduction of a new, well-known candidate could change the dynamics considerably. Independent voters, often driven by a desire for competent and ethical leadership, might be more inclined to support a fresh face, especially if they perceive the new candidate as a viable alternative to the status quo.

However, identifying a suitable alternative to Biden is fraught with complications. The current political landscape is such that no strong and recognizable second-in-command exists within the Democratic Party, despite there being a constitutionally designated vice president. Party leaders, while active in legislative circles, lack broad public recognition. Even popular Democratic governors, who have demonstrated excellent leadership within their states, remain relatively unknown on a national level.

Introducing a new candidate would require an immense effort to elevate their profile among the electorate, particularly the crucial independent voters. This endeavor would also necessitate substantial financial backing, an area where Trump already enjoys significant support from his promoters and financiers. For a new Democratic candidate, mobilizing sufficient campaign funds quickly would be a daunting task, presenting a clear disadvantage.

As we wait to see how these political dynamics unfold, there is speculation that Biden's health could play a role in his potential withdrawal from the race. Should his physicians find a health issue that necessitates rest, it could provide Biden with an honorable exit, allowing the Democratic Party to present a new candidate without the stigma of a forced resignation.

Ultimately, the health of American democracy and the freedom of its people depend on a fair and competent election process. As we celebrate this 4th of July, it is crucial to reflect on the values that underpin our nation and hope for a resolution that upholds these principles. The coming months will be critical in determining the future direction of the United States, and it is imperative that we remain vigilant and engaged in the democratic process.

As we celebrate this Independence Day, let us not only commemorate the freedoms we cherish but also commit to ensuring that our political system remains robust and capable of serving the best interests of all Americans. Let us hope for leaders who embody the ideals of competence, integrity, and a genuine commitment to the well-being of the nation.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

GUEST COMMENT

Making a mark: Rahul
sets the tone for
Opposition

Some of Rahul Gandhi's searing remarks aimed at the Bharatiya Janata Party, made during his maiden speech as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, have been expunged. Truth is truth, he retorted, 'I said what I had to say, that is the truth.' Animated speeches and acrimonious exchanges are part and parcel of parliamentary proceedings. A discernible change in the inaugural session of the 18th Lok Sabha is the

Opposition's new-found confidence. Numerically strong after 10 years and finally with an LoP, the leaders seem determined to exhibit a sense of purpose and make it a stage of equals. It's too early to form opinions, but the first few sittings have been a far cry from the days when the Opposition voices would get drowned in the cacophonous domination of the Treasury Benches.

In his counterstrike, the Prime Minister said the Congress got 99 out of 543 seats, not out of 100, questioning its aggressive mode in Parliament. To Rahul Gandhi's credit, he has set the tone for the Opposition. He and others in the INDIA bloc may well pat themselves on the back for having made a mark. An

Opposition speaking truth to power and picking up holes in policies infuses much-needed vigor in the quest for accountability in governance. A caveat persists. Facts are sacrosanct. Oppose, for sure, but only when backed by evidence and research, not hearsay. Else, the best of presentations can get reduced to an exercise in self-indulgence.

Be strong, do not fear - that's been the recurring theme in the Opposition ranks after the energizing election results. When any of them has an iota of self-doubt, they must always remember who they have in their corner - the redoubtable, feisty Mahua Moitra is a force to reckon with.

(Tribune, India)



रमेश बाबू लक्ष्मणन
Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan



भारत का प्रधान कौंसुल, अटलांटा
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MESSAGE

On behalf of the Consulate General of India, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to *The Indian Panorama* and its readers on the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America. This special day, celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, marks a significant milestone in the history of the United States, symbolizing the enduring values of freedom, democracy, and unity.

The Indian Panorama has always been a beacon of insightful journalism, connecting the Indian diaspora with the vibrant cultural and social tapestry of both India and the United States. It's commitment to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of our shared values is commendable. This illustrated special issue is indeed a momentous occasion to reflect on the profound contributions of the Indian-American community to the growth and prosperity of this great nation.

This special edition not only celebrates American Independence but also underscores the strong partnership between our two nations. The Indian community in the United States has made remarkable strides in various fields, contributing to the rich diversity and dynamic spirit of American society.

As we commemorate this important day, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for dedication and hard work of 'Team Indian Panorama' in bringing forth this special issue. May 'The Indian Panorama' continue to inspire and inform, strengthening the ties between India and the United States, and celebrating the values that unite us.

Wishing 'The Indian Panorama' and its readers a joyous Independence Day.

(Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan)

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TOM SUOZZI
Representative
(D-NY 3rd District)



Message

Happy Independence Day!
"E Pluribus Unum"; Out of Many, One.

Our nation is a "great experiment". The United States represents an opportunity to demonstrate that people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and ethnicities, endowed with certain unalienable rights, can unite as one nation bound by freedom and democracy.

The U.S.-India relationship is one of the most important in the next 50 years. Our relationship is driven, in part, by our vibrant Indian American community, one of the most industrious and successful diaspora populations in the world.

Thank you to my good friends at the Indian Panorama for 20 years of invaluable work and fair coverage. Your role as a bridge between our two nations is crucial. I am deeply grateful for your support and encouragement, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.

Let's celebrate our Independence and pay tribute to those who have sacrificed to preserve it. Happy Independence Day!



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

July 4, 2024

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend Independence Day greetings to the readers of *The Indian Panorama*.

As a city built by immigrants, New York's cross-cultural ethnic mosaic is the source of our singularity and strength, providing us with infinite reasons to celebrate our fellow New Yorkers, many of whom hail from every corner of the globe and speak a multitude of languages. Founded in 2006, *The Indian Panorama* is a crucial ally in my Administration's efforts to ensure that all New Yorkers feel informed, safe, and welcome in the five boroughs. This weekly publication provides reliable English-language news to readers in our city and beyond, and for nearly two decades, it has worked to engage and uplift our vibrant and indispensable Indian American community. I applaud those associated with this invaluable periodical for their work to strengthen our vital journalism sector. Together, we will continue to build a better, brighter, and more inclusive future for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, I offer my best wishes for a festive Fourth of July celebration and further success.

Sincerely,

Eric Adams
Mayor



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July 4, 2024

The Indian Panorama
124 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Friends,

With great pleasure, I extend my best wishes to the Indian Panorama on publishing its special issue celebrating the United States of America's 248th Independence Day!

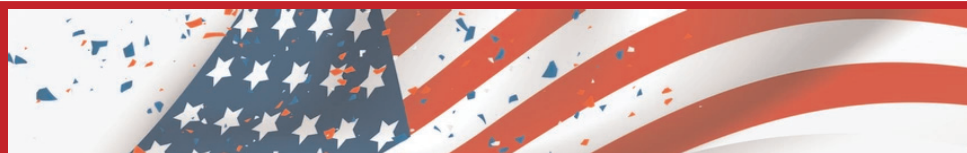
On this important holiday, we celebrate the birth of America with family, friends and community. We pay tribute to the American values and freedoms that have allowed people of all backgrounds to live under the same banners of independence.


Special thanks to the Indian Panorama as it continues to bring its readers the latest news and important information so that our community can stay abreast of current news and events. Since the newspaper's inception in 2006, the Indian Panorama has occupied a central place for the South Asian community as an essential resource in this multicultural, multireligious contemporary American society.


On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend all the correspondents and staff of The Indian Panorama for their service. Special thanks to Chief Editor Professor Indrajit S. Saluja for his hard work and dedicated leadership. I look forward to continuing to work as your State Senator on behalf of our community in the future, and I would like to express my best wishes for a joyous Independence Day!

Wishing you and your loved ones a most joyous holiday during this 248th Independence Day!

Sincerely,



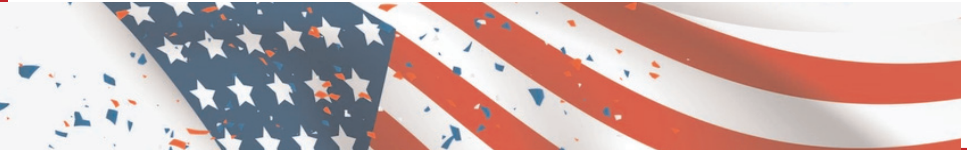




Amit Verma
Country Head, US Operations
State Bank of India
460 Park Avenue, New York

Message

My warmest greetings and felicitations to the people of the United States of America as they commemorate country's 248th Independence Day this July 4th.








V.K. RAJU, MD, FRCS, FACS
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President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America
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Clinical Professor, West Virginia University
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Adjunct Professor, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University
Author: Musings on Medicine, Myth, and History-India's Legacy

Message

American democracy has thrived because the concept of equality became deeply ingrained in American society. However, the greatest threat to American Democracy or any democracy is the tyranny of the majority, which can suppress the rights and freedoms of minorities, potentially transforming democracy into despotism. One of the most influential books on early modern democracies, "De la Démocratie en Amérique" (Democracy in America), remains a cornerstone in political science and philosophy studies.


In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont were commissioned by the French government to study the American prison system. They used this official mission as a pretext to explore American society more broadly. During their travels in the United States, they examined prisons while also gathering extensive information on the country's social, religious, political, and economic characteristics. Tocqueville noted that over the previous 700 years, social and economic conditions had become more equal. He observed the gradual decline of aristocracy and linked the development of equality to several factors: the broad access to becoming clergy, economic opportunities from trade and commerce, the royal sale of noble titles for fundraising, and the abolition of primogeniture.


Tocqueville argued that the Puritans were instrumental in establishing America's democratic social state of equality. Arriving as educated and middle-class equals, they instituted the principle of popular sovereignty in the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. This principle gained further traction with the American Revolution and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. American democracy and exceptionalism are rooted in liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, republicanism, laissez-faire economics, and the rule of law, with a peaceful transfer of power every four years.

In American presidential elections, the defeated candidate has traditionally conceded gracefully, upholding this principle. However, recent events have challenged this norm. We must hope that the outcome of future elections will preserve the democratic ideals cherished by the Founding Fathers, as enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution: "to ensure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!







Message

US Independence Day is a special occasion celebrated across the United States of America, marking the country's declaration of Independence from British rule on July 4, 1776. This important day in American history is a reminder of the spirit of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness which transcends all borders and inspires people around the world. It is a celebration of the principles of independence and equality that continue to shape the collective identity and make America, a cherished place on earth.

On this momentous occasion, I wish everyone a very happy Fourth of July! Let us honor the brave souls who fought for the country's freedom and celebrate the blessings of liberty and unity.

Prasanta Kumar Tripathy
Chief Executive Officer,
State Bank of India,
460 Park Avenue, New York



This 4th of July



Join Our Vision



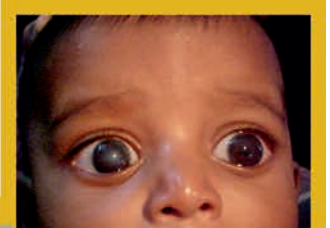
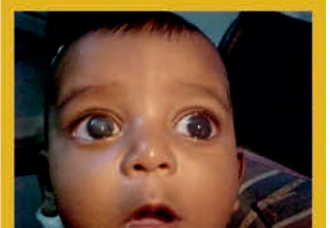
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Let us declare independence from the monarchical presidency

TWO CENTURIES AFTER DEFEATING KING GEORGE III, WE MUST ISSUE A NEW DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



BY COLBERT I. KING

"PROSECUTIONS WILL WARP INTO PERSECUTIONS. POLITICAL FOES, REAL AND IMAGINED, IN THE PRESS AND ONLINE AND IN THE POLITICIANS' SUITES, WILL BE SUBJECTED TO TRUMP'S WHIMS AND POWER. PARDONS AND CLEMENCY WILL RAIN DOWN LIKE MANNA ON JAN. 6, 2021, INSURRECTIONISTS. RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE A FRIEND IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AN ALLY AGAINST NATO AND THE WEST. IMMIGRANTS AND PEOPLE FROM MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRIES WILL FACE AN AGGRESSIVELY HOSTILE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. CIVIL RIGHTS AND LGBTQ+ PROGRESS WILL GRIND TO A HALT. THE ECONOMY WILL FUNCTION ON BEHALF OF THE HAVES, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE HAVE-NOTS AND THE LEFT-OUT. OH, SURE, TRUMP WILL GO ALL OUT TO CREATE "BLACK JOBS" - HIS RACIST REFERENCE TO WORK LEFT FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR TO PERFORM."

On this Independence Day 2024, we find ourselves, as a nation, back under a monarchy's hold on America. Credit this astonishing turn of events to Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., plus the Supreme Court's five other royalists who joined him to fashion a decision that bestows upon the American president immunity from

Declaration of Independence

accountability for "official" acts that might leave him open for prosecution were he an ordinary citizen. In her ferocious dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the majority's decision makes the president a "king above the law." So here we are, having defeated King George III in 1783, only to end up two centuries later with an American sovereign with powers that would make previous tyrants drool.

Were that not enough, the country is faced with the prospect of twice-impeached felon and former president Donald Trump returning to the White House. The thought of the mendacious, narcissistic, vengeful Trump with those powers is terrifying. Dismiss the notion that "there's no telling what he would do." We know better. Trump and his inner circle have told us what he'll do.

It falls to people who cherish and live by democratic values to stave off that danger. The courts won't do it. President Biden, healthy or otherwise, cannot do it by himself. Only we, the people, can do what needs doing, to wit: reject Trump and all that he stands for at the polls on Election Day.

Yes, votes are there to keep Trump out of the Oval Office, as they were in the previous presidential election. Trump, simply put, can't win with only his base

of MAGA supporters and fellow travelers, no matter how rabid they are.

Don't get hung up for the moment on who should be the Democratic standard-bearer. There's plenty of time to get that sorted out. And there is a rich field of possibilities, should Biden, upon reflection and after broad consultations regarding his health and ability to serve, decide that now is the time to hand on the torch to an able successor.

I trust Biden to make the right call. I became a Senate staffer around the time Biden joined the Senate in 1973. As with other Washington watchers, I have seen Biden's victories and setbacks through the years. Joe Biden, above all else, is a patriot. He will do what's in the country's best interest.

Better to keep focused, and spread the word to family, friends and neighbors, about the world that awaits them if Trump takes the oath of office.

Prosecutions will warp into persecutions. Political foes, real and imagined, in the press and online and in the politicians' suites, will be subjected to Trump's whims and power. Pardons and clemency will rain down like manna on Jan. 6, 2021, insurrectionists. Russian President Vladimir Putin will once again have a friend in the White House and an ally against NATO and the West.



HERE WE ARE ON THE FOURTH OF JULY WITH DEMOCRACY ON THE LINE. LET THIS BE THE DAY A SECOND DECLARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE IS LAUNCHED, PROCLAIMED ON BEHALF OF PEOPLE WHO REJECT THE NOTION OF AN IMPERIAL PRESIDENT, AND WHO HOLD DEAR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES. LET US PLEDGE TO DEFEND IT WITH OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR.

Immigrants and people from Muslim-majority countries will face an aggressively hostile federal government. Civil rights and LGBTQ+ progress will grind to a halt. The economy will function on behalf of the haves, to the detriment of the have-nots and the left-out. Oh, sure, Trump will go all out to create "Black jobs" - his racist reference to work left for people of color to perform.

So, right now and until Election Day, no matter who is at the top of the ticket, concentrate on defeating Trump and regaining Democratic control of the House and preventing a GOP takeover in the Senate. Visualize Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress. Can you imagine a Republican House doing anything to rein Trump in? A Republican Senate doing anything but acquiescing to any underqualified, politically subservient appointment he chooses to make? Can mules whistle? Armed with Roberts's ruling, dictator Trump could operate with impunity.

Thus, here we are on the Fourth of July with democracy on the line.

Let this be the day a second Declaration for Independence is launched, proclaimed on behalf of people who reject the notion of an imperial president, and who hold dear democratic ideals and principles. Let us pledge to defend it with our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

Let us begin today.

*(The author is a columnist)
(Source: The Washington Post)*

The churn in the global liberal order

PUBLIC DISILLUSIONMENT IS BEING SHAPED BY THE INEQUITABLE BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION



BY K.C. SINGH

"THIS CHURN IN ESTABLISHED DEMOCRACIES, THE ASCENDANCY OF FAR-RIGHT PARTIES IN EUROPE, THE POSSIBILITY OF TRUMP'S RE-ELECTION AND IRAN THROWING UP ANOTHER CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENT RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC ORDER. IN 1989, FRANCIS FUKUYAMA WROTE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT THE WORLD FACED THE 'END OF HISTORY'. HE LATER EXPLAINED THAT WITH THE BERLIN WALL'S FALL IN NOVEMBER 9, 1989, CHANGE APPEARED INEVITABLE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT NATIONS. THE WESTERN MODEL OF A LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC STATE TIED TO THE MARKET ECONOMY APPEARED UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES ACROSS ALL CONTINENTS APPEAR CHALLENGED TODAY. PUBLIC DISILLUSIONMENT IS BEING SHAPED BY GLOBALIZATION'S INEQUITABLE BENEFITS AND IMMIGRATION-INDUCED XENOPHOBIA, FEEDING THE RISE OF FAR-RIGHT PARTIES. IN INDIA, POPULIST AND MAJORITARIAN POLITICS HAS BEEN MOLDED BY BIGOTRY AND JINGOISM."

The Lok Sabha elections have set the stage for a series of critical elections globally. The Iranian presidential election was held on June 24 to find a successor to President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May. With none of the candidates getting at least 50 per cent of the votes, there will be a run-off between the top two contenders.

Even Francis Fukuyama would concede that decades after his 'end of history' pronouncement, the global liberal order is challenged by a realignment of some of the old players.

In France, after his party's rout in the European parliamentary elections, President Emmanuel Macron ordered a domestic parliamentary election. Huge gains by the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen are being projected. The two-phase polls will end on July 7.

The UK is also poll-bound after Indian-origin Conservative Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ordered early parliamentary elections. A massive win for the Labour Party after 14-year Tory rule is foreseen, with Keir Starmer tipped to be the PM.

The most significant election is of the US President in November. The opening debate between President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump was held by CNN on June 27. An incoherent and defensive Biden faced a glib and dissimulating Trump. They sparred over the economy, immigration, abortion and the Ukraine and Gaza wars.

This churn in established democracies, the ascendancy of far-right parties in Europe, the possibility of Trump's re-election and Iran throwing up another conservative President raise questions about the state of the liberal democratic order. In 1989, Francis Fukuyama wrote in *The National Interest* that the world faced the 'end of history'. He later explained that with the Berlin Wall's fall in November 9, 1989, change appeared inevitable in the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact nations. The Western model of a liberal democratic state tied to the market economy appeared universally acceptable.

However, liberal democracies across all continents appear challenged today. Public disillusionment is being shaped by globalization's inequitable benefits and immigration-induced xenophobia, feeding the rise of far-right parties. In India, populist and majoritarian politics has been molded by bigotry and jingoism.

The scenario is complicated by the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The Indian poll results brought relief to the G7 nations. The democratic recession in India and the repressive use of agencies against the Opposition have elicited criticism from the Western media and even by parliamentarians. But the lure of Indian markets and the Indian role as a



Conservative candidate Saeed Jalili is a top contender in the Iranian presidential race.

counterweight to China compelled foreign leaders to hold their noses and engage India transactionally. The BJP's loss of parliamentary majority and dependence on allies, at least theoretically, is expected to restore constitutionalism. But the ruling party's initial moves, like the renomination of Om Birla as the Speaker despite his poor record, has dampened hopes.

President Biden is in the damage-control mode after his disastrous performance in the debate with Trump. The Iran-China-Russia axis would have observed this as well as the increased possibility of Trump's return. Russian President Vladimir Putin would take solace in Trump reiterating his ability to end the Ukraine war quickly. That implies acceptance of the status quo by Ukraine. European Union (EU) states would also brace for turbulent trade and strategic ties with a Trump-led US.

There is speculation that if French President Macron's gamble goes awry, he may resign. Le Pen has moderated her party's stand on some issues, compared to her more radically right-wing father's views. She is even endorsing military support to Ukraine. However, her party remains skeptical about the benefits of the EU. After the Brexit blow by Britain in February 2020, another exit or even a debate about it would weaken the group.

The Conservative Party is projected to lose the July 4 British parliamentary elections. If elected, the Labour Party will inherit a weak economy and post-Brexit disillusionment. But its leader Keir Starmer has moved the party to the political center, like Tony Blair in the 1990s. Labour has announced a 'free to go' for a Free Trade Agreement with India. It advocates 'progressive realism' in foreign policy. It seeks a new geopolitical partnership with the EU and an increase of the defense budget by 2.5 per cent, besides strengthened nuclear deterrence. It recalls that it was Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin in the post-World War II Labour government of Clement Attlee who helped create NATO and Britain's nuclear deterrence.

In the Iranian presidential election, the sole reformist candidate, approved by the Guardian's Council, is Masoud

Pezeshkian. He was the health minister in the government of reformist President Mohammad Khatami (1997-2005). Opposing him are conservative politicians Saeed Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator, and Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of the Iranian parliament.

Pezeshkian's candidature is being attributed to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's worry over mere 48 per cent voting in 2021, when late President Raisi had won the election. The Iranian voters may be denied a real choice with politically vetted candidates, but they can express their disapproval of the Islamic regime by avoiding voting. The elected President's legitimacy is more crucial than ever before due to the economic stress faced by the people due to Western sanctions. Huge crowds at polling booths late in the evening indicated revived public interest in the political contest.

Pezeshkian led in the first round, with Jalili second. In the runoff, the third candidate's votes will shift to Jalili because both are supported by conservatives. The same happened in the 2005 presidential election when Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was trailing in the first round and then won in the second one as the conservative votes consolidated. Iranian people can sometimes surprise the Islamic regime by voting for reform.

Even Fukuyama would concede that three-and-a-half decades after his 'end of history' pronouncement, the global liberal order is challenged by a realignment of some of the old players. Instead of the Soviet Union, it is the China-Russia-Iran axis and North Korea now. India is still doing a balancing act between the two sides in a neo-Cold War, as demonstrated by PM Modi's upcoming visit to Russia. The difference is that maintaining equidistance is more difficult as China, which is inimical to India's rise, is co-leading one side. The BJP must register the June 4 message of the people. India's enemies are abroad, not at home.

(The author is a Former Ambassador and Ex-Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India)

Biden's debate fiasco deals a blow to his campaign



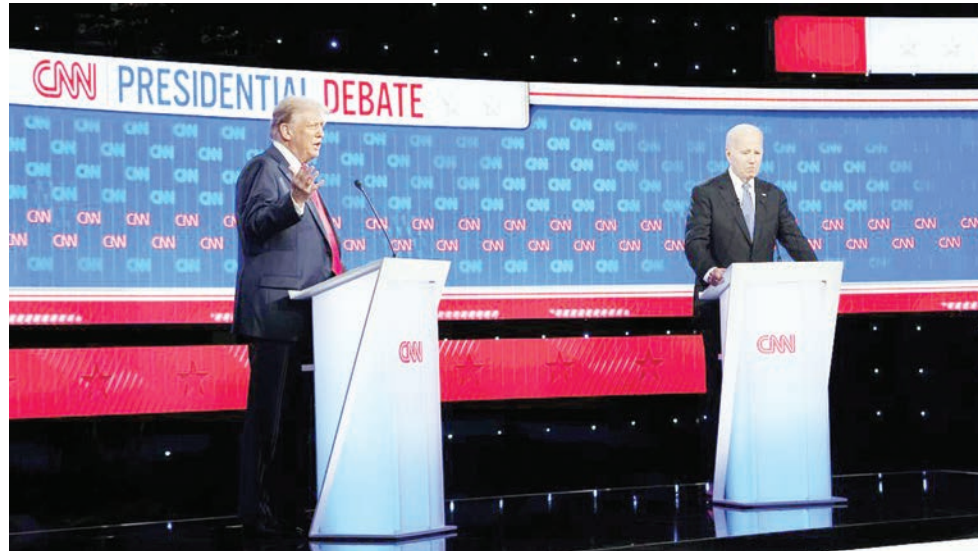
BY MANOJ JOSHI

JOE BIDEN'S AIDES HAD HOPED THAT THE DEBATE WOULD HELP STEADY THEIR CAMPAIGN. BUT IT MAY HAVE UNDERMINED IT COMPLETELY

"ONE MAJOR ADVANTAGE IS THAT THE DEBATE HAPPENED IN JUNE, WHEN FOUR MORE MONTHS ARE LEFT FOR THE ELECTIONS. IN TERMS OF THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE, IT IS EARLY, AND IT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BIDEN TO TURN THINGS AROUND. OTHER EVENTS CAN AND WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE US AND AROUND THE WORLD UNTIL NOVEMBER, DULLING THE IMPACT OF BIDEN'S DEBATE PERFORMANCE LAST WEEK. LARGE NUMBERS OF AMERICANS SIMPLY DO NOT FOCUS ON ELECTIONS UNTIL A WEEK OR TWO BEFORE POLLING. YOU CAN BE SURE, THOUGH, THAT REPUBLICANS WILL USE VIDEOS OF BIDEN'S PERFORMANCE TO KEEP MEMORIES OF THE DEBATE ALIVE THROUGH ATTACK ADS."

There are wars raging in Gaza and Ukraine, and tensions are running high around Taiwan and the Philippines. You may not believe it, but perhaps the gravest crisis that the world may face could be in the US, which is looking like it could elect a narcissist, liar and convicted felon as its President this November.

Millions of Americans saw President Joe Biden on debate night on Thursday, delivering his answers in a hoarse, faltering voice, slack-jawed and struggling to string his thoughts



Debate disasters are not new. But what makes this a first-class crisis is the fact that Donald Trump could be back into the White House

CNN Screenshot

together. The performance has set off alarm bells ringing across the world. Instead of focusing on his substantial achievements as the President, we have been forced to look at the issue of his age.

Biden's aides had hoped that the debate would help steady their somewhat slow-moving campaign. Instead, it may have undermined it completely. Since then, there have been calls by prominent voices for Biden to step aside to enable a younger candidate to take his place.

Debate disasters are not new. But what makes this a first-class crisis is the fact that it could propel Donald Trump back into the White House. Almost all the commentary noted that Trump's attacks on Biden were often false and mostly misleading. But all he had to do was be Donald Trump. The damage was done to Biden by himself.

Given his felony convictions, other looming cases and his history, Trump is unfit to be the President of the US. But he is what we will get, given the current circumstances. Biden supporters believe that the President has the opportunity to make up for the fiasco by improving his performance in the next debate in September. But given that things are going his way, why would Trump want any further debates?

Just 14 hours after the debate, Biden addressed a campaign rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he was forceful, confident and landing hard political punches on Trump and the Republicans. Unlike in the debate, he gave categorical and clear outlines of his positions on abortion, immigration, taxes and race. But does this suggest that Biden could still turn things around? It's too early to say.

Over the years, the Biden team has carefully managed his sleeping hours, his walk to the Marine One helicopter and his climb aboard aircraft to mute

concerns over his age. But the debate performance last week has shattered the efforts to show Biden at his best. Insiders say that Biden performs best between 10 am and 4 pm. But the debate began at 9 pm and went on till 10.30 pm.

Biden accepted at the Raleigh rally that his debate performance was poor. "I know I am not a young man. I don't walk as easy as I used to. I don't speak as smoothly as I used to. I don't debate as well as I used to," he told the crowd. But that is precisely the point: age is a factor.

As of now, his allies are publicly supporting him. This includes his former boss, ex-President Barack Obama, and a clutch of potential candidates who could replace Biden were he to step aside -Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Governors JB Pritzker of Illinois, Gavin Newsom of California, Wes Moore of Maryland and Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan.

One major advantage is that the debate happened in June, when four more months are left for the elections. In terms of the US presidential election cycle, it is early, and it offers an opportunity for Biden to turn things around. Other events can and will take place in the US and around the world until November, dulling the impact of Biden's debate performance last week. Large numbers of Americans simply do not focus on elections until a week or two before polling. You can be sure, though, that Republicans will use videos of Biden's performance to keep memories of the debate alive through attack ads.

Biden versus Trump is all about the election. And despite poor polling numbers, Biden still has a fighting chance to beat Trump. But the debate performance has thrown a bright light on the issue of Biden's age and raised doubts about whether he is capable of managing the presidency till 2029, when

BIDEN VERSUS TRUMP IS ALL ABOUT THE ELECTION. AND DESPITE POOR POLLING NUMBERS, BIDEN STILL HAS A FIGHTING CHANCE TO BEAT TRUMP. BUT THE DEBATE PERFORMANCE HAS THROWN A BRIGHT LIGHT ON THE ISSUE OF BIDEN'S AGE AND RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER HE IS CAPABLE OF MANAGING THE PRESIDENCY TILL 2029, WHEN HE WILL BE 86.

he will be 86.

This central question, which is linked to the important decision on whether he should step aside for another candidate, demands answers, and soon. The Democratic National Convention will be held in August, and Biden could well show the electorate in the coming month that he is indeed fit to continue. But if he is unable to do so, the delay would make it difficult for the party to find another candidate to take over the campaign and win.

The Democratic Party rules make it almost impossible to replace Biden at the top of the ticket unless he voluntarily steps aside since most of the 4,000 estimated delegates are pledged to him already.

Biden could step aside, even while endorsing an alternative. But the issue would inevitably divide the Democrats at a crucial time when they need to be united not just for the presidential campaign but for the elections to the entire House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, several governorships and state legislatures.

The Democrats are hoping they can retain their Senate majority and win the House of Representatives as well. Both Houses have slim majorities, and the races there are almost as important as winning the presidential poll. The problem they now face is that the presidential worries could also adversely affect these other important elections.

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



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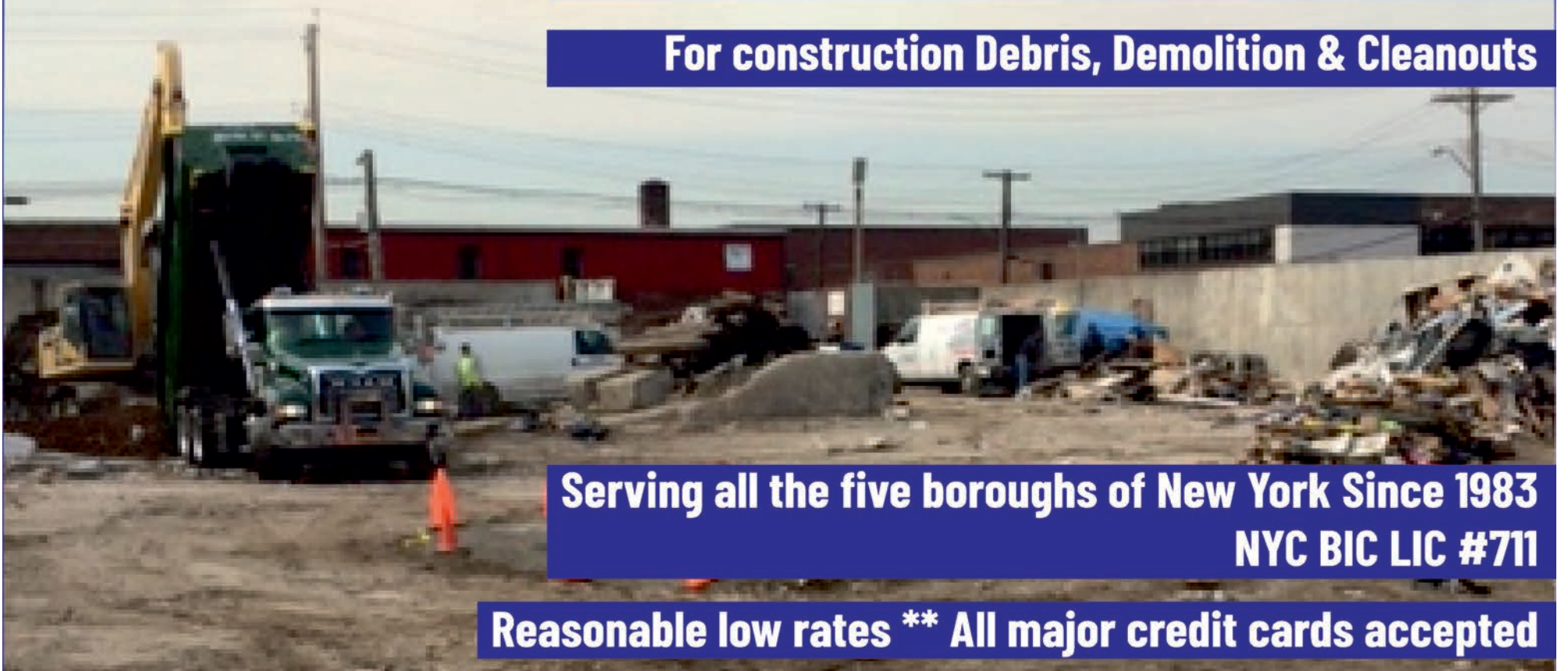
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Indian American business owners Rishi Shah, Shradha sentenced for defrauding Goldman Sachs, Alphabet in billion-dollar scheme



Rishi Shah and Shradha Agarwal have been sentenced for defrauding investors and clients

JULY 3, 2024

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Rishi Shah, the Indian American co-founder of Outcome Health, has been sentenced to 7.5 years in prison for orchestrating a massive fraud scheme that defrauded investors and clients of nearly \$1 billion. His co-founders, Shradha Agarwal and Brad Purdy, were also sentenced for their roles in the scheme. Agarwal received three years in a halfway house, and Purdy received two years and three months in prison.

Outcome Health, founded in 2006 and known as Context Media prior to 2017, installed television screens and tablets in doctors' offices across the U.S. to display pharmaceutical advertisements. Shah, Agarwal, and Purdy inflated the company's financial performance and advertising reach by selling more advertising inventory than they had and under-delivering on advertising campaigns. They invoiced clients as if they had delivered in full and falsified data to secure loans and investments.

Major investors defrauded by the scheme included Goldman Sachs, Google's parent company Alphabet (through its investment arm CapitalG), and the Pritzker Group. These investors were part of a \$500 million funding round in 2017, valuing Outcome Health at \$5.5 billion at the time.

The fraud resulted in a significant overstatement of Outcome's revenue for 2015 and 2016, enabling Shah and his team to raise \$110 million in debt financing in April 2016, \$375 million in December 2016, and \$487.5 million in equity financing in early 2017. The \$110 million debt financing resulted in a \$30.2 million dividend to Shah and a \$7.5 million dividend to Agarwal, while the \$487.5 million equity financing yielded a \$225 million dividend benefiting both Shah and Agarwal. Shah was convicted of multiple counts, including mail fraud, wire fraud, bank fraud, and money laundering. Agarwal and Purdy were also convicted on multiple counts of fraud.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

24-year-old Indian-origin woman dies on Qantas flight from Melbourne to Delhi

JULY 1, 2024

MELBOURNE (TIP): A 24-year-old Indian woman who was travelling from Melbourne to New Delhi in a Qantas flight died on the spot when she developed a medical condition while the aircraft was still on the ground, according to a media report on Monday, July 1.

Manpreet Kaur, who had dreams of becoming a chef, boarded the aircraft ready to fly from Melbourne to Delhi on June 20 and died on board after the student reportedly "felt unwell" hours before arriving at the airport but managed to board the flight without any issues.

According to a friend, Kaur was travelling to India to see her parents for the first time since she moved to Australia in March 2020.

The friend said Kaur fell on the floor and "died on the spot" when she went to put on her seatbelt.

The plane was still attached to the gate in Melbourne when cabin crew and



Manpreet Kaur who was travelling from Melbourne to New Delhi in a Qantas flight died on the spot when she developed a medical condition while the aircraft was still on the ground,

emergency services rushed to help her.

"When she got on the plane, she was struggling to put her seatbelt on," her friend Gurdip Grewal told a newspaper.

"Just before her flight started, she fell in front of her seat and died on the spot."

It is understood that Kaur likely died of tuberculosis, an infectious disease

that mostly affects the lungs.

Her roommate Kuldeep said Kaur had worked at Australia Post while studying cookery, with dreams of one day becoming a chef.

"She was kind and honest," she told the outlet.

"She loved to travel with her friends around Victoria."

A GoFundMe page has been created for Kaur to help her family.

"Our dear friend Manpreet left us too soon, leaving a void in our lives that can never be filled," the page reads.

"As we grieve her passing, we want to come together to honor her memory and support her family in their time of need.

"As we say our final goodbyes, every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to our goal. Your support means the world to us and Manpreet's family."

A Qantas spokesperson told news.com.au portal that their "thoughts are with her family and loved ones".

(Source: PTI)

Indian American physician Mona Ghosh pleads guilty to healthcare fraud



Mona Ghosh has pleaded guilty to federal healthcare fraud by billing Medicaid and private insurers for nonexistent services.

JULY 2, 2024

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): A 51-year-old Indian American physician from the Chicago area has pleaded guilty to a federal healthcare fraud by billing Medicaid and private insurers for nonexistent services.

Mona Ghosh, who owns and operates Progressive Women's Healthcare, specializing in obstetrics and gynecology services, pleaded guilty to two counts of health care fraud.

Each count is punishable by up to ten years in federal prison.

US District Judge Franklin U Valderrama has set sentencing for October 22. Federal prosecutors allege that Ghosh is accountable for at least \$2.4 million in fraudulently obtained reimbursements. She admitted in her plea agreement that she was accountable for more than \$1.5 million of such fraudulently obtained reimbursements. The final amount will be determined by the court at sentencing, a media release said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Forsyth County man sentenced to life in prison for father's murder



Rajeev Kumaraswamy, a 25-year-old man from Forsyth County, has been sentenced to life in prison for the 2021 murder of his father, Sadashiva Kumaraswamy.

JULY 3, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Rajeev Kumaraswamy, a 25-year-old man from Forsyth County, has been sentenced to life in prison for the 2021 murder of his father, Sadashiva Kumaraswamy.

The incident occurred on July 22, 2021, at approximately 5:50 p.m., when an argument between Rajeev and his father escalated. Rajeev retrieved a gun from his room and shot his father multiple times at their home on 3905 Homestead Ridge Drive in Cumming. Sadashiva was pronounced dead at the scene.

Rajeev was taken into custody without incident and charged with one count of felony murder. His father was 49 years old at the time of his murder.

The Forsyth County Sheriff's Office had no prior contact or calls for service from the home before this incident.

Indian-origin con woman jailed in Singapore



Priscilla Shamani Manoharan was sentenced on July 3, to three years of imprisonment for cheating 12 persons of over SGD 106,000 in total in various scams.

Photo for representational purpose only / Thinkstock

JULY 3, 2024

SINGAPORE (TIP): A 33-year-old Indian-origin Singaporean woman on Wednesday, July 3, was sentenced to three years of imprisonment for cheating 12 persons of over SGD 106,000 in total in various scams.

District Judge John Ng also imposed a fine of SGD 2,000 on Priscilla Shamani Manoharan, who started her crime spree in 2022.

Manoharan cheated a man of SGD 57,250 by making claims such as needing to pay for a transaction relating to an apartment under the public scheme of the Housing Board, and that her daughter had died, followed by her son.

She also conned by faking her death, pretending to be a lawyer and sending out bogus invoices for "outstanding legal fees" to the man, The Straits Times newspaper reported. Among other cases, the woman created fake WhatsApp chat records, purportedly between her and a hospital staff member, to convince the victim that she needed money urgently for medical fees.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles announces 2024 winners



The event celebrated the best in South Asian cinema with various awards given to feature films, short films, and projects from the new IFFLA Industry Day.

JUNE 30, 2024

LOS ANGELES (TIP): The Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles (IFFLA) announced its 2024 award winners at a gala closing night ceremony at the Writers Guild Theater. The event celebrated the best in South Asian cinema with various awards given to feature films, short films, and projects from the new IFFLA Industry Day.

KEY AWARDS:

- Grand Jury Prize for Best Feature Film: *Girls Will Be Girls* directed by Shuchi Talati. The jury praised the film for its elegant portrayal of the coming-of-age story, highlighting societal expectations and personal desires.

- Feature Jury Honorable Mention: *Dear Jassi* directed by Tarsem Singh. This film was recognized for its poignant depiction of star-crossed lovers and its call for societal reflection on shame.
- Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film: *Last Days of Summer* directed by Stenzin Tankong. The film was lauded for its beautiful storytelling and environmental message.
- Short Film Jury Honorable Mention: *Lovely & Tip Top* directed by Yuki Ellias.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS:

- Best Feature Film: *Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa Sherpa* directed by Lucy Walker.

- Best Short Film: *Hema* directed by Ritvik Dhavale.

INDUSTRY DAY PITCH COMPETITION:

- Winner: Shuchi Dwivedi for her project *Friends and Fascism*, awarded \$10,000.
- Honorable Mention: Sejal Pachisia for her project *Empathico*.

IFFLA Executive Director Christina Marouda expressed excitement over the festival's growth and new locations, emphasizing its role in celebrating South Asian storytelling. The 2024 festival featured 21 films from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and the United States, including narrative features, shorts, and documentaries.

Highlights included the Los Angeles premiere of *Dear Jassi* and the Tamil film *Maharaja* starring Vijay Sethupathi and Anurag Kashyap. Other notable films included *Girls Will Be Girls*, *Undercurrent*, *Ben and Suzanne: A Reunion in 4 Parts*, and *A House Named Shahana*.

Founded in 2002 as a non-profit organization, IFFLA offers the Los Angeles community a unique opportunity to learn about India's multifaceted culture and long history of filmmaking. Since then, IFFLA has grown into the premiere U.S. venue for discovering the best of South Asian cinema, as well as a vital hub that fosters an important dialogue among the most original independent storytellers from India and its diaspora, the greater South Asian diasporic community, and the international film industry at large.

Indian American Dr. Ananth Raman appointed as strategic advisor for AI firm C5i



AI & Analytics company, C5i, has appointed Dr. Ananth Raman, UPS Foundation Professor of Business Logistics at Harvard Business School, to its Strategic Advisory Board (SAB)

JULY 1, 2024

BOSTON (TIP): AI & Analytics company, C5i, has appointed Dr. Ananth Raman, UPS Foundation Professor of Business Logistics at Harvard Business School, to its Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) to provide strategic direction to the firm's executive leadership.

Indian American professor will provide strategic direction to the executive leadership of C5i on enhancing strategy, IP development, and go-to-market for its AI solutions for supply chain, customer experience, marketing, and other areas, according to a media release.

Dr. Raman teaches various areas of Technology and Operations Management at the Harvard Business School and has extensive experience in research and business consulting in Supply Chain Management and Service Operations.

He has helped multiple retailers and suppliers design and develop decision-support systems for supply chain management. He serves as an advisor to multiple CEOs of global companies.

At C5i, Dr. Raman will provide guidance and recommendations on business strategy, IP development, and go-to-market positioning for the company's AI solutions in the domains of Supply Chain, Customer Analytics, Marketing Analytics, and other areas.

Ashwin Mittal, Chairman and CEO of C5i, said, "Dr. Raman's wealth of expertise and knowledge across his academic and business engagements will help us in our quest of building our best-in-class AI solutions that drive business impact for our global clients. He would also advise us on client expansion and help define and build our strategy to better penetrate Supply Chain and Operations functions, and target buyer groups across CPG, Retail, Manufacturing, and other verticals. The maturing of generative AI technologies is enabling us to bring disruptive new solutions to the market."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American attorney elected as alternate delegate to Republican Convention



Florida attorney Hardam Tripathi has been elected as an official alternate delegate for the Republican National Convention in Wisconsin later this month that would formally nominate former US president Donald Trump as the party's presidential candidate

The Republican National Party (RNP) convention in Milwaukee from July 14 to 18 would formally nominate Trump as its nominee for the November 5 presidential elections.

A lifelong member of the Republican Party, Tripathi, said, "This will be my first time serving as a National Delegate at the RNC and it is a distinct honor to represent Florida's 15th Congressional District in a historic election that is forthcoming in these great United States of America."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American physician elected official delegate to Republican Convention

JULY 01, 2024
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Eminent Indian-American physician Dr Sampat Shivangi has been elected as an official delegate to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee this month that would formally nominate former US president Donald Trump as the party's presidential candidate.

Trump, 78, is the presumptive Republican Party candidate for the presidential election. An influential Indian-American community leader, Dr Shivangi, has been elected as a National Delegate at the convention for the sixth time.

"It is a great pleasure and honor to share the news that I have been nominated and elected as (an) official delegate at the upcoming Republican National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from July 13 to July 19, 2024," Dr Shivangi said. The four-day Republican National Convention (RNC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, would formally nominate Trump as the party's candidate for the November 5 presidential election. The nomination process would be completed by Republican delegates from across the country.

Dr Shivangi, a lifelong member of the Republican Party and a founding member of the Republican Indian Council and the Republican Indian National Council, has been nominated as RNC delegate six consecutive times.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Eminent Indian-American physician Dr Sampat Shivangi has been elected as a National Delegate to the Republican convention for the sixth time.

Chinmaya International Foundation (CIF-Kerala) Holds First Graduation Ceremony for Certificate in Hindu Spiritual Care (CHSC)

JULY 1, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): In a late news reaching The Indian Panorama, Sujata Seth reported that Chinmaya International Foundation held on June 5 its first Graduation Ceremony for Certificate in Hindu Spiritual Care. The program celebrated a milestone with the graduation of its inaugural cohort of 11 students who are the first to complete the Certificate program, with another 50-plus students in process. The ceremony was held virtually at 9:30 pm ET during the final session of the Rites, Rituals, and Vedanta course taught by Brahmachari Ved Chaitanya (Br. Vedji).

The graduates from across the US and Canada- Ashlesh Dani and Bina Dani (Poughkeepsie, NY), Hema Ramanathan (Plymouth-Canton, MI), Indira Palekar (Cleveland), Meenakshi Venkataramani (Boston), Pradeep Solanki (Toronto), Rakhi Khanna (Chicago), Ravi Iyer (Houston), Sangamesh Konaraddi (Frederick, MD), Sonali Dave (Dallas), and Sowmya Kesari (Acton, MA) - were congratulated for their hard work in this first-of-its-kind comprehensive training program in Hindu Spiritual Care (chaplancy).

Students undertook coursework in Hindu spiritual traditions, Bhagavad



Participants in the virtual Graduation Ceremony on June 5

Gita, Vedanta philosophy, Indian psychology, Hindu rites and rituals and sadhanas, ethical principles and competencies of chaplancy, and communication skills. They concluded their studies with chaplancy practicums at healthcare and other facilities.

Guest Speaker Swami Shantanandaji, President of Chinmaya Mission West, praised the graduates for their commitment to serving communities through spiritual caregiving. "By

blending ancient wisdom with modern healthcare needs, you are ambassadors lighting the way for Hindu spiritual care to be integrated into diverse settings," he stated.

"We are extremely proud of this pioneering group of graduates," said Br. Vedji of CIF. "Their dedication to providing compassionate spiritual support while representing Hindu values in a professional clinical setting is truly inspiring."

Vilasini Balakrishnan, Programme Director of CHSC, credited Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayanandaji as the visionary and inspiration behind this program. Gurudev founded CIF in 1989 to be a bridge between East and West, science and spirituality, and Hindu chaplaincy is helping to fulfill this role. The graduates expressed gratitude to their outstanding instructors, including Dr. Ramesh Pattni of London, UK, and Dr. Madhu Sharma of Raleigh, NC, and for the opportunity to be part of this groundbreaking educational initiative. They look forward to careers in Hindu Spiritual Care as volunteers or as professionals in healthcare, colleges, the military and community.

The Certificate in Hindu Spiritual Care plans to offer the 18-month part-time online courses annually, helping to meet a growing demand for Hindu chaplains able to offer Hindu religious and philosophical perspectives to assist those navigating life's challenges.

For more information, visit <https://chinfo.org/hinduspiritualcare> or www.Chinfo.org/all-courses/hindu-spiritual-care/

(Based on a Press Release issued on June 14 by Sujata Seth)

Indo-American Senior Citizens Association of Hudson County Celebrates with a Festive Gathering



JUNE 29, 2024

JERSEY CITY, NJ (TIP): The Indo-American Senior Citizens Association of Hudson County (IASCAHC) recently hosted a vibrant and memorable event, bringing together over 150 members for a day of celebration and community spirit.

THE EVENT WAS FILLED WITH EXCITING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING:

Thrilling World Cup Match: The group gathered to cheer on India during a live World Cup match, celebrating the team's victory with enthusiasm.

Laughter Yoga Session: Poonam Gupta led a fun and energizing Laughter Yoga session, promoting well-being and positive energy among the participants.

Birthday Celebration: The association honored senior members born in May and June with a special birthday celebration.



New Committee Members: IASCAHC welcomed their new committee members, including President Dipak Valsadia, Vice President Rasesh Shah, Kamlesh Patel, and Stage Director Dinesh Pandya & Nishant Shrivastav (Technical assistance Director)

The event also featured special guests and acknowledgements.

Blessings & Support: The association received blessings from Mr. H.K. Shah, founder of World Vegan Vision, and support from Jatinder Bakshi, Chairman of Senior Citizens of Hudson County, and Mahendra Shah, past Vice President of FISANA.

New General Secretary: Nitin Vyas, Global Public Relations Director of World Vegan Vision, surprised the gathering by joining the Senior Citizens Association of Hudson County as General Secretary.

The event was a testament to the vibrant and active



community within the Indo-American Senior Citizens Association of Hudson County. Members enjoyed a delicious healthy breakfast and late lunch, received special gifts from the association, and shared warm greetings and messages with various organizations.

ABOUT THE INDO-AMERICAN SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF HUDSON COUNTY.

The Indo-American Senior Citizens Association of Hudson County is dedicated to fostering a sense of community, promoting healthy living, and providing social and recreational opportunities for senior citizens in the region.

(Press Release issued by Nitin Vyas, General Secretary of IASCOHC. Phone: 732-470-5598)

Happy 4th of July!

AMERICANS ARE CELEBRATING THE 248TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE TODAY. PARADES AND FIREWORKS ARE PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS. HERE ARE A FEW PICTURES OF FIREWORKS IN NEW YORK. OUR ACE PHOTOGRAPHER JAY MANDAL PRESENTS THESE BEAUTIFUL PICTURES AND HIS GREETINGS TO THE READERS OF THE INDIAN PANORAMA



Growing clamor for Biden to step down; he says here to stay to defeat Trump

JUNE 30, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Following a disastrous performance at the debate stage in Atlanta, there is a growing clamor within the ruling Democratic party and the mainstream American media for President Joe Biden to step down from the presidential race.

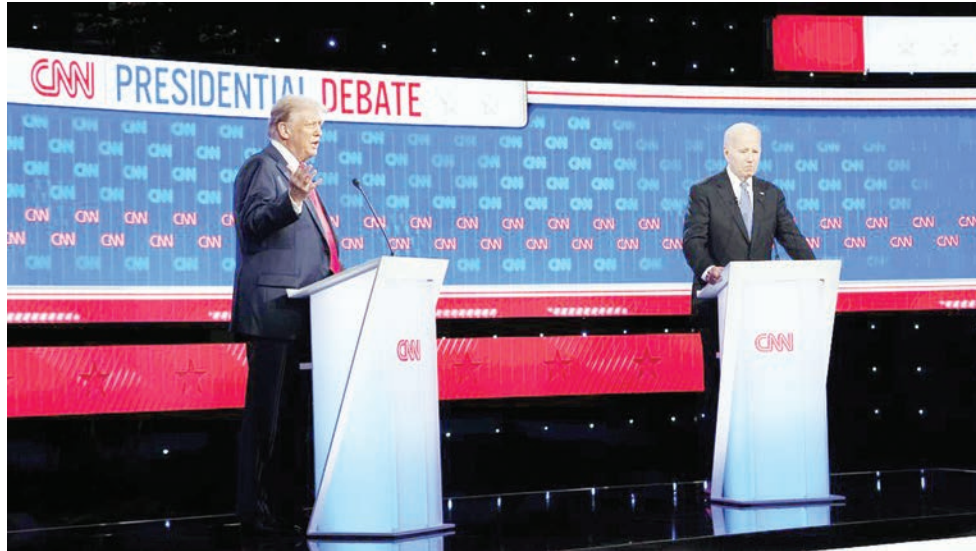
However, the 81-year-old President and his campaign have asserted that he is not giving up and is determined to successfully run for the November 5th presidential elections.

"Mr. Biden is the nominee (of the Democratic party. No switching of the nominee," campaign leadership has asserted.

Mr. Biden, the 46th President of the United States, has won the Democratic presidential primary.

As of June 29, he had 3,894 delegates as against 1,975 delegates required to win the nomination of the party. These delegates would meet in Chicago from August 19 to 22 to formally nominate the winner of the primaries to run for the November 5 presidential elections.

Mr. Biden, seeking a second term in the White House, stumbled and fumbled during the televised presidential debate with his predecessor Donald Trump on Thursday night in Atlanta, setting off alarm bells among top Democrats about



President Joe Biden (right) and Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump (left) are seen on television during the first presidential debate on Thursday, June 27, 2024

whether he can stay atop the grueling months ahead of the elections on November 5.

The 78-year-old Mr. Trump, who is the presumptive Republican Party candidate for the presidential election, clashed right from the start with Biden and by the end of the 90 minutes debate, gave enough fodder for serious editorials and opinions as well as memes on social media.

Over the last 50 hours after the first presidential debate in Atlanta on

Thursday night, wherein his performance was seen far below par against his rival Mr. Trump, multiple media outlets, including The New York Times and his own party supporters and key decision makers, are calling him to step down from the race.

"Dropping out is Mr. Biden's most patriotic option," The Atlantic said Saturday.

"To serve his country, President Biden should leave the race," The New York Times editorial board wrote Following

the debate.

The New York Times wrote, "That is no longer a sufficient rationale for why Mr. Biden should be the Democratic nominee this year." Similar messages are coming from inside the party as well.

However, his inner circle is standing by the side of Mr. Biden.

A post-debate poll says that 10% of the independent voters have moved towards Mr. Biden after the debate, a point that is being made by his team.

"It wasn't my best debate ever as Barack (Obama) pointed out. I understand the concern after the debate," Mr. Biden told his fundraisers in New Jersey. "I get it. I didn't have a great night, but I'm going to be fighting harder," he said.

"Research during the debate shows us converting more undecided voters than Trump did, in large part because of his conduct on January 6," Mr. Biden said. He argued Mr. Trump's lies were the biggest takeaway: "People remember the bad things during his presidency."

"I didn't have a great night but neither did he," he said again of Mr. Trump.

Several prominent columnists - Paul Krugman, Tom Friedman, Nicholas Kristof, Jonathan Alter, and David Ignatius - argued that the chance of a diminished Mr. Biden losing to Mr. Trump is too high to risk. (Source: PTI)

Deepening ties with India in several areas: US



US State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel, on Monday, July 1, emphasized that Washington is deepening its relationship with India in several key areas, including economic and security cooperation

JULY 02, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US is deepening its relationship with India in several key areas, including economic and security cooperation, a senior official has said, emphasizing that Washington will continue to cultivate this relationship.

State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel made the remarks on Monday, July 1, at his daily news conference in response to a question on US-India relations and the recent conversation between

President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the recent G7 Summit in Italy.

"India is a country in which we are deepening our relations within a number of key spaces, especially as it relates to deepening our economic ties, deepening our security cooperation," Patel told reporters.

President Biden "had the opportunity to briefly see Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi in the margins of the G7 a couple of weeks ago," he added.

"So this is an area where we will continue to cultivate this relationship," he said.

Noting that the US hosted Prime Minister Modi for a state visit last year, he said, "I imagine there will be a number of additional areas where we continue to deepen cooperation."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Minnesota Governor names Indian American to State Governor's Council



Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has appointed Dr. Dasharath Yata (in the picture) as an acting member on the Governor's Community Council on Inclusion and Equity

JULY 3, 2024

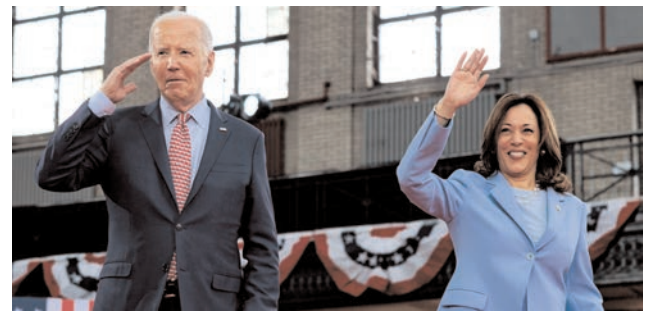
MINNESOTA (TIP): Dr. Dasharath Yata has been appointed by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be an acting member on the Governor's Community Council on Inclusion and Equity. The Governor's Community Council on Inclusion and Equity advises and collaborates with the One Minnesota Council and the Governor's Office of Equity, Opportunity, and

Accessibility to ensure the implementation of equitable practices for the State of Minnesota to address disparities, inequities, and systemic racism in Minnesota communities.

Dr. Dasharath Yata serves as Executive Co-Director of SEWA-AIFW, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the well-being of vulnerable South Asian-Indian families in Minnesota. Since its inception in 2004, SEWA-AIFW has provided comprehensive support, including crisis intervention, outreach services, research, and volunteer training, impacting families in the state. The organization's wellness programs encompass a 24-hour crisis line, legal and housing assistance, women's empowerment, and health clinics offering screenings and education.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

VP Kamala Harris has a better chance of retaining White House than Joe Biden, says CNN poll



Kamala Harris a Top Biden Replacement with VP polling better Vs. Trump

JULY 03, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage, has a better chance of retaining the White House in the US presidential polls than her boss President Joe Biden, according to the latest CNN poll.

The approval rating of Biden, 81, has plummeted after his dismal debate performance in Atlanta last week against his predecessor and Republican rival Donald Trump.

Since the debate, there have been increasing voices in the ruling Democratic Party for Biden, the oldest sitting US President, to step down and let someone else run the race for the crucial November 5 presidential elections.

According to the CNN poll conducted by SRS, Trump, 78, is ahead of Biden by six points.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Legislator Solages Celebrates Groundbreaking of Inwood Apartments for Veterans and First Responders



Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (extreme left) with the Inwood community at the groundbreaking on Wednesday, June 26, of a new residential building geared toward veterans and first responders.

Solages presents a Citation Photos credit: Office of Legislator Carrié Solages

JUNE 30, 2024

INWOOD, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Valley Stream) joined with the Inwood community on Wednesday, June 26 to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new residential building geared toward veterans and first responders.

Situated near the Long Island Railroad station at the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Russell Place, the five-story, 48-unit building is the vision of Rev. Isaiah Moultrie, Sr., a retired U.S. Marine, and the construction is being spearheaded by his son,

Isaiah Jr., a developer. The 11.7-acre site where the complex is being developed formerly housed Rev. Moultrie's church prior to his retirement.

"For generations, the Moultrie family has dedicated itself to serving the Inwood community, and this latest endeavor continues that tradition by supporting Inwood's ongoing revitalization and meeting the housing needs of our brave veterans and first responders," Legislator Solages said. "It was a privilege to witness this full-circle moment come to fruition in our community, and I wish the Moultrie family tremendous success on this venture."

Ram Mandir replica to be part of historic India Day Parade in NY



The VHPA recently organized a Ram Mandir Rath Yatra that visited 851 temples in 48 states over a period of 60 days.

JULY 03, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): A replica of Ram Mandir would be on display during the India Day parade in New York on August 18, which attracts thousands of Indian Americans from in and around New York.

The replica of the temple would be 18 feet long, nine feet wide and eight feet in height, according to Amitabh Mittal, general secretary of Vishva Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA). This would be the first time that a replica of the Ram Mandir would be on display in the United States.

The annual India Day Parade in New York is the largest celebration of India's Independence Day outside India. More than 150,000 people normally watch the annual parade which runs from East 38th Street to East 27th Street in Midtown New York.

Organized by Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), the parade will see scores of floats representing various Indian American communities and a diversity of culture running through the streets of New York.

The VHPA-A recently organized a Ram Mandir Rath Yatra that visited 851 temples in 48 States over 60 days. (Source: PTI)

Legislators Mulé and Koslow Honor Retiring Freeport Superintendent Dr. Kishore Kuncham

JUNE 30, 2024

UNIONDALE / FREEPORT, N.Y. (TIP): - Nassau County Legislators



Nassau County Legislators Debra Mulé (D - Freeport) and Seth I. Koslow (D - Merrick) joined the Freeport school community for a retirement celebration honoring Freeport Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham.

Debra Mulé (D - Freeport) and Seth I. Koslow (D - Merrick) joined the Freeport school community at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Uniondale on Friday, June 21 for a retirement celebration honoring Freeport Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kishore Kuncham.

"Through his 35 years of committed service to the students of Freeport - and 15 years as Superintendent - Dr. Kuncham was a unifying leader of Freeport's diverse and vibrant school community," Legislator Mulé, a former Freeport School Board trustee, said. "His holistic and comprehensive approach to education enriched the lives of my children and countless others, and we will be forever grateful for the impact he has made upon our community."

"Under Dr. Kuncham's leadership, Freeport achieved record graduation rates and opened doors to world-class opportunities for a generation of students," Legislator Koslow said. "His dedication to education, arts, and wellness initiatives has left an indelible mark, and his tenure epitomized the very best of what public education has to offer. While we will miss him tremendously, we salute Dr. Kuncham for his advocacy for Freeport's students."

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'RISE IN N-WARHEADS TO CHECK CHINA'S BUILDUP'

BENGALURU (TIP): The reported increase in the estimate for Indian nuclear warheads is an "educated guess based on limited information," nuclear and military strategist Aditya Ramanathan told TNIE.

He was responding to the report on increase in nuclear arsenals globally, including India by the Swedish think tank 'Stockholm International Peace Research Institute' in its 2024 Yearbook released last month.

"We don't actually know the exact size of India's nuclear arsenal, but most studies place it in the range of 150-200 warheads. If there is indeed an increase in the number of Indian warheads, it is a direct response to developments in China," he added.

Ramanathan said that in 2021, "evidence emerged of three large silo fields in Western China that could house hundreds of ICBMs. China has also developed improved missiles like the solid-fueled DF-41 ICBM and the DF-27 hypersonic glide vehicle. It has also put its nuclear deterrent to sea with ballistic missile submarines and is developing missile defences.

Naturally, India has to be concerned about ensuring that enough of its own nuclear forces can survive a Chinese first strike and inflict unacceptable damage in retaliation. (PTI)

Hathras stampede: Survivors recount horrors, say not sure whether relatives dead or alive

HATHRAS (TIP): A day after a stampede claimed the lives of at least 121 people in Western UP's Hathras district, survivors recovering at the Hathras District Hospital recounted their ordeal.

Sixty-two-year old Kusum Devi, who attended the Satsang, recounted that things had gone well till the very end. "When we tried to walk towards the exit after the aarti, the situation suddenly turned chaotic. People started pushing and pulling each other in all directions. I fell down and people started walking over me. A few people helped me and I managed to survive," she said.

Her sister, who was accompanying her, sadly could not make it and passed away late on July 2. Among the survivors at the hospital was head constable Sheela Mohday who was on duty when the stampede broke out. In an effort to control the crowd, she was injured.

At the hospital's mortuary, Rao Dayal was waiting impatiently to identify the bodies of his sister and two nephews, aged 11 and 9, who had been missing since Tuesday. "My family has been a devotee of Bhole Baba for the past 5-6 years and we had never imagined



something like this could happen. I still don't know whether my relatives are alive or dead. I have received no help from the authorities. They just keep referring me from one hospital to another," he said.

The bodies of the victims were sent to Etah, Aligarh, Agra and Mathura where the autopsy was carried out the whole night. Asphyxia due to compression was the leading cause of death among the

victims of the Hathras stampede who were taken to the district hospital in Etah on Tuesday, additional chief medical officer Dr Ram Mohan Tiwari said.

Police Circle officer (Sakeet area) Sanjay Kumar Singh said 21 of the 27 bodies brought to Etah government hospital were identified by midnight. (PTI)

3 more bridges collapse in Bihar, 9th in 15 days

PATNA (TIP): Amid heavy showers in Bihar, three bridges collapsed in Siwan district within 24 hours, marking the ninth such incident in the state in the last 15 days. No casualties or injuries were reported in the latest incidents of bridge collapse.

With the collapse of the bridges, road links of various villages situated along Gandak and Dhamhi rivers in Siwan have been snapped. These villages have been cut off from the district headquarters.

The incidents of bridge collapse took place in Patera and Dhamai villages and the third one under Tewta panchayat of the district. The first incident was reported from Devariya in Patera village of Maharajganj subdivision of the district.

A bridge that collapsed near Sikandar puri village in Siwan on Wednesday.

A portion of the bridge built on Gandak river collapsed on Wednesday. Sources claimed that the bridge has not repaired ever since it was built 36-40 years ago. Its condition deteriorated due to the incessant rains in the last 24 hours. The bridge served as the only means of transportation for villagers.

Similarly, a bridge connecting Nautan and Sikandarpur collapsed in Tewtha panchayat of Maharajganj block.

The third bridge that caved in was in Dhamai village. The bridge was built over Gandak river and was repaired only a few



days ago. Strong flow of water led to the collapse.

Experts, however, blamed an "unholy nexus" between politicians, contractors and officers behind a series of bridge collapse in the past fortnight.

A bridge that collapsed near Sikandar puri village in Siwan on Wednesday.

Sources claimed that politicians in cahoots with officers and contractors are allegedly responsible for the construction of weak bridges, said Prof. S Narayan,

former director of A N Sinha Institute of Social Study. "Nexus between contractors, bureaucrats and politicians is mainly responsible for the bridge collapse in the state and even the possibility of political funding cannot be ruled out," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bihar government has formed a high-level committee to probe the bridge collapses. Majority of the bridges collapsed were either built or being constructed by the rural works department. (PTI)

Another bridge collapses in Bihar, tenth such incident in over 15 days

PATNA (TIP): Another instance of bridge collapse came to the fore in Bihar on Thursday, making it the 10th such incident to have been reported from the state in just over a fortnight, an official said.

The latest incident was reported from Saran which witnessed two more bridge collapses in the last 24 hours, District Magistrate Aman Samir said.

No casualty was reported after the structure, built 15 years ago by local authorities, collapsed this morning, he said.

The small bridge over the Gandaki river was situated in the Baneyapur block and used to connect several villages in Saran with the neighbouring Siwan district.

"The small bridge was constructed 15 years ago. I am going to the spot. Several other officials of the district administration have already reached there. The exact cause of the bridge collapse is yet to be ascertained but desilting work was recently undertaken," the district magistrate told PTI. On Wednesday, the Saran district witnessed the collapse of two small bridges - one in the Janta Bazar area and another in the Lahladpur area.

Army Chief reaches Jammu, takes stock of LoC operational readiness

NEW DELHI (TIP): Emphasising the security and defence significance in the regions of Poonch and Rajouri, south of Pir Panjal, the Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, visited the area on Wednesday, shortly after assuming charge.

General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security situation and operational preparedness of the troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

In addition to his review with field commanders in Poonch, he conducted an aerial survey of forward areas in the district. The Army Chief was accompanied by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief

(GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command, Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar, and the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Jammu-based White Knight Corps, Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva. Before his shift to Army Headquarters in New Delhi, General Dwivedi served as the Commander of the crucial Northern Command of the Army.

There has been a surge in terror attacks, which is seen as a shift in terrorist operations from the valley to the Jammu region. The visit is particularly significant as the holy Amarnath Yatra 2024 commenced on 29th June and is scheduled to conclude on 19th August 2024. On 9th June, nine



pilgrims heading to the Vaishno Devi Shrine in Katra were killed, and 41 were injured when terrorists fired on their bus.

The rise in terror attacks included 43 incidents in 2023 and 20 so far this year. This number is expected to rise, with 60 to 70 terrorists reportedly active across the borders, as stated by RR Swain, the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief of Army Staff also interacted with some ex-servicemen at

the 93 Infantry Brigade. General Dwivedi, who served as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command from 2022-24, later flew back to Jammu. He is scheduled to return to Delhi on Wednesday evening.

The Northern Command handles borders with both China and Pakistan, including sensitive areas such as Kargil, Siachen, and Eastern Ladakh, where tensions with China continue due to the ongoing standoff. (PTI)

CHIEF JUSTICE CHANDRACHUD HIGHLIGHTS FINANCIAL JUSTICE AT SAT OFFICE INAUGURATION

MUMBAI (TIP): Inaugurating the new Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) office complex here on July 4, Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud said that the judiciary and regulators have to ensure that protecting the economic and financial interests and delivering financial justice in a time-bound manner is as important as delivering social and political justice because financial and regulatory fairness are the bedrock of the economic progress of any nation and is also a key part of the rule of law.

"A legal system that has adequate safeguards, fairness, and dispenses justice without arbitrariness, is integral to building a country's business and financial landscape and this is one of the main reasons why the Supreme Court recently constituted a five-judge bench to see whether an unstamped arbitration agreement can be relooked at the section 11 stage itself and that too within a month, because in the financial and business world, even a month is too long a period," he added.

He further said that the judiciary must send out this message across that any aberration happened in the past should be corrected at the earliest and with the greatest speed so that can help establish a stable regulatory environment in the country.

Chandrachud, who holds his court in a fully paperless manner, said that virtual hearing is a matter of right for the petitioner and lawyers.

On this regard he specially commended the SAT for holding virtual hearings since the pandemic. Since SAT has only one bench and therefore has national jurisdiction, it is all more important that this appellate body allows the virtual participation of lawyers from across the country. This is all the more important as it has only a single bench.

Emphasising the importance of the rule of law, the chief justice said, "we often consider the idea of rule of law is social and political justice. Way back in 2005, the World Bank has theorized that protecting the rule of law is intrinsically linked to ensuring better economic outcomes and financial advancement."

Coming to the soaring market which has scaled past the 80,000 mount yesterday, he said for Sebi and SAT this also brings to the fore of the importance of timely regulation. (ENS)

Rajnath Singh 'lied' in Parliament on compensation to families of martyred Agniveers, alleges Rahul Gandhi; Army rebuts claims

NEW DELHI (TIP): Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on July 3 alleged that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh "lied" in Parliament about the issue of compensation to families of martyred Agniveers and demanded an apology for it. The Army on Wednesday refuted Gandhi's claim, stating that the family of the Agniveer had been paid Rs 98 lakh.

The Congress leader also shared a video on X purportedly of the father of a deceased Agniveer who stated that Rajnath Singh had claimed that Rs 1 crore compensation had been given to the next of kin of martyred Agniveers but no such assistance was received by his family.

Sharing the video message posted by her brother, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also accused the BJP of "insulting the sacrifice of the families" who gave up their sons for the country. In his video, Rahul Gandhi said that he had stated in his speech in Parliament that the protection of truth is the basis of every religion.

"In reply, Defence Minister Rajnath



Singh, before Lord Shiva's photo, lied to the country, its armed forces and Agniveers about compensation," Gandhi said in the video.

He then referred to the purported statement by the father of an Agniveer martyr Ajay Singh.

Ajay Singh's father said that Rajnath Singh made the statement that families of

martyrs have been given Rs 1 crore compensation but no such assistance had been received by his family.

"Rahul Gandhi is raising our voice in Parliament that families of martyrs must get all necessary help. Agniveer recruitment must stop and regular recruitment should be reinstated," he said. (PTI)

Long Island Indo American Lions Club celebrates 3rd Annual Gala Dinner



Sanju Sharma, Paula Umreiko, Andy Umreiko, Shyam Gajwani, Kanak Golia, Indu Gajwani, Maria Loita, Douglas Alexander, Anil Shah, Meena Shah, Anju Sharma, Veena Lamba



Yogini Oza, Sanju Sharma, Nimesh Shah, Kanak Golia, President Shyam Gajwani, Indu Gajwani, Yogendra Saxena, Anju Sharma, Vijay Shah.

Second Row: Pawan Singla, Pradeep Gosalia, Saurabh Seth, Govind Oza and Krishana Maddipatla

JULY 3, 2024

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Long Island Indo American Lions Club celebrated 3rd Annual Gala Dinner on 30th June, 2024 at Pearl Banquet at Hicksville. Program was attended by the dignitaries from Lions Club International District 20K2 Nassau County & Bermuda and also well-known community leaders and Honorees. Lions Club moto is WE SERVE.

Program started at 6:00 pm with cocktails and appetizer and at 7:15 pm Indu Gajwani Founder President of the club welcomed guest and dignitaries and Ganesh Vandana Dance was performed by Group Macaulay Deewane to remove any obstacles from the Program. Performers names were Khushi Oza, Anil Singh, Alisha Shah, Anjali Cherian, Staisa Bose, Mariya Kooran.

Anju Sharma Vice President of Lions Club Introduce Gala Chair Mr. Kanak Golia and Mr. Kanak Golia gave speech and thank everyone. The presentation was shown for achievements of all the various projects such as collecting eyeglasses, blankets donation to veterans, food to the homeless, school supplies to needy children, Hygienic



Shyam Gajwani, President of the Club giving his remarks

products to needy and donations given to cancer care association, cataract surgeries done and lot of other humanitarian needs. Under the Presidency of Mr. Shyam Gajwani. Presentation was done by Secretary Sanju Sharma

There were 5 honorees from community who always help and support community were Honored. The names of the Honorees are Mr. Anil Shah, Mr. Kanak Golia, Mr. Krishna



Andrew Paradiso, Shyam Gajwani, Krishana Madipatla, Douglas Alexander, Nand Panjwani, Vijay Shah

Maddipatla, Dr. Nirmal Khurana and Dr. Puranchandra Atluri.

The Prestigious Melvin Jones Award was awarded to Mr. Aron Govil, Mr. Gary Sikka, Mr. Inderpal Chhabra, Mr. Jay Shah, Mr. Kiran Reddy, Mr. Mukesh Ranu, Mr. Nand Panjwani, Mr Narinder Kapoor and Mr. Pradip Parikh.

Mr. Shyam Gajwani President of the Lions Club gave speech and thank all the Executive committee and Chair committee and people who helped him

to make this GALA dinner successful.

The Program ended with Bollywood Mash up dance by the group Macaulay Deewane and Dance floor was opened and people enjoyed the program. It was elegant and well-organized program. Thanks to all the people who attended the program, supporters and all the Lion Members for making it a great success.

(Based on a Press release issued by Indu Gajwani)

CHANCELLOR DAVID C. BANKS NAMES KENITA LLOYD AS CHIEF OF STAFF



Schools Chancellor David C. Banks, on July 3, elevated Kenita Lloyd (pictured here) to the position of New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS) Chief of Staff

JULY 3, 2024

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Schools Chancellor David C. Banks, on July 3,

elevated Kenita Lloyd to the position of New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS) Chief of Staff. Ms. Lloyd currently serves as Deputy Chancellor for Family and Community Engagement & External Affairs (FACE+EA).

As chief of staff, Ms. Lloyd will report directly to Chancellor Banks and work alongside First Deputy Chancellor Dan Weisberg as leaders of the chancellor's cabinet.

"Elevating Kenita Lloyd to Chief of Staff is what New York City Public Schools needs in this moment, as we make good on our administration's promise to build bright starts and bold futures for our students," said Chancellor David C. Banks. "In particular, her work as Deputy Chancellor engaging stakeholders and parents makes her uniquely qualified for this role. Her deep knowledge of how this system and our

communities work will provide my leadership team with the guidance and support it needs to pursue our critical priorities, and her vision and strategic outlook will continue to be a catalyst for change throughout this administration."

"Since the beginning of this administration, Kenita Lloyd has been dedicated to the students and families of this city, advocating and elevating their voices to Tweed and City Hall. As the lead liaison to New York City's parents, Ms. Lloyd created the NYC Public Schools Interfaith Advisory Council, assisted in the creation of the 'Meeting the Moment' agenda to end hate, and worked tirelessly to bridge the divide by engaging families to deliver tangible results," said Chief of Staff to the Mayor Camille Joseph Varlack. "As Chief of Staff and City Hall liaison to New York City Public Schools, I have worked

hand in hand with Ms. Lloyd on a multitude of issues and am confident that Ms. Lloyd will bring her deep experience and expertise to better serve the entire New York City Public School system in this role."

During her time as deputy chancellor of FACE+EA, Ms. Lloyd has led several successful initiatives aimed at changing the narrative for NYCPS and engaging families and communities as authentic partners in our schools. She initiated the rebrand of the 'Department of Education' to 'New York City Public Schools.' Ms. Lloyd led the charge of developing and implementing NYCPS' "Meeting the Moment" agenda in response to the conflict in the Middle East, by creating NYCPS' first interfaith advisory council, as well as guiding both agency's messaging and strategy.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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WORLD CULTURE FILM FEST AIMS TO ELEVATE HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS

BY MABEL PAIS

The inaugural World Culture Film Festival (WCFF) is set to captivate audiences in Los Angeles from July 25-28, 2024. This vibrant event promises entertainment that uplifts, bringing stories from every part of the world that elevate human consciousness through the art of cinema.

The much-anticipated festival is inspired by globally renowned humanitarian and emissary of peace, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar who has inspired millions around the world with a vision of a stress-free, violence-free world through his life and work.

Over 60 participating countries including Australia, Belgium, Mexico, Tibet, Japan, Germany, and Brazil and 60+ films are in competition as part of the official selections. The films will be showcased in person at USC's Ray Stark Theater and the newly-reopened former-Downtown Independent Theater, and on the online streaming platform, EOFlix (available after).

FILMS



Opening Night: The Monk and the Gun

Credit : WCFF

Commencing the 4-day program is the Opening Night feature film presentation of 'The Monk and The Gun' by Bhutan-born writer and director Pawo Choyning Dorji, who rose to prominence with his 2019 Oscar-nominated feature film (best international feature), 'Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom.'

Some of the prominent films that will screen are Justin Grant and Laurens Goud's 'Our Voice, Our Heart' (2024 Golden Doc Winner, Asia & Australia), Radha Mehta's 'Dosh' (2024 Slamdance George Starks Spirit Award Winner), Julio Palacio's 'Makayla's Voice: A Letter to the World' (2024 Tribeca Best Short



Closing Night: Perfect Days

Credit : WCFF

Documentary), Dash Kolos' 'Crown,' Harry Holland's 'Last Call' starring Tom Holland, and Oscar Nominee Wim Wenders' 'Perfect Days,' the Closing Night film of the festival.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Some of the big event highlights outside of the screenings include - a live table read of the script, 'Logic of Love' with renowned director and producer Barnett Bain ('What Dreams May Come,' 'The Celestine Prophecy'), industry panels such as the Film Festival Director's Panel, an Environmental Panel, and a Storytelling Panel with Vernon Foster, Gil Junger ('10 Things I Hate About You'), and Sebastien Siegel ('Grace and Grit'). Capping the events schedule is a binaural beats music experience with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and music composer and recording producer, Stephen Hilton ('Kung Fu Panda', 'Quantum of Solace').

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Leading the film festival team are executive directors, Anabelle D. Munro and Sej Saraiya. This dynamic duo brings years of experience in film production and film festival leadership. Munro is the CEO and Founder of the ETHOS Film Awards and Institute, currently in its 6th season. She is an award-winning director, writer and producer at Blue Boots Entertainment. Saraiya is an award-winning, transdisciplinary visual artist with a focus on indigenous narratives. Her films boast over thirty international awards and her photographs grace galleries, universities, and museums. She serves on the board of the Garifuna Indigenous Film Festival, contributes to the Topanga Film Festival, and holds a

Master of Fine Arts from USC.

In a joint statement, Saraiya and Munro, who also programmed the films, said, "We are thrilled to be launching the inaugural World Culture Film Festival, hosted by the Art of Living Foundation and in partnership with USC. The overwhelming response we have received from filmmakers across the globe has been nothing short of inspiring." The co-executive directors further added, "We are particularly grateful to be entrusted with the vision of a remarkable and kind spirit who stands as one of the most influential humanitarians of our time. WCFF warmly welcomes everyone from around the world to join us in this celebration of film as a powerful medium for envisioning a better tomorrow."

Jatin Chaurasia, the driving force behind WCFF, is an accomplished executive producer with a rich 20-year background in entrepreneurship. As CEO of Sumeru Inc. and Sumeru Studios, his expertise in leading international teams and pioneering technological innovation has significantly benefited legacy organizations worldwide.

PARTNERS

In its maiden year itself, WCFF has attracted partners such as USC School of Cinematic Arts, screening a total of 11 USC student films, Filmmakers Alliance, EOFlix, Sumeru Studios, and Ethos Film Awards.

TICKETS

Online tickets and passes are available after July 1, and online screenings are available on July 25, 2024. Visit worldculturefilmfestival.org.

WORLD CULTURE FILM FESTIVAL (WCFF)

The World Culture Film Festival is a premier event that showcases diverse cultures through the lens of cinema. With a mission to provide uplifting entertainment and foster unity, the festival brings together filmmakers, artists, and audiences from around the globe. WCFF showcases and awards works that are culturally diverse and unifying, elevate human consciousness through cinema, build bridges between cultures and communities, and foster the growth of conscious media that uplifts and positively influences society. Learn more at worldculturefilmfestival.org

CONNECT WITH THE FILM FEST ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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Learn more at worldculturefilmfestival.org/our-inspiration
All Events are subject to change.

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

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WHARTON ARTS' PROGRAMS OFFER NOVEL SUMMER CAMPS

BY MABEL PAIS

NJYC CHOIR CAMP FOR YOUNG SINGERS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) holds a Choir Camp for young singers entering grades 3-4, July 15-19, 2024, on the NJYC campus located at 570 Central Avenue in New Providence. No audition is required to attend the camp. For more information about the New Jersey Youth Chorus, visit NJYC.org.

NJYC Founder and Director Trish Joyce said, "Our Choir Camp offers budding young singers an exciting introduction to the choral experience through music, games, and fun activities. With an engaging new theme each day, our campers will learn and explore this summer through song!"

Choir Camp meets daily from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Students have the option to add lunch and after care to their camp day. *For more information or registration assistance, call (973) 998-5670 or email info@njyc.org.*



Students at Choir Camp

Credit : whartonarts.org

SUMMER CAMP OFFERS MIXING VOICE AND VISUAL ART

The Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) offers a new summer program, 'Explorations in Voice and Art,' on the Wharton Arts campus located at 60 Locust Avenue in Berkeley Heights, July 22-26, 2024. For more information about the Performing Arts School summer camps, visit WhartonArts.org.

Explorations in Voice and Art Camp Director Tharanga Goonetilleke said, "The practice of making art based on music has been around for years but not fully scientifically explained. It is not specific to singing, but my personal experience has been primarily related to painting and vocal music. When nurtured from a young age, certain neurological connections between the parts of the brain that control a particular sense, such as hearing, can form a bridge with another part of the brain, such as sound. These connections are present in newborn babies but slowly disappear when not stimulated by the environment. The practice of painting music can help young artists reach their full potential and bring their individuality, creativity, and unique interpretation to a piece."

Soprano Goonetilleke, a member of the voice faculty at the Performing Arts School (PAS), has been painting and drawing throughout her life, although her formal education and career has primarily been in music. She has painted and designed album covers, such as 'Home,' and illustrated the new 'Jungle Book' for the Glimmerglass Festival. She often has solo exhibitions of her artwork and paints on commission for collectors.



Students mix Voice with Visual Art

Credit : whartonarts.org

She credits her visual art with bringing a more holistic approach to her vocal technique, musical interpretations, and stage performance.

When asked what a typical camp day will look like, Goonetilleke said, "The day will begin with awakening our senses to listening, hearing, feeling textures, and vocal warmups. Thereafter, campers will explore the daily musical concept, such as major tonality. We will then work on a piece of music as a group, or on some days, campers may also get the opportunity to share a solo song with the class. Based on the materials covered that day, we will use the second half of the camp period to make a piece of art based on music, using different mediums and art techniques."

All artwork for the summer camp will be composed on paper or canvas board, with the option for campers to explore watercolors, acrylic paint, markers, and color pencils. There is also scope for mixed media depending on the campers'

interests and creative expression.

Explorations in Voice and Art Camp for ages 11-16 meets daily from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Students have the option to add early drop off, lunch bunch, and after care to their camp day. For more information or registration assistance, call (908) 790-0700 or email info@whartonarts.org.

WHARTON ARTS

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for

students in grades 3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve nearly 600 students in grades 3-12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities. Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ENCOURAGES CAREERS IN MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest non-profit community performing arts education center, awards the George Marriner Maull Careers in Music Scholarship Award to Karri Li. Karri Li, a flutist in the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) and a student of faculty member Laura George at the Wharton Performing Arts School (PAS) will attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance.

The \$1,000 scholarship is dedicated to recognizing exceptional graduating seniors from the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of Wharton Arts, who are enrolling in a conservatory or school of music at the university level as they embark on their music career journey. Learn more at WhartonArts.org.

"The New Jersey Youth Symphony has already been a huge influence in my artistic journey over the past few years, so I can't express how grateful I am to receive this scholarship and continue to be supported as I take this next step in my career," said Li. "While making music is my passion, sharing it is my life's true work. Without NJYS' outreach opportunities, I may not have recognized this fundamental motivation behind my work. They



Karri Li; Karri Li receiving her award

Credit: whartsarts.org

are among my most cherished musical memories, as they allowed me to pay the joy of music forward and use art to improve the world. Never have I met an audience so deeply touched by a performance as that of local retirement communities; nor have I seen one so intellectually, physically, and emotionally engaged as that of Carnegie Hall on Juneteenth. Inspired by our educational concert this season, I began working with

flutists at my elementary school with the goal of improving retention within our district's music program. Influenced by Helen (Cha-Pyo) to explore how our industry can adapt to the modern landscape, I performed a study of orchestra audience development efforts on social media for my junior year AP Research project."

Li's flute instructor Laura George said, "Karri Li's profound love of the flute has inspired her to practice four hours daily

to thoroughly prepare for her many concerts, recitals, and master classes. Her unwavering devotion, dedication, and drive to excel are inspiring to my other students. Her lustrous, nuanced tone and inspired interpretations invite the listeners to join her on her musical journey. It has been my great joy and privilege to teach and mentor such a deserving, stellar student as she pursues her studies in her chosen profession of music."

George Marriner Maull, an Emmy-nominated conductor and advocate for music education, served as the inaugural Music Director and Conductor of the New Jersey Youth Symphony from 1979 to 1997. Additionally, he held the position of Music Director and Conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey from 1987 to 2006 and has been the Artistic Director and Educator of The Discovery Orchestra for the past 18 years.

"Karri is an exceptional young musician and individual, displaying remarkable discipline, intelligence, and passion for the art of flute playing. She exemplifies the spirit of the George Marriner Maull Careers in Music Scholarship Award, and I look forward to seeing how Karri will use music to improve the lives of others along her musical journey," said Artistic Director Helen H. Cha-Pyo.

NJPAC OFFERS FREE WEEKLY OUTDOOR CONCERT EXPERIENCES

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience an Evening of a Fusion of Cultural Rhythms, featuring special guests at NJPAC's 'Horizon Sounds of the City'.

World Renowned Brazilian Percussionist CYRO BAPTISTA leads the CHAMA Ensemble at NJPAC's Horizon Sounds of the City on Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 5-9 pm taking place at Chambers Plaza 1 Center Street in Newark, NJ.

As part of the 'Horizon Sounds of the City' series, renowned percussionist Cyro Baptista from Montclair, N.J. will dazzle audiences in a free outdoor concert at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. Known for his innovative sounds and captivating rhythms, Baptista's performance promises to be an unforgettable evening of world music and jazz fusion.

CYRO BAPTISTA

Brazilian percussionist and composer Cyro Baptista has carved a niche for himself in contemporary jazz, experimental, and world music, spanning a wide range of styles. His collaborations with artists such as Herbie Hancock, Paul Simon, Yo-Yo Ma, John Zorn, Wynton Marsalis, and Brazilian legends Milton Nascimento and Caetano Veloso have cemented his reputation as one of the foremost percussionists globally. In his latest project, CHAMA, released on the Ropeadope label, Baptista displays his visionary approach to music. Listeners are taken on a vibrant journey through



Cyro Baptista

Credit: njpac.org

mythical towns filled with engaging tales and colorful characters. Experience the magic of CHAMA life and immerse yourself in a night of rhythmic excitement, cultural diversity, and joyous music.

CHAMA ENSEMBLE

A powerful ensemble of talented musicians leads Baptista's CHAMA Band, including Zé Luis Oliveira on

saxophone and flute, Felipe Hostins on accordion, Tim Keiper on drums, and Jason Fraticelli on bass and cuatro. Through their rhythmic complexity and dynamic performances, they create a dynamic and culturally rich musical experience.

The NJPAC concert will showcase special guests, enhancing unity, cultural exchange, and local artist empowerment. FORRÓ CHAMA features David Vieira and Mauro Refosco, members of Forró in the Dark and American Utopia; by David Byrne. PAGODE CHAMA with Helder Celso, Kauê Alves, Junior Karegato, and Renatinhu from Newark's vibrant music scene, adding a unique flair to the performance. The event will also feature a lively dance party featuring Sabrina Evangelista & Gustavo Nunes, Sabina Ciari, and Dora Flor from BLOCO FROM THE BLOCK.

HORIZON SOUNDS OF THE CITY

From June 27 to August 8, everyone's invited to NJPAC's famous FREE outdoor concert series. The whole neighborhood comes together for a weekly dance party with a festival atmosphere, located in Chambers Plaza on the NJPAC grounds. Grab a bite or a drink from the local vendors ... dance along to NJPAC's main stage headliners ... and party the night away.

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



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WON'T QUIT, WOULD RATHER FACE CONFIDENCE VOTE: NEPAL PM PRACHANDA

KATHMANDU (TIP): Embattled Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has decided not to resign from the post despite an agreement reached between the country's largest parties - Nepali Congress and CPN-UML - to form a new coalition government.

In a meeting of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) office-bearers held in Baluwatar on July 1, Prime Minister Prachanda said he would rather face a vote of confidence in Parliament than resign from the post, the party Secretary Ganesh Shah told PTI.

"The Prime Minister has decided to seek a vote of confidence," said Shah.

Prachanda, 69, has won three votes of confidence in Parliament during his one-and-a-half-year term.

The development came after Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and the Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) inked a midnight power-sharing deal to form a new 'national consensus government' to replace the Prachanda-led coalition government.

Nepali Congress, the largest party in the House of Representatives (HoR) has 89 seats at present, while CPN-UML has 78 seats.

The combined strength of the two large parties is 167, which is sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the 275-member HoR.

Deuba, 78 and Oli, 72, agreed to share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of the Parliament.

Meanwhile, the talks between Prime Minister Prachanda and CPN-UML chief Oli to save the current coalition also failed, according to Maoist sources.

Quoting Prachanda, Shah said that a conspiracy has been hatched to topple the coalition government and create instability in the country.

"The conspiracy came at a time when the government focused on ending corruption and introducing good governance," he said.

As per the constitutional provision, the prime minister will have 30 days to seek a vote of confidence in the House of Representatives, which would give Prachanda some time for political manoeuvring.

"We will engage in discussions with various parties, including the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Nepali Congress, and CPN-UML, so as to save the coalition," Prachanda was quoted as saying.

Nepali Congress President Deuba briefed party officials about the agreement with the CPN-UML during a meeting of office bearers at his residence in Budhanilkantha on Tuesday morning, according to party sources. (PTI)

Pak court acquits ex-PM Imran Khan in protest case related to Toshakhana scam

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A Pakistani court on July 3 acquitted former prime minister Imran Khan and several senior party colleagues in a case registered against them for protesting against the jailed premier's disqualification by the election commission in the Toshakhana corruption case.

Other leaders who have been exonerated in the case by the district and sessions court here are Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rasheed, Asad Qaiser, Shehryar Afridi, Faisal Javed, Raja Khurram Nawaz and Ali Nawaz Awan.

Judicial Magistrate Yasir Mehmood pronounced the verdict, which was reserved last week on the petitions seeking acquittal, during the hearing on Wednesday, the Geo News reported.

The case was registered against the 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Khan and other politicians at Aabpara Police Station for protesting against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) Toshakhana corruption verdict in 2022, which disqualified him from holding office for a limited time.

The Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious



gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries.

The Toshakhana issue over the sale of state gifts received by the former cricketer-turned-politician became a major issue in national politics after the ECP disqualified Khan for making 'false statements and incorrect declaration'.

Khan had earlier contended that recent amendments to the Elections Act 2017 limit the ECP's jurisdiction in

deciding the qualification or disqualification of a member based on a court conviction.

He had accused the ECP of acting with unlawful zeal and haste to exclude him from the February 8 general elections rather than ensuring fair and free elections.

On August 5 last year, Khan was sentenced to three years in imprisonment and fined Rs 100,000 in the Toshakhana corruption case, a conviction later suspended by the Islamabad High Court.

Khan has been facing a slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier in 2022.

The PTI founder has been in jail since last August and was convicted in some cases ahead of a nationwide election earlier this year.

He is also fighting dozens of other cases.

The only hurdle keeping him behind bars is the iddat or the un-Islamic marriage case, whose proceedings are underway, and the judge expects the case to be wrapped up within this month, according to the Geo TV report. (PTI)

PAKISTAN'S CHIEF JUSTICE QAZI FAEZ ISA COMES TO ELECTION COMMISSION'S RESCUE ON RESERVED SEATS

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Amidst a legal tussle over the reserved seats in Pakistan's legislatures, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has ruled that the election commission is not a subordinate institution to the Supreme Court or the government but an independent authority with a constitutional role to conduct elections. He was heading a full court of the Supreme Court (SC) hearing on July 1 on a set of appeals by the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) against the denial of reserved seats to women and non-Muslim candidates, the Dawn newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The top judge said the Supreme Court can only exercise its jurisdiction if it is convinced that the commission has gone beyond its constitutional role, pointing out that ideally, all institutions should function within their own prescribed domain.

The Supreme Court ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to do a calculation by applying the formula of allotting reserved seats among political parties based on the election results of 2018 by excluding, as well as including, independents to understand the difference, the report said. (PTI)

60 INDIAN NATIONALS ARRESTED IN SRI LANKA FOR CYBER CRIME OPERATIONS

COLOMBO (TIP): At least 60 Indian nationals part of a group engaged in online financial scams have been arrested by Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigations Department.

They were arrested on June 30 from the Colombo suburbs of Madiwela and Battaramulla and from the western coastal town of Negombo.

According to Police Spokesman SSP Nihal Thalduma, the CID conducted simultaneous raids in these mentioned areas, leading to the seizure of 135 mobile phones and 57 laptops.

The crackdown follows a complaint from a victim who was lured into a WhatsApp group promising cash for social media interactions.

Further investigation revealed a scheme where victims were coerced into making deposits after initial payments.

In Peradeniya, a father-son duo admitted to aiding the fraudsters, Daily Mirror Lanka newspaper reported.

Key evidence uncovered during a luxury house raid in Negombo led to the initial arrest of 13 suspects and the seizure of 57 phones and computers.

Subsequent operations in Negombo yielded 19 additional arrests, exposing international links in Dubai and Afghanistan. (PTI)

VETERAN SRI LANKAN POLITICIAN & TAMIL LEADER SAMPANTHAN PASSES AWAY

COLOMBO (TIP): R Sampanthan, a veteran Sri Lankan politician and a moderate Tamil leader, passed away on July 3 while receiving treatment in a hospital, the Tamil National Alliance has announced.

Sampanthan, 91, led the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) from 2004 and became only the second Tamil to become the main opposition leader in the Sinhala-majority country.

He was ailing for a long time and was missing the current parliamentary sessions for a long time.

He was a moderate Tamil who had been leading the political movement to achieve a negotiated political settlement to the Tamil demand for political autonomy.

The Tamils put forward their demand for autonomy since gaining independence from Britain in 1948, which, from the mid-70s, turned into a bloody armed conflict.

He took office as the leader of the opposition in 2015 and was actively involved in the process of drafting a new Constitution until 2019.

A brilliant lawyer, Sampanthan entered Parliament for the first time in 1977 from the eastern port district of Trincomalee. (PTI)



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AT LEAST 30 KILLED IN KENYA ANTI- GOVERNMENT PROTESTS: HRW

NAIROBI (TIP): At least 30 people died in protests in Kenya this week sparked by a government drive to substantially raise taxes in the East African country, Human Rights Watch said on July 1.

"Kenyan security forces shot directly into crowds of protesters on (Tuesday) June 25, 2024, including protesters who were fleeing," the NGO said in a statement.

"Although there is no confirmation on the exact number of people killed in Nairobi and other towns, Human Rights Watch found that at least 30 people had been killed on that day based on witness accounts, publicly available information, hospital and mortuary records in Nairobi as well as witness accounts," the statement said. "Shooting directly into crowds without justification, including as protesters try to flee, is completely unacceptable under Kenyan and international law," said Otsieno Namwaya, associate Africa director at Human Rights Watch.

"The Kenyan authorities need to make clear to their forces that they should be protecting peaceful protesters and that impunity for police violence can no longer be tolerated," Namwaya added.

The largely peaceful rallies turned violent on Tuesday when lawmakers passed the deeply unpopular tax increases following pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

After the announcement of the vote, crowds stormed the parliament complex and a fire broke out in clashes unprecedented in the history of the country since its independence from Britain in 1963.

President William Ruto's administration ultimately withdrew the bill. The state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights said it had recorded 22 deaths and 300 injured victims, adding it would open an investigation.

"Eight military officers came out and just opened fire on people. They killed several people, including those who were not part of the protests," HRW quoted a rights activist in Nairobi as saying. "Kenya's international partners should continue to actively monitor the situation... and further urge Kenyan authorities to speedily but credibly and transparently investigate abuses by the security forces," the rights watchdog said.

Ruto had already rolled back some tax measures after the protests began, prompting the treasury to warn of a gaping budget shortfall of 200 billion shillings (\$1.6 billion). The cash-strapped government had said previously that the increases were necessary to service Kenya's massive debt of some 10 trillion shillings (\$78 billion), equal to roughly 70 percent of GDP. (PTI)

Xi Jinping lauds relevance of Panchsheel to end world conflicts, calls for consolidating Global South

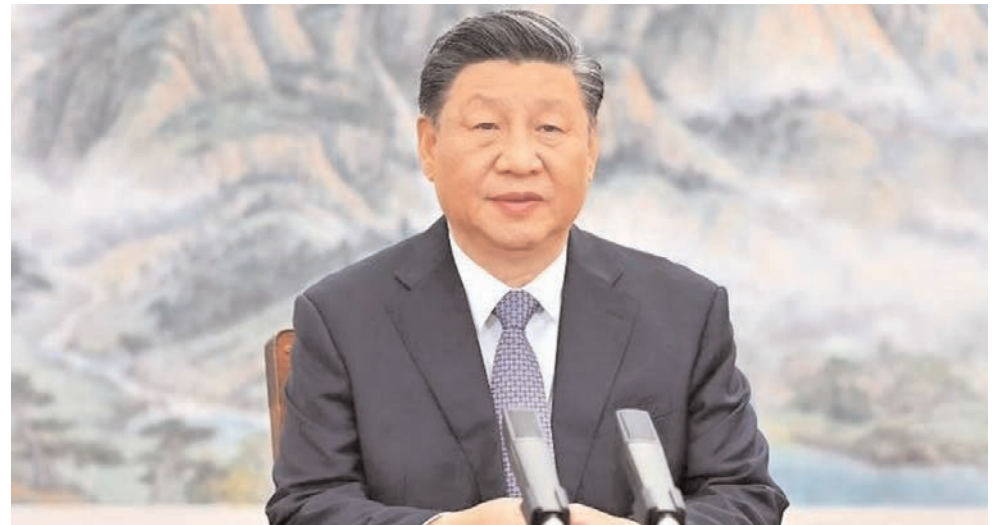
BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday highlighted the relevance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which gained traction with the Non-Aligned Movement, to end the present-day conflicts and sought to expand influence in the Global South amid its tussle with the West.

Xi, 71, invoked the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, termed as Panchsheel by India, at a conference here to mark its 70th anniversary and also sought to juxtapose them with his new concept of Global Security Initiative envisaging a shared future for mankind.

The Panchsheel pointers were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The five principles formed part of the legacy of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Chinese counterpart Zhou Enlai in their unsuccessful quest to find a solution to the vexed boundary issue.

"The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence answered the call of the times, and its initiation was an inevitable historic development. The Chinese leadership in the past specified the Five Principles in their entirety for the first time, namely, 'mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity', 'mutual non-aggression', 'mutual non-interference in each other's internal



affairs', 'equality and mutual benefit', and 'peaceful coexistence'," Xi said.

"They included the Five Principles in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements which jointly called for making them basic norms for state-to-state relations," Xi said at the conference where the invitees included former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and several political leaders and officials from various countries closely associated with China over the years.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence were born in Asia but quickly ascended to the world stage.

In 1955, more than 20 Asian and African countries attended the Bandung Conference, Xi recalled in his address.

The Non-Aligned Movement that rose in the 1960s adopted the Five Principles as its guiding principles, he said.

"The Five Principles have set a

historic benchmark for international relations and international rule of law," he said, highlighting their relevance to ending the present-day conflicts.

They fully conform with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; with the evolving trend of international relations of our times, and with the fundamental interests of all nations, Xi said and sought to juxtapose them with his new concepts of Global Security Initiative (GSI) which advocates for joint security of nations and the 'Vision of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind'.

Xi, who commenced his unprecedented third five-year term in power last year, has been advocating several initiatives, including his billion-dollar pet project the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to enhance China's global influence. (PTI)

Kenya's president says he won't sign finance bill that led protesters to storm parliament

NAIROBI (TIP): Kenyan President William Ruto said July 3 he won't sign into law a finance bill proposing new taxes, a day after protesters stormed parliament and several people were shot dead. It was the biggest assault on Kenya's government in decades.

The government wanted to raise funds to pay off debt, but Kenyans said the bill caused more economic pain as millions struggle to get by. The chaos on Tuesday led the government to deploy the military, and Ruto called protesters' actions "treasonous."

The president now says the bill caused "widespread dissatisfaction" and he has listened to the people and "conceded." It's a major setback for Ruto, who came to power vowing to help Kenyans cope with rising costs but has seen much of the country unite in opposition to his latest attempt at reforms.

"It is necessary for us to have a conversation as a nation on how to do we manage the affairs of the country together," the president said.

Kenyans faced the lingering smell of tear gas and military in the streets a day after the latest protests saw thousands storm parliament, an act of defiance that Ruto called an "existential" threat. At least 22 people were killed, a human rights group said.

Ruto acknowledged deaths, calling it an "unfortunate situation," and offered condolences.

The capital, Nairobi, has seen protests in the past, but activists and others warned the stakes are more dangerous. Ruto on Tuesday vowed to quash unrest "at whatever cost," even as more protests were called at State House on Thursday. Soldiers patrolled alongside police, who were accused of shooting several people

dead on Tuesday.

Kenyans united beyond tribal and other divisions in a youth-led effort to keep the finance bill from becoming law. It would have raised taxes and fees on a range of daily items and services, from egg imports to bank transfers. The government wanted the revenue to pay off debt in East Africa's economic hub.

There were no reports of violence Wednesday, but there was fear. Civil society groups have reported abductions of people involved in recent protests and expect more to come.

Many young people who helped vote Ruto into power with cheers for his promises of economic relief now object to the pain of reforms. Part of the parliament building burned Tuesday, and clashes occurred in several communities beyond the capital.

(AP)

Attacker wounds cop guarding Israeli embassy in Serbia, shot dead by authorities

BELGRADE (TIP): An attacker with a crossbow wounded a Serbian police officer guarding the Israeli Embassy in Belgrade on July 1, Serbia's interior ministry said. The officer responded by fatally shooting the assailant.

Both Serbian and Israeli officials said that initial indications are that it was a terror-motivated attack.

Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said in a statement that the attacker fired a bolt at the officer, hitting him in the neck. He said the officer then "used a weapon in self-defense to shoot the attacker, who died as a result of his injuries."

The policeman was conscious when he was transported to Belgrade's main emergency hospital, where an operation to remove the bolt from his neck will be performed, the statement added.

A spokesman with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that "today there was an attempted terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Israeli Embassy in Belgrade." The spokesman said the embassy is closed and no employee of the embassy was injured.

Dacic told reporters that "we are still talking about possible motives."

Police officers work at a crime scene close to the Israeli embassy in Belgrade, Serbia, Saturday.



He added, however: "There are now all indications that the motives relate to terrorism. Because there is no other motive why someone would attack a gendarme outside the Israeli Embassy."

He said one person was arrested near the scene of the shooting. Police are investigating a possible network and ties with foreign terrorist groups, he added.

"There are indications that those are individuals already known to the security services ... the Wahhabi movement," said Dacic, referring to the hard-line Islamist movement. "But this

still has not been confirmed."

The identity of the attacker was still being determined.

Authorities raised the security alert in Belgrade, including for foreign embassies and government buildings but also public places such as shopping malls and other busy areas.

Israel's embassy is located not far from the U.S. Embassy in an upscale Belgrade district. It is guarded by an elite police unit with officers armed with automatic weapons.

Serbia has maintained close relations with Israel during the war in Gaza. (AP)

MAURITANIA HEADS TO POLLS WITH INCUMBENT TIPPED TO WIN

NOUAKCHOTT (TIP):

Mauritanians go to the polls to decide whether to re-elect President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani as head of the vast desert state, seen as a rock of relative stability in the volatile Sahel.

Around 1.9 million registered voters are set to choose between seven candidates vying to lead the West African nation, which has largely withstood the tide of jihadism in the region and is set to become a gas producer. The 2019 election brought Ghazouani to power and marked the first transition between two elected presidents since independence from France in 1960 and a series of coups from 1978 to 2008.

Polling stations will open at 7 am (0700 GMT) and close at 7 pm (1900 GMT), with the first results expected on Saturday evening.

Official results are set to be announced on Sunday or Monday.

Former general Ghazouani is the overwhelming favourite to win a second term, with observers considering a first-round victory possible -- given opposition divisions and the resources of the president's camp. A possible second round vote would take place on July 14.

Campaigning was relatively peaceful, except for some scuffles on Monday in the northern town of Nouadhibou, when "one candidate's supporters" attacked backers of another candidate, the interior ministry said. (AFP)

'Carry your son and run': Gaza families describe fleeing Rafah under Israeli fire

RAFAH (TIP): Displaced Palestinian families in Gaza's south have fled what they said was intensifying Israeli fire in northern areas of Rafah to seek shelter elsewhere, describing a chaotic night as the sounds of fighting drew closer and prompted the difficult decision to evacuate.

"JUST CARRY YOUR SON AND RUN, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WITH US," SAID ONE MAN, MOHAMMAD AL-HADAD. SOME WHO FLED OVERNIGHT WERE ABLE TO RETURN, THROWING THEIR BELONGINGS ATOP VEHICLES OR WAGONS PULLED BY DONKEYS AND SETTING OFF.

"We do not know where we can go," said a woman, Ghada Qudeh. "Since yesterday, we have not found food or drink." She said her family fled after Israeli forces fired missiles at a house



where they were sheltering Thursday.

Palestinians arrive in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis after fleeing an Israeli ground and air offensive in the nearby city of Rafah on Friday, June 28, 2024.

10 children suffer amputations daily in Gaza, says UNRWA

The Israeli military said its forces were continuing to operate in Rafah but did not immediately comment on specific

strikes. The military said one soldier had been killed during combat overnight in Rafah.

The people fleeing Rafah are some of the last holdouts in a city that was once filled with displaced Palestinians. However, Israel's ground invasion since early May has driven nearly everyone who sought shelter there to leave.

The United Nations estimates 1.3 million people have been displaced out of

Rafah, more than half of Gaza's entire population, and only 65,000 remain.

International criticism is growing over the nearly nine-month Israel-Hamas war as Palestinians face severe and widespread hunger. The war has largely cut off the flow of food, medicine and basic goods to Gaza, and people there are now totally dependent on aid. The top United Nations court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza — a charge Israel strongly denies.

Palestinians arrive in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis after fleeing an Israeli ground and air offensive in the nearby city of Rafah on Friday, June 28, 2024.

Israel launched the war after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250.

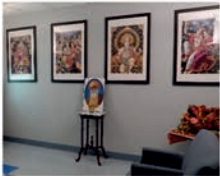
Since then, Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,700 people in Gaza, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. (AP)

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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 8 TO JULY 14, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES

Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for Aries people. You have to be very careful in your work. You have to pay attention to your decisions because wrong decisions can harm you. You will also have to take care of your health, otherwise you may have to face illness. This week can prove to be very challenging for you in business-related matters. You will have to make new efforts in your business and maintain your mental peace to make the right decisions. There may be some unwanted disputes in your family. You should try to stay away from these disputes and interact with your family members with love and understanding. Some financial problems may also arise for you this week.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week will be good for Taurus people. You will be successful in your work and you will be successful in achieving your goals. You will need to be careful of your opponents. You should not trust anyone too much and be careful about your thinking. You don't have to react to everything. You can avoid any dispute among your family by remaining calm. Anger can spoil your work, so you will need to control it. You may need to pay attention to your expenses because overspending can make you feel short of money. You need to be mentally strong and have confidence in yourself. You may need to spend some time on a hobby of your choice. Students can get leave from studies today and can use this time to prepare for their upcoming examinations.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is not going to be favorable for Gemini people. You may have to face some difficulties in your life. You need to be careful in money matters. You should pay attention to your investments. Employed people should concentrate on their work and also be careful about property-related matters. If any of your cases are pending in court, you should be prepared to protect your rights. You may get a chance to buy a gift for your spouse. The bonds of love between you may become stronger. You should be cautious about your health. You will get support and cooperation from your family members. You should fulfill your responsibilities well. It will be very important for you to keep your diet healthy. With this, you can easily fight any disease.



CANCER

Ganesha says you may face many obstacles in your work. You will have to be cautious in matters related to your business or job. The time will be very inauspicious for you for financial transactions. Someone may have cheated you which may cause you loss. Therefore, you have to be cautious in your financial matters. This week will be more tiring for you than usual. You have to take care of your health. You have to keep your diet and exercise balanced so that you can avoid problems related to your health. This time is very important for you and you have to be cautious about your health. This week you will get full support from your family and home members. You will have to fulfill your responsibilities well and spend time with your family.



LEO

Ganesha says this week will be very good for Leo. You will have great success in your work and you will be successful in achieving your goals. Your thoughts will be very clear and you will be very active in your work. You will get a chance to build very good relations with your family. You should talk to your family members very intelligently so that there is no misunderstanding. Employed people will be very hardworking in their work and will be successful in completing their work. You will get very good benefits in financial matters also. You will get a chance to spend as per your wish and you will be able to use that money to increase your happiness. This week you should avoid spending your earnings and remain in a state of satisfaction. You have to continuously work hard in your work and remain committed to achieving your goals.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for Virgo people. You may feel luckier than usual. This week you will get success at many levels of life. You can get good returns from your old investments and it can prove to be very beneficial for you financially. Employed people may get a chance for a good promotion or salary increase in their work. Your sources of income may increase and you may get a good opportunity to handle your financial matters. This week you may get a chance to make some big agreements related to property. If you have any case going on in the court, then you may get a chance to win your rights. This week you can bring a special gift for your partner and new flowers of love will blossom between you.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is not favorable for Libra people. You have to be careful of your opponents at your workplace. You should not trust the people around you. There is no need to react to everything this week. You can avoid family disputes by remaining calm. Anger can spoil your work and you may feel short of money. Therefore, you need to remain mentally strong. You are advised to spend some time in a hobby of your choice. Students can take a break from their studies today and calm their minds for some time. This week you will have to pay attention to your expenses. You may feel a little stressed due to lack of money. Therefore, you are advised to keep your expenses planned. You should do regular exercise and take care of proper eating habits.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says for Scorpio people, this week will be full of challenges from the beginning. You may face many obstacles in your life which may make you disappointed. You will not have confidence in your work and will find it difficult to achieve success. Therefore, this week you will need to concentrate on your work. You will also have to take care of your health because this week you will need to pay attention to your health. Students will have to concentrate on their studies this week and make efforts to achieve their goals. You may also get time to spend with your family and society. This week you should try to build good relations with people of your zodiac sign. For love life, this week you will need to clarify your relationships. You should try to understand your relationships and try to build good relationships with them.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be very wonderful for Sagittarius people. You will have to show a lot of enthusiasm and activeness in your work which will bring you a lot of success. This week you may get good returns from some old investment and your financial condition may improve. Employed people are also likely to get a good promotion or salary increase this week. Your sources of income may also increase which will make you financially stronger. This week, there is a possibility of some big agreements related to your property which can prove to be very beneficial for you. If you have any case going on in the court, your side may win it. This week you can give a gift to your spouse that will touch his/her heart. New flowers of love will blossom between you which will make your relationship even sweeter.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will be very good for Capricorn people. You will be successful in your work and all your wishes will be fulfilled. You will get a signal to move towards happiness and prosperity in your life. This week you will get a chance to spend quality time with your family and relatives. You will not have any worries regarding your family issues and you will be able to maintain good relations with all your family members. This week you will get a lot of success in your work also. The work done by you will be successful and your suggestions and instructions will be appreciated. You will get a signal to be dedicated to your work and you will need to give more time to your work. This week you will need to pay more attention to your work and increase your patience and continuous efforts to take your work towards success.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for you. You may have to face many challenges this week. Therefore, you will need to maintain patience. This week may be a little tiring and a little challenging for you. You may have to work harder to complete your work. This week you will need to focus on yourself. Take care of your diet and exercise regularly. This will improve your health and make it easier for you to work. This week you may have to face some challenges in terms of work. You may face difficulties in completing your work. So, you have to focus on your tasks and try to complete them slowly.



PISCES

Ganesha says Pisces' horoscope is indicating that the coming week will be bright for Pisces people. You will need to show enthusiasm and proactivity in your work. You have to maintain your hard work and determination to achieve your goals. You must be confident in your abilities and show courage and boldness to demonstrate your messages. You have to choose your words carefully to express your thoughts. This week you will get success in every area of life. You will get a chance to spend time with your family and friends and you can take advice from them to make your life even happier.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 8 TO JULY 14
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

8TH JULY : Ganesha says you are capable of juggling both your personal and business lives. It's time to apply your prior knowledge and skills learned in the next new places. You will be followed with admiration and praise. You should possess refined manipulative skills and be a technical person. You will be forced by circumstances to work hard and relocate your company to a country that is constantly growing abroad. Your routine existence will abruptly alter, and you'll embark on a journey.

9TH JULY : Ganesha says God has given you a tremendous amount of talent, which you must develop through unrelenting effort. Your capacity for retrieval is extraordinary. As your focus shifts to some frolicsome activities, you'll be in good physical and mental health. You have new opportunities if you use them wisely. You decry the degradation of the environment because you love it. Your friends will assist you as soon as possible. You will be accompanied and congratulated by family and friends.

10TH JULY : Ganesha says family will provide a long-term investment they made for you. Academically speaking, things will go in your favor, and you probably will enlist. Your area of interest promises to bring you a lot of harmony, support, name recognition, and celebrity shortly. Your reputation at work is built on how you handle the little things. You make efficient and effective use of your precious time to achieve your objectives. For both you and others, your advice is crucial.

11TH JULY : Ganesha says you are shrewd enough to create large bugs for both you and your employer. You do the assignment in your manner. You are a one-man army. By listening to some spiritual and philosophical talks, your mental and physical health will be improved. You hold modern views and detest bigots. You hold your employees to a very high standard of excellence. You force others to uphold their obligations and rights as you are well aware of your own.

12TH JULY : Ganesha says your split personality aids in establishing

recognition and popularity in all facets of life. You are always there for your family and friends. Your charitable disposition is the strength of yours. Your superiors and coworkers are expected to respect and value you. You probably adhere to the Western cultural practices of not worrying about the future. There are many high-end, branded goods in your wardrobe. Everyone's life is made happier by your jovial disposition.

13TH JULY : Ganesha says you make your decision with the speed of a bullet train, and everyone will probably support you. Your efforts alone will always point you in the direction of achieving your goals. Your natural tenacity dispels any questions you may have regarding any task given to you. Everyone, including your home and your gaffers, loves the way you work and speak. You will be the perfect role model for your juniors. Everyone's life is made happier by your jovial disposition. You make a positive, friendly impression.

14TH JULY : Ganesha says you are in high demand at all times. If you practice

psychology, you will set standards for others. Your grilling prowess will keep you away from your adversaries and con artists. In a nutshell, you are an expert in your field. Your husband turns out to be lucky for you because, after your wedding, you receive several gifts and financial increases. After your marriage, you'll sense a rising light within you. You make the most of your time by developing your capacity to solve complex problems intellectually.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwala.com info@bejandaruwala.com | +91 81412 34275

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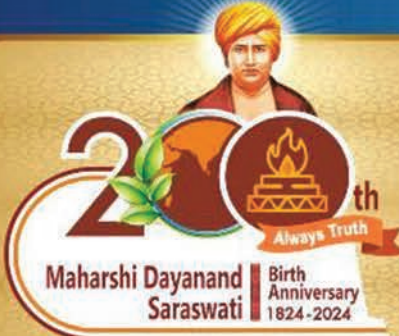


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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

President meets with Democratic governors for 'candid' talks as he seeks to reassure his party and the public

"candid" and said they expressed concerns about Biden's debate performance last week. They reiterated that defeating Donald Trump in November was the priority, but said they were still standing behind Biden and did not join other Democrats who have been urging him to withdraw his candidacy.

"We, like many Americans, are worried," Walz of Minnesota said. "We are all looking for the path to win - all the governors agree with that. President Biden agrees with that. He has had our backs through Covid ... the governors have his back. We're working together just to make very, very clear that a path to victory in November is the No 1 priority and that's the No 1 priority of the president ... The feedback was good. The conversation was honest."

"The president is our nominee. The president is our party leader," added Moore of Maryland. He said Biden "was very clear that he's in this to win it".

"We were honest about the feedback we're getting ... and the concerns we're hearing from people," Moore said. "We're going to have his back ... the results we've been able to see under this administration have been undeniable."

The meeting capped a tumultuous day for Biden as members of his own party, and a major democratic donor, urged him to step aside amid questions over his fitness for office. Two Democratic lawmakers have called on Biden to exit the race, and a third Congressman said he had "grave concerns" about Biden's ability to beat Trump. The White House, meanwhile, was forced to deny reports that Biden is weighing whether his candidacy is still viable.

Biden, for his part, has forcefully insisted that he is staying in the race.

"Let me say this as clearly as I possibly can, as simply and straightforward as I can: I am running ... no one's pushing me out," Biden said on a call with staffers from his re-election campaign. "I'm not leaving. I'm in this race to the end and we're going to win."

Kamala Harris has also stood by his side, despite some insiders reportedly rallying around her as a possible replacement. "We will not back down. We will follow our president's lead," the vice-president reportedly told staffers on Wednesday.

Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer also threw her support behind Biden. "He is in it to win it and I support him," she said on Twitter/X after the meeting.

Whitmer is one of several Democratic governors who have been cited as possible replacements if Biden were to withdraw his candidacy. Gavin Newsom, whose name has also been floated, flew in for the governors' meeting on Wednesday, saying afterwards: "I heard three words from the president tonight - he's all in. And so am I."

Newsom has been a top surrogate for Biden's re-election campaign, but has also garnered increasing buzz as a potential replacement if Biden were to withdraw. He was swarmed by reporters after the debate ended last week, some asking him if he'd replace Biden.

A Siena College/New York Times poll released Wednesday suggested Trump's lead had increased since the debate, with him winning 49% of likely voters compared to 43% for Biden. Only 48% of Democrats in the poll said Biden should remain the nominee. A Reuters/Ipsos poll published Tuesday, July 2, said that former first lady Michelle Obama is the only hypothetical candidate to definitively defeat Trump, but she has previously said she's not running. That poll had Biden and Trump tied.

Meanwhile, as Joe Biden faces increasing pressure to withdraw his candidacy following last week's poor debate performance, Kamala Harris has emerged as

the frontrunner to replace him.

Senior sources at the Biden campaign, the White House and the Democratic National Committee told the media that the vice-president was the top alternative.

Harris, a former senator from California, has stood by the president's side as he weathers the debate fallout this week, and reportedly told campaign staffers on Wednesday: "We will not back down. We will follow our president's lead."

A CNN poll published Tuesday, July 2, found Harris "within striking distance of Trump in a hypothetical matchup" - 47% supporting the former president, and 45% supporting Harris, a result within the margin of error. The Biden-Trump matchup in that poll had Trump earning 49% of votes and Biden earning 43%. Harris's modest advantage was due partly to her having broader support from women and independents, CNN said.

With two Democratic congressmen now publicly calling on Biden to step aside, other party leaders have privately suggested they favor Harris as his potential replacement, according to reports. Hakeem Jeffries, House minority leader, signaled to members that she would be the best option, the Washington Post reported.

James Clyburn, a senior congressional Democrat, said publicly he'd support Harris if Biden were to withdraw his candidacy, urging Democrats to "do everything to bolster her, whether she's in second place or at the top of the ticket". Summer Lee, a House Democrat from Pennsylvania, also said Wednesday that Harris was the "obvious choice" to replace Biden, if he decided not to run.

Some Harris supporters who are advocating she take over the campaign have argued that she would perform better than Biden with Black and Latino communities, and that she is a more powerful abortion-rights spokesperson than Biden.

Skeptics, however, have noted that Harris also remains fairly unpopular and have pointed to polls suggesting she has vulnerabilities in terms of voters' trust in her ability to handle immigration, China relations and Israel's war on Gaza.

The other names that have been floated as possible replacements include California governor Gavin Newsom, Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer, Illinois governor J B Pritzker and Kentucky governor Andy Beshear. The Reuters poll, however, suggested they would all perform worse than Biden and Harris.

If Harris became the presidential candidate, she could take over the funds raised by the campaign since the account is registered under Biden and Harris.

On Wednesday, the White House also announced a series of "summer of engagement" events for Harris, including visits to New Orleans, Las Vegas, Dallas and Indianapolis. (Agencies)

India's T20 world champs arrive in Delhi to a tumultuous welcome

India's last World Cup triumph which came back in 2011. The side was unable to head back home immediately after the title win due to a shutdown forced by hurricane Beryl in Barbados. They were cocooned in their hotel before the BCCI made arrangements for the special charter flight.

The Air India special charter flight AIC24WC -- Air India Champions 24 World Cup -- which left Barbados around 4:50am local time on Wednesday arrived in Delhi at 6am (IST) on Thursday after a 16-hour non-stop flight.

The Indian squad, its support staff, the players' families and some BCCI officials were aboard the flight along with members of the travelling media contingent.

Heavy security was deployed to keep the crowd in check at the Indira Gandhi International airport but that did little to dampen the spirits as fans cheered enthusiastically holding up posters of star batter Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma and outgoing head coach

Rahul Dravid.

Two buses were stationed outside the T3 Terminal to ferry the players to their hotel, from where they will head to the Prime Minister's residence at 9am tentatively for a reception.

They trickled out in ones and twos after completing immigration formalities.

Tired but excited, the players acknowledged the waiting fans by waving at them and flashing warm smiles.

Suryakumar Yadav, who took the sensational match-winning catch of David Miller in the final, was the most enthusiastic in responding to the cheering.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant saluted the gathered crowd, while pacer Mohammed Siraj blew flying kisses in their direction.

Rohit and Player of the Final Virat Kohli, both of whom retired from T20Is at the end of India's campaign, were among the last to come out of the VIP exit.

Rohit, who held the coveted trophy in his hands, raised it for the fans to catch a glimpse before boarding the bus. Kohli gave a thumbs up to acknowledge the support before taking his place in the bus.

In their excitement to see their heroes in person, some fans claimed that they had been waiting outside the airport since last night.

"We have been here since last night. It was very important for us to win this World Cup after losing the ODI World Cup last year," a group of fans said.

The squad won the country its second T20 world title, ending an 11-year wait for an ICC trophy, on Saturday. India's previous ICC title was in 2013 when it won the Champions Trophy under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

Its earlier World Cup titles came in 1983 (ODI), 2007 (T20) and 2011 (ODI).

After meeting the Prime Minister, the players will fly to Mumbai to participate in an open bus victory parade followed by a felicitation ceremony at the Wankhede Stadium.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah and Rohit had posted on social media on Wednesday, urging fans to turn up in large numbers to show their support for the side.

It would be a special moment for the 37-year-old Rohit, who is a Mumbaikar and a huge fan favorite in the city.

A similar road show was held in Mumbai 17 years ago when Dhoni's team had beaten arch-rivals Pakistan in the final of the inaugural 2007 World T20 in South Africa.

(Source: PTI)

UK's Labour to win big: YouGov forecasts 431 seats to Labour against 102 to Conservatives

history in Thursday's election, according to a final YouGov projection published by the Times on Wednesday, July 3. The multilevel regression and post-stratification (MRP) analysis predicted that Labour would win 431 seats, with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives expected to win 102. It gave Labour a majority of 212 seats.

The pollster said 89 seats were considered "tossups", with five percentage points or fewer between first and second place.

Even in a best case scenario the result for the Conservatives is significantly worse than the party's previous worst election result in 1906, when it won 156 seats, YouGov said. (Agencies)

BJP veteran Lal Krishna Advani admitted to hospital again

from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after a night-long stay there.

An Apollo spokesperson said Advani was admitted to the neurology department and his condition was stable. Advani was under the care of senior consultant (neurology) Dr Vinit Suri, he said. The details of his ailment were not known immediately.



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History This Week JULY 4 - 10

JULY 4



July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

July 4, 1863- Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

July 4, 1882 - The "Last Great Buffalo Hunt" began on Indian reservation lands near Hettinger, North Dakota as 2,000 Teton Sioux Indians in full hunting regalia killed about 5,000 buffalo. By this time, most of the estimated 60-75 million buffalo in America had been killed by white hunters who usually took the hides and left the meat to rot. By 1883, the last of the free-ranging buffalo were gone.

Birthday - Novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. His works included; *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of the Seven Gables* and *The Blithedale Romance*.

Birthday - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Among his nearly 200 songs were; *Oh! Susanna*, *Camptown Races*, *Swanee River*, *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*. He died in poverty at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

Birthday - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) the 30th U.S. President was born in Plymouth, Vermont. He became President on August 3, 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1924, Coolidge was elected President but did not run for re-election in 1928.

JULY 5

July 5, 1775- The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.



Birthday - Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best

remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

Birthday - Promoter and showman P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) was born in Bethel, Connecticut. His American Museum opened in 1842, exhibiting unusual acts such as the Feejee Mermaid, Siamese Twins Chang and Eng, and General Tom Thumb. In 1871, Barnum opened "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn, New York. He later merged with rival J.A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Birthday - Cecil J. Rhodes (1853-1902) was born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. As a South African millionaire and politician, he was said to have once controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. His will established the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for young scholars aged 18-25. Rhodesia was also named for him.

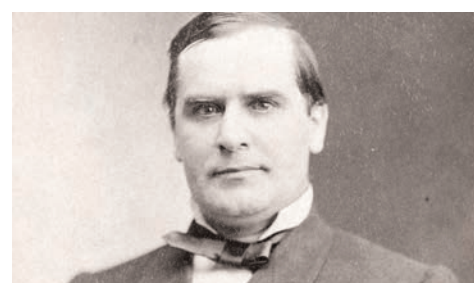
JULY 6

July 6, 1885 - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.



Birthday - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

JULY 7



July 7, 1898 - President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959.

Birthday - Baseball pitcher Leroy R. (Satchel) Paige (1906-1982) was born in Mobile, Alabama. Following a career in the Negro Leagues, he became, at age 42, the first African American pitcher in the American League. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

JULY 8

July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence

occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.

July 8, 1943 - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Gestapo. He had been sent by the Allies into France in 1942 to unite the fledgling Underground movement. In June of 1943, he was arrested in Lyon, tortured for eleven days but betrayed no one. He died aboard a train while being transferred to a concentration camp.



Birthday - Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) was born in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as Governor of New York from 1958 to 1973. He became vice-president under Gerald Ford in 1974, serving until January 20, 1977.

JULY 9

July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.

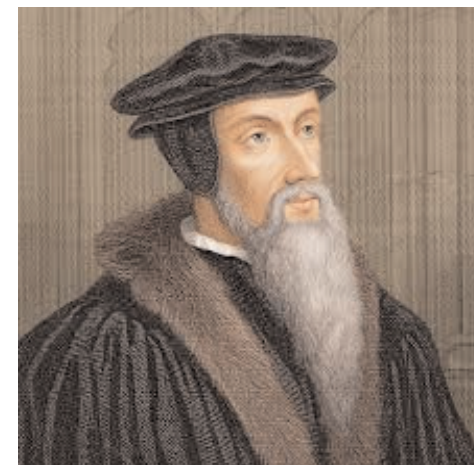
JULY 10



July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.



Birthday - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.



Birthday - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait *Whistler's Mother*.

Birthday - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in *The Past Recaptured*, "is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."



Birthday - Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S. men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a \$5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.



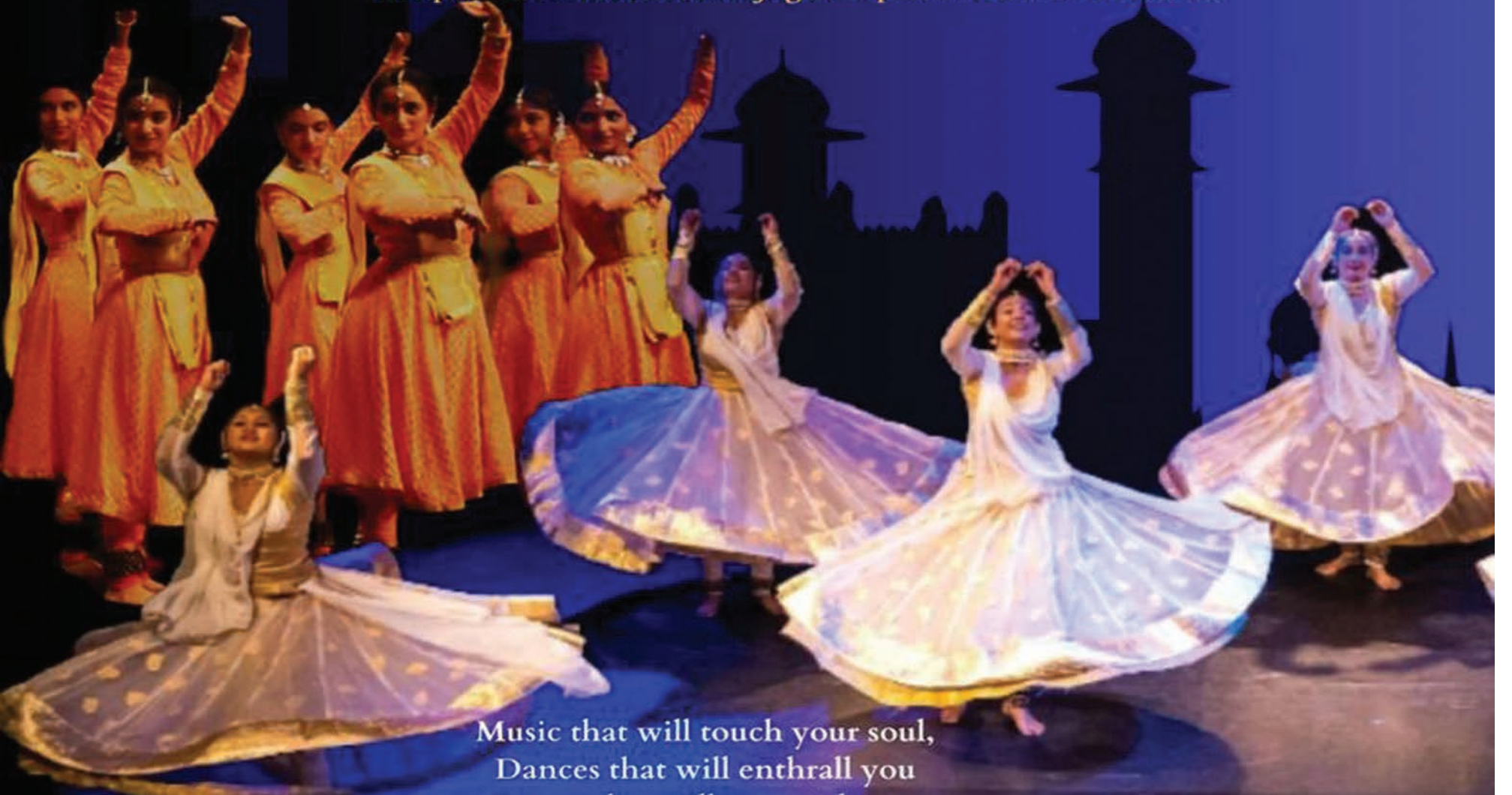
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T20 World Cup: When Indian supremacy reflected even in individual performances



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

When the Indian cricket team was crowned with the T20 World Cup title on Saturday, every person of Indian origin, irrespective of his place of domicile, felt proud as if he or she had been the winner. Such is the spirit associated and identified with success at the global level.

After Hardik Pandya bowled his sixth and last ball of the third over to give India a splendid and historic win over South Africa by seven runs, the global Indians burst into celebrations. Music, dance, fireworks, and victory processions hoisting tricolors dotted the globe. Experts, players, and fans of the game "hailed this victory that Men in Blue snatched from the jaws of a certain defeat." The team spirit was emancipated by brilliant individual performances that scripted success on the playfield of Kingston Oval in Barbados.

India has been doing well in cricket. Last year it made it to the finals of World Cups in both Tests and ODIs. Unfortunately, it lost both to Australia. It was the third World Cup final in its shortest and the latest format in which it triumphed. Incidentally, India earned the distinction of making the World Cup finals in all three formats.

LED BY ROHIT SHARMA, THE INDIAN TEAM EMERGED UNSCATHED FROM THE GRUELING 55-MATCH MARQUEE EVENT HELD JOINTLY BY THE USA AND WEST INDIES. IT WON ALL ITS GAMES EXCEPT FOR THE ONE AGAINST CANADA WHICH WAS ABANDONED WITHOUT A SINGLE BALL BOWLED. INDIA ENJOYED COMPLETE SUPREMACY. SOME MEMBERS OF THE WINNING TEAM FIGURED HIGH ON THE OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE LISTS.

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah was not only the toast of Indian success but was also declared man of the tournament. He claimed 15 wickets in 8 games. His performance came with appreciation from all the Cricket Pundits. He was described as extraordinarily outstanding. He was lethal, accurate and economical, a rare quality enjoyed by select pace bowlers. Overall, he shared the second-best haul spot as the top spot was shared by his young teammate Arshdeep Singh and Afghanistan's

Fazalhaq Farooqi (17 wickets each).

In the pace bowling department, he was well supported by young Arshdeep Singh of Mohali. Arshdeep finished at the top of the list of bowlers claiming the maximum wickets in the tournament. He had a rich haul of 17 wickets. Though Fazalhaq Farooqi of Afghanistan also had 17 wickets, Arshdeep's performance became noticeable as he was new to this level of competitive cricket. His best haul of 4 for 9 was also rated among the five best individual performances in the tournament.

India has a long history of producing the best spinners in the world. There was a time when this South Asian nation had the best spin trio comprising BS Chandrasekhar, EAS Prasanna and Bishan Bedi. Before them was Jassu Patel who created a record when he had the powerful Kangaroos struggling against spinning tosses at Kanpur. Then there was S. Venkatraghvan, a great exponent of spin bowling. Then came Maninder Singh and Harbhajan Singh. Following the footsteps of great stalwarts, the present Indian team has some of the best spin bowlers in R. Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yajuvendra Chahal and even Ravindra Jadeja.

Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Ravinder Jadeja bowled their spinners well in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who announced his retirement from this

shortest format of cricket after the World Cup triumph, was also the second-best highest scorer of the tournament. He made 257 in eight games he played. The topper was Rahmanullah Gurbaz of Afghanistan, who scored 281 from the same number of games.

Rohit Sharma's highest of 92 was the third best after Nicholas Pooran (West Indies 98) and Aaron Jones (USA 94).

Rohit also had three 50s to his credit and shared the top spot with Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Rohit Sharma finished number two behind Travis Head of Australia in hitting boundaries. While Travis had 41 boundaries, including 26 sixes, Rohit had 39, including 15 sixes.

Virat Kohli, who was declared man of the match in the final, made 76 in his last T20I innings before saying goodbye to this format.

Other batters who did well for India throughout the tournament, included Suryakumar Yadav, who had two 50s to his credit, Shivam Dube, and wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant. Suryakumar Yadav would be long remembered for his stupendous catch that dismissed David Miller off Hardik Pandya to convert defeat into victory for India in the gold medal match.

(The author is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)

The best time to say goodbye is while on the podium



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

Winning the T20 World Cup has been a lifetime achievement for the men in the blue. It is why some of the senior members of the Indian team decided to say goodbye to this latest and shortest form of cricket. Not only India but also some members of teams from other participating nations have also decided to discontinue their active participation as players from now onwards.

Since the curtains were rung down on Saturday's marquee event at Kensington Oval in Barbados, many retirement announcements have made headlines on social and traditional media. Three senior members of the champion Indian team have been the most prominent among them.

The final was a fitting end to the T20 for captain Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli, and reliable all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Their long association with this cricket format could not have concluded any better. Rohit Sharma has been a part of the T20 journey from the beginning when South Africa held the inaugural competition in 2007. Starting and ending your association with a sport as a champion is the best way to do it.

Rohit Sharma was not only the second-highest scorer after Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz (281) with his aggregate of 255, but he also shared the top spot with the Afghan batter in scoring same number of 50s - three. His innings of 92 was the third-highest individual score after Nicholas Pooran (West Indies 98) and Aaron Jones (USA 94).

Virat Kohli cannot be seen in isolation as he has been one of the most consistent performers in all formats. Though he was a little low in the first few Group games, he fired when needed most. His innings of 76 in the final against South Africa was a



match-clincher. His approach of mixing caution with aggression helped India to wriggle out of the desperate situation with the score reading 34 for three. He helped India build up a defendable aggregate of 176 for seven wickets.

Ravindra Jadeja, a veteran of many such battles, had a good T20 World Cup. He chipped in with a short and crisp inning with the bat while lending a useful

helping hand to fellow bowlers for dislodging threatening partnerships.

Other than these three top Indians who decided to call it a day for T20 cricket, among other cricketers to take retirement from this or all formats of cricket included David Warren of Australia. David has already retired from Tests and ODIs. He has been the second-highest run-getter for his team. David

Warren was a member of the 2021 T20 champion Australian team. Incidentally, when Australia won the 2023 World Test Championship, he was a member of the victorious team.

South African-born David Wiese, who represented Namibia in the just concluded T20 World Cup, also decided to say goodbye to the latest and shortest format of cricket. David Wiese moved to Namibia and had to wait till 2021 to become eligible to represent his new country of abode.

Another South Africa-born cricketer, Sybond Engelbrecht, who donned the Netherlands colors in the 2024 T20 World Cup, has also decided to bid adieu to this format of cricket. Sybond had represented the South Africa U-19 team in 2008. He made his debut for the Netherlands in the 2023 World Cup team.

Uganda captain Brian Masabe, too, has decided to quit playing T20 cricket after the conclusion of the 2024 T20 World Cup. He masterminded Uganda's historic win over Zimbabwe in the World Cup qualifier. It was under his captaincy that Uganda qualified for the 2024 T20 World Cup. Uganda registered a win against Papua New Guinea as well.

Another player who announced to retire from T20I after the 2024 World Cup has been Trent Boult of New Zealand.

(The author is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)



PM Modi shares hearty laugh with Rohit, Kohli, Dravid, poses for photos with India's T20 World Cup champions

NEW DELHI (TIP): The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team returned to the country here on July 4 aboard a specially-arranged charter flight with scores of fans lining up outside the airport to welcome the players despite a steady drizzle and heavy security deployment that kept them at a distance from their heroes.

Hundreds of supporters, holding placards congratulating their favourites and waving the national flag, braved the weather to welcome the victorious side, which defeated South Africa by seven runs in the final in Bridgetown on Saturday last week.

"We have waited for this moment for the past 13 years. The team has made us proud by winning the World Cup," a fan, who claimed to have been waiting since 4:30am in the morning said, referring to India's last World Cup triumph which came back in 2011.

The side was unable to head back home immediately after the title win due to a shutdown forced by hurricane Beryl in Barbados.

They were cocooned in their hotel before the BCCI made arrangements for the special charter flight.

The Air India special charter flight AIC24WC -- Air India Champions 24 World Cup -- which left Barbados around 4:50am local time on Wednesday arrived in Delhi at 6am (IST) on Thursday after a 16-hour non-stop journey.



The Indian squad, its support staff, the players' families and some BCCI officials were aboard the flight along with members of the travelling media contingent. Heavy security was deployed to keep the crowd in check at the Indira Gandhi International airport but that did little to dampen the spirits as fans cheered enthusiastically holding up posters of star batter Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid. Two buses were stationed outside the T3 Terminal to ferry the players to their hotel, from where they will head to the Prime Minister's residence at 9am tentatively for a reception.

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Rohit, who held the coveted trophy in his hands, raised it for the fans to catch a glimpse before boarding the bus.

Kohli gave a thumbs up to acknowledge the support before taking his place in the bus.

In their excitement to see their heroes in person, some fans claimed that they had been waiting outside the airport since last night.

"We have been here since last night. It was very important for us to win this World Cup after losing the ODI World Cup last year," a group of fans said.

The squad won the country its second T20 world title, ending an 11-year wait for an ICC trophy, on Saturday.

India's previous ICC title was in 2013 when it won the Champions Trophy under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

From the airport, Team India reached the ITC Maurya hotel, where they stayed before their meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Notably, Virat, Rohit, Hardik, head coach Rahul Dravid and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Roger Binny were spotted at the hotel.

A special cake featuring the T20 World Cup trophy was cut at the hotel to celebrate the win. Rohit, Virat, Dravid and all-rounder Hardik Pandya were among the stars who took part in the cake-cutting. The cake featured the trophy and some pictures of Indian stars. (PTI)

14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu to represent India at the Paris Olympics



BENGALURU (TIP): At just 14 years old, swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu is set to be the youngest member of the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics later this month. Despite missing out on the carefree pleasures her peers enjoy and occasionally feeling a sense of solitude, Dhinidhi believes that all her sacrifices have been worth it as she prepares to fulfill her dream of competing on the world's biggest stage.

"Sometimes I miss the fun generally kids of my age have. I do not go out much with friends and feel lonely. But then I wanted to swim and I wanted to go to the Olympics," Dhinidhi told PTI Bhasha in an exclusive interview at her residence. "I am the one who chose this path for me. With that comes a lot of sacrifices, but I do feel different, extraordinary, and proud. At 14, I am going to the Olympics, so all the

sacrifices are worth it."

Dhinidhi, who studies in the ninth grade, has made a significant mark in Indian swimming by winning medals at the National Games and the senior National championships last year. Her impressive performances this season have made her the top-ranked Indian female swimmer. The Swimming Federation of India recognized her potential and awarded her one of the two Universality places, giving her an opportunity of a lifetime.

"I knew that I had a chance (of making the Olympics) because I have been working very hard, but it was surprising that I got this chance so early in my career. Being the youngest one in the Indian contingent is a big honor. I am super excited to be a part of the Indian Olympic contingent as I will get a chance to meet the greatest athletes," said Dhinidhi, who will compete in the women's 200m freestyle event.

Having got the opportunity to compete at the Olympics at such a young age, Dhinidhi wants to soak in everything and gain experience. "This is just the beginning and I have a long, long way to go. I am really excited to know what more I can do in 2028 and 2032. (PTI)

Paris-bound wrestler Anshu advised two-week rest

CHENNAI (TIP): Anshu Malik, a strong medal contender in the 57kg women's wrestling at the 2024 Paris Olympics, submitted a status report on her injury to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on July 2. Anshu had recently sustained the said injury during training and had been forced to be admitted to a hospital in New Delhi a few days later.

The hospital discharge summary, submitted by her to the WFI, advises her to 'rest with no wrestling practice for the next two weeks.' To add context to the development, the competition in the former World Championships silver medallist's weight category will begin on August 8 with the medal rounds scheduled the next day.

Despite concerns surrounding her health, the WFI and Anshu's father, Dharamveer Malik, were optimistic about her participation at the Games with the latter claiming the wrestler has



even started training and is expected to leave for Japan for further training ahead of the quadrennial event. "She, along with me, and a physiotherapist will leave for Japan next week. She has started training at her academy," the father told this daily.

Speaking on the issue, a WFI source said, "As was announced by the

federation, Anshu is the official entry for the 57kg. The WFI has received her medical case report today (Tuesday). She is expected to go for follow-up with treating doctors on Wednesday and update the federation," added the source.

Anshu, who booked her Paris ticket during the Asian Olympic Games Qualifier, got injured while training at a wrestling academy in Hisar, Haryana on June 19. She had pain in the neck, radiating to the left shoulder. (PTI)

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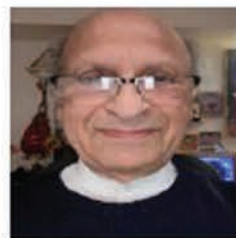


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FOR CHAITANYA – JAGRUTI (AWARENESS & PURE CONSCIOUSNESS)

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EVENT "SHYAMA SHYAM SHASHTRIYA SUGAM SANGEET SAMMELAN"



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"LONG LIVE HUMANITY"

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An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

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